



ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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Fanning the flame through Prophetic Action:

Prophecy on your knees

Cyril John



There were two masons at work. Someone approached the first mason and enquired as to what he was doing. The mason replied, "I am placing one brick upon another." The visitor then repeated the question to the second mason and he said, "I am building a Cathedral."

The first mason could not relate what he was doing to the entire project of building a Cathedral. The second mason had a clear vision, for he saw his contribution in relation to the entire project. He always had in mind the project drawn up by the chief architect for the Cathedral. The same could happen to our intercession. We could continue to say prayers that do not go beyond our head or beyond the room we are in. We could be intercessors who might remain in the dark about what the Lord wants to accomplish through intercession. We need to pray specifically to receive specific answers. We should link our intercession closely to God's overall plan for the world, the Church, and the people of God. To be specific, we need to be prophetic in our intercession.

Pr 29:18 says that where people do not have a prophetic vision, "the people become demoralized" or will "perish." Without prophetic vision people drift away even in prayer. I have found that, frequently, intercessory groups drift aimlessly without knowing for what they should pray and how to pray. We may begin praying according to our own understanding in the initial stages of intercession. At the same time, we need to grow to a deeper level of intercession as we progress. This is what someone who grew up in intercession shared about the initial experience:

"I really thought that I was an intercessor then. I took a notebook and began to write down, systematically, a list of the things I wanted the Lord to answer. It had the date of the request, what the request was, then another place for the date when the Lord answered. To me this was intercession. I could

not have been more wrong. I was very diligent in prayer, but oh so misdirected in that diligence."

The scope and efficacy of prayer gets restricted when our own understanding guides it. Fidelity



to God's will is a necessary condition for God to answer our prayers. "You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly..." (Jm 4:3). The attitude of the intercessor should be, "Here I am...how I love to do your will, my God." (Ps 40:7-8) So many people think that intercession is taking a whole list of requests to the Lord for answer. In intercession, we need to keep our eyes fixed on what is moving in the heart of God. "The Lord God does nothing, without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets." (Am 3:7) In fact, every time a situation that warrants prayer arises, the Lord searches for partners: "Thus I have searched among them for someone who could build a wall or stand in the breach before me to keep me from destroying the land." (Ezk 22:30) The intercessor becomes the trusted aide, the lieutenant of God.

We generally think of a prophet as the one who speaks to people on behalf of God. However, the Biblical concept of the prophet is wider. The first action by Abraham was not connected with "prophesying," but interceding for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah under the judgement of God after the Lord spoke to him. (Gn 18:16-33) It shows that an important role of the prophet is to make intercession for the people. Intercession identifies with the needs and burdens of the people, whereas prophetic intercession identifies with the burdens of the Lord. Prophetic intercession is not coming to the Lord with a prayer list, but coming to the Lord to get a prayer list. In prophetic intercession, we become like the chisel. By itself, the chisel could do nothing, but when the sculptor takes it and uses it left and right, giving it the right direction, the chisel is able to bring out a masterpiece. So is prophecy on our knees! 🙏



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XXXVII Convocation of Renewal with Pope Francis

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Around 2000 people from 61 countries worldwide joined 50,000 Italians at the Olympic Stadium in Rome for this historic gathering of CCR. The event was organised by RnS in collaboration with the Catholic Fraternity and ICCRS. During Mass on the evening before the gathering, there was a prophetic word which said 'none of you have the complete picture but all have pieces of the jigsaw when you each join your pieces together the full picture will emerge'. This proved to be something that we lived beyond our imaginings on 1st and 2nd June.



The key themes were; “Repent, believe, receive and move out in mission.” There were contributions from Cardinal Comastri who, referring to the Prodigal Son, spoke powerfully about the need for deeper conversion. Fr Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap, encouraged us that if “you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your hearts that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.” (Romans 10.9)

Patti Mansfield led a powerful time of intercession where she prayed specifically for priests, young people and families. Obviously the highlight of the day was the arrival of Pope Francis. You cannot imagine how it felt as I walked across the field of the Olympic Stadium, together with Salvatore Matinez and Gilberto Gomes Barbosa to welcome and escort the Holy Father into the arena where 52,000 charismatics were waiting to welcome him with the most exuberant joy imaginable!

At the Holy Father's request we sang his favourite charismatic song; 'Vive Jesus el Señor'. There were short testimonies from a priest, a young person, a family, and a blind lady and each of these was followed by a moment of prayer. Then the Holy Father delivered his address, which reflected his experience of CCR in Buenos Aires. His final words were an invitation to all of us to come to St Peter's Square at Pentecost 2017 to celebrate our Golden Jubilee

with him. Finally there was a moment when the Holy Father knelt and we all prayed for him in tongues.

On the second day, Ralph Martin spoke about the need we all have for 'power from on high'. He senses that these extraordinary days of the Spirit are to prepare us for the challenges and the struggles that lie ahead as we move out in mission. His talk was followed by an act of entrustment to Mary and a prayer led by many historic leaders of CCR for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Spontaneously and symbolically we were led to join together and gather at the foot of the huge crucifix that was on the stage. This felt like we were joining Mary at the foot of the cross, with the Lord saying to us “what are you prepared to give up and to suffer for me?” As Jesus from the cross, gave to the Church Mary as our mother, I sensed the Lord was giving us as leaders the responsibility to shepherd the Renewal in the shadow of the Cross.

Gilberto Gomes Barbosa spoke prophetically about the need for deeper unity and communion in CCR. He ended his talk by inviting myself and Salvatore Martinez to stand with him. Then we symbolically washed each others' hands as a sign of repentance and a commitment to move forward together in a new harmony as Pope Francis had urged us during the previous evening. My exhortation focused on the three ICCRS themes for the journey to the Jubilee; fire starters, fanning the flame and spreading the fire.



Finally, Salvatore addressed the CCR in all its expressions. He described our unity in diversity as being like a fruit salad not a fruit smoothie. Then he encouraged us all to move out in mission with Pope Francis. There was a final moment of prayer led by Sr Briege McKenna and a closing ceremony of choreography and songs. There was a sense of the joy of the Gospel in our midst and a profound sense that God is on the move in the power of the Spirit in ways beyond our comprehension. 🏠

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail events@iccrs.org for more information about our events.



Great Gathering of the CCR Family "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:4)

■ **Kampala, Uganda · 30 June – 6 July 2014**

The Great Gathering of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Family is a huge celebration as part of the journey towards the CCR Golden Jubilee. The event will be held in Uganda from 30th June to 6th July, 2014, bringing together delegates from all the five continents of the world to Africa for the first time, to pray and seek the Lord for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Renewal and the Church worldwide.

Here we present a summary of the information on the event. Find all the details on the website of CCR Uganda: www.ccruganda.org This event is organised by ICCRS in collaboration with the Uganda Episcopal Conference, Uganda Catholic Charismatic Renewal (UCCR), and the African Subcommittee of ICCRS (AFSCI). A series of activities have been planned from 30th June to 13th July 2014, including:

- International Leaders Conference · Speke Resort in Munyonyo, 30th June-4th July 2014.
- Special Pilgrimage and Public Rally · Uganda Martyrs Shrine in Namugongo, 5th July 2014.
- Missions and tours:
 - 7 days Service Mission in Mbarara Archdiocese, 6th-13th July (including a Public Rally in Ahuriire, 12th July)
 - 3 days Tour to Murchison Falls National Park, 6th-9th July
 - 1 day Tour Mabiira Rain Forest and Source of the Nile, 6th-7th July

The Panafrican Congress of Renewal leaders and the 2nd World Youth Meeting of CCR will take place within the given days. A special workshop for priests will be also offered during the event. The ICCRS Council will also have its annual meeting on African soil for the first time after the conference, from 6th to 11th July. 🏠

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3rd Worldwide Priests' Retreat "Called to Holiness for a New Evangelisation."

■ **Rome, Italy · 10 - 14 June 2015**

At this time of the Spirit in which the Church calls us to a New Evangelisation, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal offers to the presbyters an opportunity to stir up the gift of God which is in them by the imposition of hands (cf. 2 Tim 1:6) by participating at the 3rd Worldwide Priests' Retreat.

Organised by ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity, this spiritual retreat is open to all Catholic ordained ministers of the various languages, races and nations, to live a renewed Pentecost in the heart of the Church. The event will take place from 10 to 15 June 2015 in Rome (Italy) and its theme is "Called to Holiness for a New Evangelisation."

Programme:

- Wednesday, 10/June · "Gathered"
- Thursday, 11/June · "Reconciled"
- Friday, 12/June · "Transformed"
- Saturday, 13/June · "Empowered"
- Sunday, 14/June · "Sent... for a New Evangelisation"

The registration will be open in end of July 2014.

For more information visit our website www.iccrs.org or e-mail events@iccrs.org. 🏠

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Retreat for priests and religious and a leaders' conference in Taiwan

For the first time ICCRS organized a retreat for priests and religious and a leaders' conference in Taiwan from 26 May to 1 June, 2014. The priests' retreat was based on *Evangelii Gaudium* and the conference had the theme: "The Holy Spirit in the Church and the family". Archbishop Peter Leo of Kaohsiung and Bishop Martin Su of Taichung joined the retreat and celebrated the Eucharist. The events were led by Cyril John and Bro James Shin from ICCRS.

Come to me!

God is good! Last November in Bethlehem Jesus invited us to come to him and he will give us new power. So we invited the youth of the CCR to this amazing encounter with Jesus called "Come to me!". And the response was amazing: youth from 50 countries together with one heart in the presence of the Eucharist at the same time interceding for one hour and experiencing a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit! From Chile to New Zealand and from Sweden to South Africa countless youth cried out for revival! Praise God for he is faithful! And thanks to all those who responded to this call.

With Jesus in The World Cup Brazil 2014

Between June 12 and July 13, the Youth Ministry of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brazil is realizing a mission "Jesus in the World Cup." The mission aims to present the kerygma (first love) to the whole of Brazil. Sixteen states are participating with a team with over a thousand missionaries. The missions happen before or after matches and each state has a schedule. During this mission flyers, prepared by the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB) and produced by the Youth Ministry and others, on "how to live the Cup" are delivered. Stadiums, squares, streets, bus terminals, subways and many parts of the host cities of the World Cup games are the places where the kerygma of the "Love of God" is. To do this, youth are using their creativeness with theater, dance and music.

ICCRS FORMATION

Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail formation@iccrs.org for more information about our training programmes.



LFI • Rome, Italy

■ 6 – 26 September 2015

■ Contact: ICCRS Formation → formation@iccrs.org

ICCRS offers its VI Leadership Formation Institute programme. Classes include studies in Scripture, Ecclesiology, Pneumatology, Marology, Kerygma, CCR, Leadership and Ministry. Students will be offered practical teaching and workshops on various aspects of the ministry within CCR. In addition, the students will go on several field trips in the eternal city of Rome.



LTC • Lima, Peru

■ 2 – 9 August 2014

■ Contact: Elvira Cárdenas → eventosrcc@rccperu.org

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is for people of all ages, from charismatic organisations worldwide who want to spend some time of their lives being formed in leadership within the CCR.

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 ones. The programme includes daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and a time of Charismatic Praise and Worship. The teachings cover: the foundations and vision of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and practical help and ideas for ministry. There is also time for reflection, sharing and ministry.

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