

# ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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# The Culture of Pentecost

■ Michelle Moran

## May the 'Spirituality of Pentecost' spread in the Church for a new 'Culture of Pentecost'.

During the Pontificates of John Paul II (May 2004) and Benedict XVI (Sept 2005), there has been strong encouragement to the Church to propagate the Culture of Pentecost. Obviously this is a broad concept with many dimensions but undoubtedly this call finds a home with us in Charismatic Renewal. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of CCR, Cardinal Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, spoke about the experience of Baptism in the Spirit or the Outpouring of the Spirit. He said that this experience which is central to Charismatic Renewal and which has embraced millions of Catholics on every continent could be the starting point of the Culture of Pentecost.

## The Grace of Pentecost is a Missionary Grace

It is therefore important for us to embrace our mandate. We are not just called to be people who have experienced a 'personal Pentecost', important as this is, but along with this experience goes a responsibility. We are called to be channels for the graces of Pentecost in our Church and in our world. When the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles in the Upper room they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They experienced not only a personal renewal but they were also empowered with gifts such as speech/glossolalia and courage which enabled them to reach out powerfully into the surrounding culture. They were transformed and Peter, who was an uneducated layman, was able to so

convince the crowds by his arguments that they accepted his message and were baptised. On that very first day about 3,000 new converts were added to their number. Throughout the Acts of the Apostles Luke records many instances where the apostles moved in the power of the Holy Spirit and consequently, the Church began to grow in number (eg Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1,7; 11:21,24). So the grace of Pentecost is essentially a missionary grace. While recognising that in the Charismatic Renewal we do not have a monopoly of the Holy Spirit.

It would seem that we do have a particular calling to be ambassadors of the Holy Spirit spreading the Culture of Pentecost. This was emphasised by Pope John Paul II in 2002, when he said:

“In our time that is so hungry for hope, make the Holy Spirit known and loved. Help bring to life that ‘Culture of Pentecost’ that alone can make fruitful the civilization of love and friendly co-existence among peoples. With fervent insistence, never tire of praying ‘Come Holy Spirit! Come! Come!’” (Address to delegates from the Renewal in the Spirit).

## Moving from the Spirituality of Pentecost to the Culture of Pentecost

The challenge for CCR is not to keep the Spirituality of Pentecost locked up in the prayer meeting or indeed to restrict it just to the Charismatic Renewal. Evangelisation must be a priority for us, as it was for the apostles when they left the Upper room. As early as 1992, Pope Benedict (then Cardinal Ratzinger) wrote;

“Are we going to discover the secret of the first Pentecost in the Church? Are we going to offer ourselves humbly to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit so that He can free us from our poverty and our total inability to carry out the task of proclaiming Jesus Christ to our fellow men?... The Upper Room is the place where Christians allow themselves in welcoming the Holy Spirit to be transformed in prayer. But it is also the place from which one goes out to bring the fire of Pentecost to one's brothers and sisters” (New Covenant magazine).

Clearly, Pentecost is for the world. It is about transforming society through the power of the Holy Spirit. A culture of Pentecost creates a society that upholds human dignity through acknowledging that humanity is made in God's image and likeness. It is a society where hope reigns supreme and where light shines out stronger than any darkness. It is the exact opposite to the cultural relativism which pervades so much of our world. At a conference in Lucca, Italy in 2005, Salvatore Martinez defined the Culture of Pentecost as ‘the antidote to the dark evil of the world’. In reply Cardinal Rylko said; ‘we must learn the method of the Holy Spirit who works in history and renews the face of the earth, not to be overcome by evil’.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**19/05**  
**Assisi, Italy**  
*Intercession Event*

**08/06**  
**One Day Retreat, Italy**  
*for bishops, priests, seminarians, and friends of the CCR*

**12/09 — 18/09**  
**LTC Steubenville, USA**  
*ICCRS Leadership Training Course*

**26/9 — 02/10**  
**LTC Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
*ICCRS Leadership Training Course*



**A culture of Pentecost creates a society that upholds human dignity through acknowledging that humanity is made in God's image and likeness.**



## The Culture of Pentecost (*continued*)

We all have a responsibility as individuals and as groups to discern the ways in which the Lord is calling us to be promoters of the Culture of Pentecost. One way in which this will happen is through intensifying the Spirituality of Pentecost in the Church. Perhaps you can do this by encouraging as many people as possible to

participate in praying the Pentecost Novena and to join in the worldwide witness of the Pentecost of the Nations. From this place of intercession we will be empowered to reach out into the world promoting the culture of Pentecost through the witness of our lives and through works of mercy and justice. 

# Fruit of the Renewal: CHRISTEEN, India

■ P.V. Marykutty

The beautiful word “CHRISTEEN” is combined from two words “CHRIST” & “TEENS”. When the “teens” stand with Christ, they become teenagers for Christ. Jesus Christ always liked to be with the teens, motivating them for the kingdom of God and moulding them in his own likeness and hence for building up a strong relationship with God and one another.

CHRISTEEN is a fruit of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. After experiencing Christ through the Charismatic renewal, a group of young people were ready to commit themselves for the sake of the kingdom of God. They felt the need of bringing children to a closer relationship with Jesus. Most of them were college students at that time. In the year 1979 we reached out to a group of kids and teens in a slum in one of the metro cities in Kerala. This has brought a lot of change in their families and we were boosted with their spiritual and social transformation.

One day one of us had a special dream in which she saw a group of around 60 children who seemingly were in grave danger. This made her feel that God is asking her to help children. We took this seriously. A number of incidents occurred where children came across for sharing their pains and afflictions. We could help them with the blessings which we had received from Jesus. The words of Jesus become alive in all our dealings with children. Jesus said “Let the children come to me, do not stop them” (Mk 10:14). He wanted to bless children. Now we dare to say that Jesus still blesses children.

Although CHRISTEEN had a humble start in a small family room, it now has grown to the status of a Retreat Centre where 500 children can be accommodated. There is also an office for the co-ordination of all national activities including overseas.

CHRISTEEN has been serving and ministering with focus on the development of the young generation, centering on Christ and His teachings. We felt the need of the time and we were ready to depend on God. In moments of difficulty, the word of God strengthened us. “Seek first the kingdom of God

and its righteousness and everything else shall be added unto you” (Mt 6:33).

### Our Activities

Every year at the Centre, we conduct Retreats, Camps, Conventions, Talent Development Programs, as well as Leadership Training Courses.

### Christeen – Retreats

- Christeen retreats for teens
- Family retreats (For all family members)
- Angels retreat (For kids 3 to 8 years & parents)
- Animators Training (10 day camps for youth, sisters & priests)
- Kripasangamam (Retreats for orphans)

### Publications

- Christeen magazine for teens (In Malayalam, English, Hindi & Tamil)
- Kunjumalakha for kids (English, Malayalam)

### Ministries at the Centre Intercession Ministry

We have 24 hours adoration & intercession prayer for children and families at the centre. Dedicated animators take turns and pray with lots of love in their heart.

### Letter Ministry

A loving and touching word can heal a wounded heart. The letters received at CHRISTEEN Centre are prayerfully read and each one is replied to personally, with recommended guidance and appropriate message.

### Television Ministry

CHRISTEEN has joined with a spiritual channel “Shalom” and now organizes nine monthly programs for children. Thus we are able to give Jesus to children as well as elders. CHRISTEEN also tries to improve children’s talents. It has improvised programmes quite suitable for the integral development of the entire field of action of children. The training programmes and workshops are good examples in this regard. CHRISTEEN aims at developing children as missionaries of the



**Fruit of the Renewal: CHRISTEEN, India (continued)**

gospel of Christ, His church and eternal values.

So far we could reach out to four continents and the following countries with CHRISTEEN retreats: Australia, Austria, Ireland, England, Switzerland, Portugal, Singapore, Malasia, United Arab Emirates, Quarter, Kuwait, and Oman. We began reaching out to other countries in the year 1997. During the last thirteen years we could go to share the good news with millions of children. The church became more alive with the whole hearted participation of children during Sunday liturgy. Many boys choose priesthood and many girls become religious sisters after attending CHRISTEEN retreats and leadership training camps. Many families are renewed with God experience by attending our Family Retreats.

CHRISTEEN is completing 30 years in the divine services of bringing children to the love of Jesus. More than 3 million children are radiating the heavenly light received through CHRISTEEN Retreats. Those who came to CHRISTEEN in the beginning are spreading throughout the world. They serve the Lord in different capacities. There are priests, sisters, doctors, engineers, government employees, industrialists and lay apostles.

The world is advanced in many ways. But the need to experience enough love in the families is a must for the normal growth of a child. Technology has made our life so easy and comfortable, but the craving for love has increased in the hearts of children. Some parents are busy, some are sick, some are ignorant and some are uneducated. CHRISTEEN group felt, we should reach out to the children and introduce the one who could stay in their hearts in the form of love! And that is Jesus.

CHRISTEEN is the initiative of a group of committed lay people who experienced the love of Jesus. There is an Advisory Board and a team of Spiritual Directors including bishops, priests, and nuns ready to help. Jesus has helped us at every moment of our growth. He provided us an office, many people to work together with deep commitment. Our target is to do the Father's will.

“My father in heaven does not want any of these little ones should be lost” (Mt 18: 14).

We invite you also to start loving children; they are the flowers in the garden of Jesus. Let them make the world more beautiful. Shall we dream together for a better world for our young generation? 

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) or e-mail [events@iccrs.org](mailto:events@iccrs.org) or call us at +39 06 6988 7126 for more information.



**Assisi 2010**

■ **May 19–23, 2010**

This international event, with a special focus on intercession, will be an opportunity to:

- Experience a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Celebrate the Pentecost Tridium and the Pentecost of the Nations with ICCRS in Assisi
- Deepen our understanding about the call to intercession
- Intercede for the nations in the power of the Holy Spirit

Event, food, and accomodation is €400  
 Optional one day pilgrimage in Assisi on May 24th is €100  
 The conference is limited to 400 participants so we recommend early registration.



**One Day Retreat**

**for Bishops, priests, seminarians, and friends of the CCR**

■ **June 8, 2010**

On the occasion of the closing celebrations of the Year for Priests' in Rome with the Holy Father Benedict XVI, participate in the one-day retreat for Bishops, priests, and seminarians promoted by ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity.

The Holy Father invites all priests to take part in the International Meeting of Priests, to conclude the Year of Priesthood, in Rome, June 9–11, 2010.

**“This year of grace will have a culminating moment in Rome, next June, in the international meeting of priests, to which I invite all those who exercise the Sacred Ministry. We approach the thrice Holy to offer our life and our mission, personal and community, of men and women consecrated to the Kingdom of God”**

Homily delivered during vespers on February 2, 2010, The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple



**ICCRS LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE**  
 FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE  
 OHIO, USA  
 SEPTEMBER 12-19, 2010

“Take strength from the grace which is in Christ Jesus. Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses, so that they in turn will be able to teach others.”  
 2 Tim 2:1-2

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is a way for ICCRS to help foster leadership in the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In partnership with local Charismatic realities, ICCRS provides this week-long programme that will call and empower new leaders as well as strengthen and encourage current leaders.

Visit [www.franciscanreferences.com](http://www.franciscanreferences.com) or [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) for more information.

**Upcoming Events (continued)**

Visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) or e-mail [events@iccrs.org](mailto:events@iccrs.org) or call us at +39 06 6988 7126 for more information.

**LTC Steubenville, USA**

September 12-18, 2010

**LTC Buenos Aires, Argentina**

September 26—October 2, 2010

**“Take strength from the grace which is in Christ Jesus. Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses, so that they in turn will be able to teach others.”**

– 2 Tim 2:1-2

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**ICCRS IS HIRING**

**“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastor and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”**

– Ephesians 4:11-12

From time to time, ICCRS seeks the help of those who are able to serve with their God-given talent and time to further the mission of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the very heart of the Church for a minimum of one to two years. Currently we are in need of people who have technical expertise in computer hardware. We also need graphic designers specializing in web, to increase our accessibility on the web. As ICCRS is an international office, it is important to speak English in addition to being fluent in another language.

If interested, please send an e-mail to [director@iccrs.org](mailto:director@iccrs.org) with your CV and a photo.

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE ICCRS NEWSLETTER AND LEADERSHIP FORMATION**

**ICCRS LEADERSHIP FORMATION**  
 INTERMISSION: GIFTS AND CHARISMS IN SERVICE

Intermission: Gifts and Charisms in Service – Peter Thompson  
 Love in Action: Evangelisation – María José Cantos de Ortiz  
 Is Baptism in the Spirit for everyone? – Questions to the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission

Begin or renew your subscription to the ICCRS Newsletter and Leadership Formation today to receive the most current news and topics of discussion in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The Leadership Formation is available with a subscription of 15€ per year, to receive by e-mail or post.

Visit [www.iccrs.org/nl-info.html](http://www.iccrs.org/nl-info.html) or call us at +39 06 6988 7126 for more information.

**FEATURED IN THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP FORMATION**

- Intermission: Gifts and charisms in service – Peter Thompson**
- Love in Action: Evangelisation – María José Cantos de Ortiz**
- Is Baptism in the Spirit for everyone? – Questions to the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission**

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The ICCRS Newsletter is an international publication released bimonthly in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Its purpose is to provide information about the growth and development of CCR throughout the world.

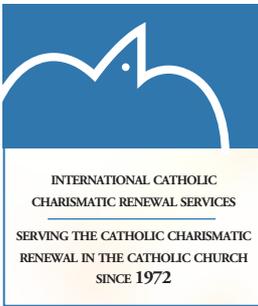
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# ICCRS HOPE SACK PROJECT

■ AN ICCRS INITIATIVE FOR RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS

HELP THE MISSION AND SERVICE OF ICCRS

**Become a partner in the ICCRS Hope Sack Project**

**ICCRS Hope Sack Project Contribution Form**

## A sack of hope, in a time of need

In challenging times, International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services has called upon the people it serves for spiritual and material support in maintaining operations in service of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide. Every contribution, however big or small, went a long way in augmenting the efforts of ICCRS. The ICCRS Council remains grateful for the prayers and financial contributions that were collected from all over the world—a sack of hope, in a time of need.

Though the Hope Sack Project was borne out of crisis, it has proven its potential and necessity in the future efforts of ICCRS. In order to raise much-needed funds on an ongoing basis, the project launched in 2009 is just as relevant today in maintaining its important initiatives for the CCR.

ICCRS exists to serve the worldwide Renewal in all of its various streams and expressions. In 1993 the Holy See recognized ICCRS as a body for the promotion of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, with a juridical personality, according to Canon 116, and approved the Statutes of ICCRS. The ICCRS Office is situated in Vatican City, and operates as an information and communication centre serving the CCR worldwide, as well as being the link between the Renewal and the Vatican. There are about 125 million Catholics who have lived this experience and whom ICCRS has aimed at serving for the past 38 years.

### WHAT DOES ICCRS DO?

To accomplish its aims and objectives, the following services are assumed by ICCRS:

- Keeps contact with the Catholic Charismatic Leaders worldwide
- Relates the worldwide Renewal to the Holy See
- Visits various countries, events, CCR centres, etc.
- Brings out publications for fostering spiritual formation, growth and evangelisation
- Publishes Newsletters in five languages, viz English, Spanish, French, Italian, German, and mails them to more than 200 countries
- Organizes regular International Conference for Leaders, Seminars, Retreats for Bishops and Priests, etc.
- Establishes Regional Sub-Committees (in Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, etc.) to foster and promote CCR on a regional level and run regional events
- Runs the Leadership Training Course and schools of Leadership Formation, to foster growth among leaders and potential leaders of the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Your help is critically necessary for ICCRS! We invite you to join hands with ICCRS in service and promotion of the CCR worldwide. Along with the constant prayer support that is needed, we ask you to become a partner of ICCRS by committing to a regular contribution through the Hope Sack Project. Your stable support is critical to the CCR, which we will match with the latest news on events, development, and growth of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide, in the form of our Newsletter and Leadership Formation.

The ICCRS Council thanks you in anticipation of your generous and sacrificial love offering, and pray that “you will be enriched in every way for your great generosity” (2 Cor 9:11).

May God bless you!

# ICCRS HOPE SACK PROJECT

■ AN ICCRS INITIATIVE FOR RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS

PLEASE COMPLETE THE DONATION FORM AND SEND A SCANNED IMAGE IN PDF OR JPG BY EMAIL—OR BY FAX, OR POST \*

POSTAL ADDRESS \*

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**PALAZZO SAN CALISTO**  
**00120 VATICAN CITY, EUROPE**

OFFICE

**ICCRS**  
**PIAZZA SAN CALISTO**  
**00153 ROMA, ITALIA**

**EMAIL: INFO@ICCRS.ORG**  
**PHONE: +39 06 6988 7126/7**  
**FAX: +39 06 6988 7224**

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I COMMIT TO CONTRIBUTE €

AT THIS TIME, ICCRS CAN ONLY ACCEPT DONATIONS MADE IN EURO

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