

**"I must
proclaim the
good news
of the
kingdom
of God"**

Good News

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal
serving the church**



**The newsletter of the
Catholic Charismatic Renewal.
Melbourne, Australia.
www.ccr.org.au**

Pope Francis' invitation to party

By MICHELLE MORAN



PHOTO: CATHOLIC CHURCH ENGLAND AND WALES

In the short history of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, we could never have imagined that on the threshold of the 50th anniversary, our Golden Jubilee, that we would have a Pope who knows the CCR from the inside.

Indeed, Pope Francis is taking a personal interest in our Jubilee planning. At the historic encounter with CCR in the Olympic Stadium in Rome, June 2014, he personally invited the worldwide CCR to Rome for the Jubilee at Pentecost 2017.

The Holy Father is following our preparations and he certainly has ideas about what the Jubilee should look like.

Building upon the thoughts of Cardinal Suenens and Blessed Pope Paul VI, the Holy Father sees the grace of CCR as something for the whole Church.

A movement renewing the church

From the early days of our history Cardinal Suenens clearly stated that CCR was 'not a movement like the other movements but a movement of the Spirit offered to the entire Church and destined to rejuvenate every part of the Church's life'.

Similarly, Pope Paul VI described CCR as 'a chance for the Church and the world'.

Prophetically, Pope Francis has asked us to 'share the grace of the baptism in the Spirit with all in the Church'.

We should therefore pray that our presence with Pope Francis in St Peter's Square at Pentecost next year will be a prophetic moment for the whole Church.

Indeed, we are being encouraged to pray from Pentecost 2016 to the Jubilee that the whole Church would experience a new Pentecost.

A party for everyone

Certainly the Jubilee Celebration cannot be an 'in house' party where, we, 'members' of the CCR can look back nostalgically and congratulate ourselves for having made it thus far.

Pope Francis sees the Jubilee as something important for all Christians who share in the ecumenical current of grace and an opportunity for the whole Church to experience a new Pentecost.

I have a sense that the Jubilee will have its own surprises. Certainly we should not see it just as a destination but as a stepping stone to the unfolding of a new phase in this era of the Holy Spirit.

As the President of ICCRS, I have literally travelled around the world in the past couple of months. It is an enormous privilege to meet the worldwide CCR family. We are diverse in our language, culture, and the way we do things. Yet there is a unity among us that centres on the desire to enable as many people as possible to experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit. **continued on page 3**



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**The deadline for the next issue of Good News:
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At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of
heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from
the wise and understanding and revealed them to little
children. *Matthew 11:25*

While recently watching *Grantchester*, a murder mystery
set in 1950s England with an Anglican priest as the main
character, I was struck by the simplicity of life at that time:
no internet, no mobile phone, little television, and very few possessions.

What a contrast to our lives which are full of mobile phones beeping at us,
browsing the internet or watching Television and more books than we can
read in a lifetime. The characters were able to focus their time and efforts
on pursuits that furthered relationships and their vocations. This simplicity
was extremely appealing to me and reminded me of the words of Jesus:
"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We live in a world where there is so much complication and so many things
clamouring for our attention that it is easy to lose our focus. Jesus calls us
to prioritize activities that give eternal life. If we don't, as Jesus goes on to
suggest, we will be caught unprepared!

I have often read about taking an "electronics Sabbath": a day or part of a
day where no electronics are on or utilized. The whole idea of Sabbath can
be important here, helping us to rest from how we normally live our lives
so that we understand better where our treasures really are. What do our
priorities say about us and our values?

When I consider the differing things that come across my desk clamouring
for attention I can only pray each morning that Jesus will help me to be
prepared for what he wants to do in the day. Very often that turns out to be
vastly different to the schedule I had prepared. I am learning to accept this
"peacefully" instead of getting myself worked up because two days have
now moved into one, and suffice to say that by the end of the week I have
managed to complete the tasks that had been set, thanks entirely to God's
grace.

Recently my granddaughter brought home to me the value of simple things.
She was having a "sleepover" and while I was washing up dishes she
came alongside and said to me, "Nonna, can I put this into your pocket?"
When I looked at what she had in her hand it was a small gold heart that
she had fished out of my vase of coloured stones. I asked her why she
wanted to put it into my pocket. "Because I have filled it up with love so
that when I am not here you will know that I am near you" she replied.
Needless to say she was given a great big hug! But the more I thought
about what she said the more it reminded me about the Eucharist. Jesus,
filled with love for us, gave himself to us so that we would be reminded that
he was always with us, always loves us and "is a very present help in the
time of trouble." (*Ps 46:1*)

Seemingly a simple thing but filled with so much meaning. My daily
Eucharist has now taken on a different meaning. I look at that little host and
remember that it is filled with love for me and is a sign that Jesus is always
with me, through fair-weather or foul. My part is to continually remember.

I shared my granddaughter's words with the class of children I am preparing
for First Holy communion. It clicked with them in a far deeper way than any
of the instruction I was trying to teach them. It certainly was a case of "a
picture speaks a thousand words!"

Simple things!

Lenyce Willason



The annual Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference held in Brisbane over the weekend of 1-3 July was nothing short of totally empowering for those in attendance. The speakers, Dr Mary Healy who is professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit as well as the chair of the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission and Dr Mark Nimo, International Speaker and currently serves as Director of Religious Education at St. Columbanus Church in Chicago, held nothing back as they spoke to us of 'Signs and Wonders'.

Both Mark and Mary spoke to us of a 'new season', a 'turning point' that the Lord is bringing us to. It is a season that calls for the kind of radical faith that knows that all things are possible to the one who believes. It is a decisive moment of God that calls us to respond with radical faith and radical obedience.

The old ways will not suffice because the world is in darkness and confusion. We have had 50 years of God raising up faith in people and the new season is about 'signs and wonders' through all people – not just the healing 'superstars'. It will herald in an awareness of the supernatural power of God brought to a new level - healing and evangelisation go hand in hand with signs and wonders. St Paul tells us that the kingdom of God is not about talk – but about power, God's power.

Mark challenged all in attendance with the question: "has God stopped working?" If we are not experiencing the Charisms at work in our Prayer Groups it is because we have stopped proclaiming the Gospel. We need to learn how Jesus operates, learn to unpack the Scriptures. Mary affirmed Mark's comments by adding that faith is built up by telling what the Lord has done; that you cannot separate healing from who God is.

Healings are not peripheral but are at the very heart of Jesus' ministry, they cannot be separated from the core of a Christian life. The key response called for when Jesus heals is faith. Act on the faith you have- that is how your faith will grow. That is the way the early church grew. Mark drew from *Psalms 103* as he taught that 'Signs and Wonders' are acts of God. He challenged us on whether we believe in the supernatural. He hoped we would all answer 'yes' because our God is an awesome God. Awesome God in Mark Nimo style is a very passionate 'awesome' indeed!

We witnessed the signs and wonders in action on the Saturday evening when local pastor Katherine Ruonala joined Mary Healy and Mark Nimo to pray for healing.

The deaf heard again; those with bad limbs could move with ease and even a lady who had no ankle joint was able to move her foot up and down. We need to listen to Pope Francis who says to us: "allow God to surprise you".

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In the worldwide CCR I am sensing that people are believing that there is more that the Spirit wants to do.

There is a profound gratitude for what we have seen but there is also a thirst among people to go deeper in the Spirit, particularly with regard to releasing the Charisms and moving in the anointing. For me this is connected to new evangelisation.

CCR is so much more than a prayer group movement. The Holy Spirit has come to renew the face of the Earth. If we are truly a Pentecost people we need to take our place as the Spirit filled evangelisers that Pope Francis asks the Church to become. We need to reach out bringing Holy Spirit transformation into every sector of society.

Michelle Moran is president of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services and a founding member of the Sion Community for Evangelisation, based in Brentwood, Essex.

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How to celebrate the Jubilee Aussie style

1. Begin now to pray in faith for an explosion of the Holy Spirit in the whole Church.
2. Plan to attend the Jubilee Celebrations being organised by CCR Melbourne, including the Jubilee Conference in January 2017. Other States will also be organising events.
3. The Jubilee gathering in Rome runs from 31st May - 4th June 2017. Respond to the invitation of the Holy Father and make a CCR Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome. See ad on page 10.
4. Buy a Tee Shirt and wear it with pride (Available December 2016)
5. Reach out to those who have been part of CCR in the past and invite them along to some of the many events planned for next year (Details next edition).

Testimonies from Brisbane Conference:

It was a great experience for me at the last national conference of the CCR Australia. I actually went to the conference with a prayer intention: to grow deeper in my love for God. Apart from the fact that the teachings were personally challenging and inspirational, on that Saturday night when I got called out and prayed over, it was an awesome experience. Standing up from the "floor" that night, I knew and believe that God had done something in my inner being. Though there were no physical manifestations, I believe that God is up to something. I still wait on Him. Praise the Lord! Francis Innocence Otobo

*"A child
of God who
wishes to
grow,
must endure
trials in his
spiritual life."*



Denise Bergueron

I am a leader, I have

By DENISE BERGUERON

First of all, we must define the words "leader" and "passionate."

A leader is a person chosen by God, through the members of the prayer group, to perform a ministry of service: the washing of the feet. He has the responsibility of guiding his brothers and sisters to Jesus Christ. He is like a shepherd who goes before the flock to show the way. His call is not to be "over" others, but rather to walk with them. A passion is a strong, violent movement, towards the object of one's desire (*Larousse Dictionary*). A passionate leader is one who has had a transforming experience of Jesus as Lord and Savior, in such a way that this experience impels him toward achieving a specific goal. The passion is an interior force that channels all his words, thoughts and actions and directs them towards the Lord and his glory.

This passion is the fruit of a deep spiritual experience, which is meant to develop and deepen over time by a sincere and faithful relationship with the Lord. To avoid its withering and dying, this passion must find its source in prayer, and by a living, personal and authentic relationship with Christ, as taught by the Apostle Paul (*Ph 3, 12-16*).

Just as any child must go through growing pains, so a child of God who wishes to grow, must endure trials in his spiritual life. The leader needs to accept this growth with all its richness, and have a great desire for reconciliation and communion.

Some causes leading to the loss of passion.

Let us consider the importance of the spiritual combat of a leader, and anyone wishing to give himself to the Lord and serve him with a passionate, loving heart.

- Weariness due to excessive activity and the failure to delegate responsibilities.
- Discouragement, when, relying on one's own strength, the leader does not see the fruit that he had expected.
- Control, that is to say, being before the Lord but failing to give the Holy Spirit room to act.
- Acedia, that is, spiritual sloth that leads to negligence in receiving grace from the sources of life. Spending less time in prayer, easily abandoning the Word of God, neglecting the Sacraments, and so on.
- Experiencing spiritual dryness; which could favour spiritual growth, but is also a place of warfare. It is a time of purification, for seeking what is essential in the inner life. Particularly in these moments, the leader needs support.

These attitudes become obstacles for growth in the spiritual life.

The infirmities and temptations that weaken our service as leaders.

Raising awareness of these infirmities – which threaten and weaken our service to the Lord, will help us to devise ways to find new strength.

Pope Francis presents some remedies (From the original Italian text of *l'Osservatore Romano*, December 22, 2014):

- The illness of thinking oneself "immortal" "immune" and "indispensable": The antidote for this epidemic is the grace of acknowledging our own weakness and sinfulness, so that we can sincerely say that "we are useless servants; we have only done our duty" (*Lc 17, 10*).
- Excessive activity: which affects those who work too much, inevitably neglecting "the better part" of sitting at the feet of Jesus (*Lc 10, 38-42*). This is why the Lord asked his disciples to "get some rest," (*Mt 6, 31*) because neglecting the necessary rest leads to stress and agitation. The times of rest for those who have fulfilled their mission is a necessity, a duty that must be taken seriously. Spending time with one's family and observing the holidays as opportunities for spiritual and physical renewal. Remembering what Qohelet teaches, "there is a time for everything" (*Eccl 3, 1-15*).
- Excessive planning and organisation. There is a need for planning, but never yield

lost my passion for the Lord.

to the temptation to control and limit the freedom of the Holy Spirit, which is much greater and bountiful than all human planning (*Jn 3, 8*).

- Poor organisation. When there is not enough communication between the members the Body cannot function harmoniously and temperately. This causes disorder and division, because the members do not collaborate with a spirit of communion and cooperation. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you" (*1 Cor 12, 21*), thus causing embarrassment and scandal in the Body.
- There is also the disease of our first love; forgetting the 'history of salvation', our personal history with the Lord, the 'first love' (*Rev 2:4*). This is a gradual decline of the spiritual faculties which, more or less on long term, causes severe disability in the person, making it unable to perform an independent activity. This person lives in a state of absolute dependence vis-à-vis their views often imaginary. We detect this sickness in those who have lost the memory of their encounter with the Lord; those who do not perceive the historical meaning of life; those who are totally dependent on their present, their passions, whims and fads; in those who build walls around themselves and habits and become more and more enslaved to the idols that they have carved by their own hands.
- Rivalry and vanity. "Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (*Phil. 2, 3-4*).
- Murmuring, slander and gossip. This is a serious illness, beginning with a simple chat about a person, and then it sows suspicion. Saint Paul says, "Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent". (*Phil. 2, 14-18*)
- Indifference towards others. It happens when everyone thinks only about himself and loses the sincerity and warmth of human relationships; when those who know do not put their knowledge at the service of others; when learning is a self-seeking activity of hoarding knowledge without sharing it generously with others; when, out of jealousy or deceit, we rejoice in the fall of others rather than helping them up and encouraging them.
- A gloomy face. It is the illness of acrimonious and grumpy people who feel that to be serious one must wear the mask of melancholy and severity, and treat others – especially those considered as inferior – with strictness, harshness, and arrogance.

In reality, the theatrical severity and sterile pessimism are often symptoms of fear and insecurity. The apostle must strive to be a courteous person, serene, enthusiastic and cheerful that conveys joy regardless of where one is. A heart full of God is a happy heart that radiates and communicates His joy to all those around him; it shows immediately! So do not lose that joyful spirit, that knows

how to handle humour and self-criticism, and makes us pleasant people even in difficult situations. A good dose of healthy humour is always good!

- The disease of close-up circles. When belonging to a small group becomes stronger than belonging to the Body, and, in some instances, to Christ himself.

The weapons to be victorious in battle.

- The strength of the Holy Spirit. The leader lets the Holy Spirit act on him, in both directions: inwardly and outwardly. Inwardly, the Spirit impels him to encounter and contemplate God in love and faith.

Outwardly, the Spirit is the soul of any missionary apostolate, he gives the leader concern for others and the need to participate in the evangelization of the world.

- Assiduous and regular listening to the Word of God. By believing in the Word of God man adheres to the mind of Christ, imitating him, living with him, in him, and for him. The Word transforms him and makes him enter into the new life in the Spirit.
- Prayer. It allows the leader to deepen his filial relationship with God.
- Discernment and spiritual direction. According to Rev. Jean-François Catalan, SJ: "spiritual direction is showing the way, offering support in the journey, sometimes shedding light in the midst of darkness, sometimes pointing in a direction and nothing more" (*Jean-François CATALAN, s.j., Professor emeritus of psychology. Jesuit faculty of Paris. Doctor in philosophy. Expérience spirituelle et psychologique, Paris, DDB, 1994, p. 168*).
- Community. By attending one's prayer group, the leader will not be isolated and find strength and support.
- Prayer with laying on of hands. The leader will find in it a place of grace and healing.
- The Sacraments. The leader is called to receive the graces of the Sacraments regularly.

I mentioned a few ways to address what I call "spiritual lethargy." These are part of our human and spiritual growth. Let us be vigilant.

The Apostle Paul, by experiencing his littleness, gave us a marvelous secret: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (*2Cor 12:9*).

The leader needs to remember and return to that fundamental experience of his life, the moment when Jesus looked at him with love. He must keep alive in his heart that moment of grace that changed his life and burned his heart.

Denise Bergueron is an ICCRS Council Member representing Canada.

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We live in unreality that has a wrong image of who God is. In the Magnificat, Mary proclaimed, "My soul magnifies the Lord." How can we magnify the infinite? Praise magnifies the Lord, because we enter into the truth zone – the truth of who God is. God is magnified in our hearts and mind and in the world when we follow *Psalm 34:1 RSVCE* "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Pope Francis said to Catholic Charismatic Renewal at Pentecost 2014.

"I have been asked to tell the Renewal what the Pope expects from you. The first thing is conversion to the love of Jesus, which changes life and makes of the Christian a witness of the Love of God. The Church expects this witness of Christian life and the Holy Spirit helps us to live the coherence of the Gospel for our holiness. I expect from you that you share with all, in the Church, the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit (expression that is read in the Acts of the Apostles). I expect from you an evangelization with the Word of God which proclaims that Jesus is alive and loves all men. I expect that you give witness of spiritual ecumenism with all those brothers and sisters of other Churches and Christian communities who believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour."

"It is time to come out of the closet!" How do we share with the whole church? 150 million out of 1.2 billion Catholics have been baptised in the Holy Spirit. There is still much work to do. Catholic Charismatic Renewal is a current of grace, a renewing breath of the Holy Spirit for the whole church. Signs and wonders embody the gospel. When the church sees someone healed they realise that it is true, that the Charisms have a power. The entire church needs to be equipped with the Charisms to be able to carry out Jesus' mission to take the Good News to the whole church.



Scripture speaks about 2 kinds of gifts:

- Sanctifying Gifts – these are gifts as listed in *Is 11:2* and they are needed for someone to be a Christian.
- Charismatic Gifts – these are gifts given unequally to all so that we are dependent on one another for the building up of the body. We read in *1 Corinthians chapters 12 – 14* that these gifts manifest the presence of God.

There are 7 points that St Paul teaches about Charisms:

- A Charism is not a natural talent. It is the supernatural that raises a natural gift to a supernatural efficacy. For example, someone with the charism of hospitality really feels the welcome of Christ for people.
- A Charism is given freely. We must avoid the mistake of thinking that someone who manifests a Charism is holier than others. Just remember that Lord can prophesy

through a donkey or through unbelievers like Caiaphas.

- Every Charism has a purpose – to build up the body of Christ and to impart grace.
- Every Christian receives a Charism, and all are needed. There is no unemployment in God's kingdom. Even on your sickbed you can be a 'prayer warrior' for the Lord.
- What is our responsibility in regard to Charisms? Read *Romans 12:6-8* – we must use them, and help to awaken them in others.
- The role of leadership is to equip and mobilise the faithful for mission (*Eph 4:11-12*). It is the role of leadership to call forth and oversee the harmonious use of Charisms, not to hinder them (see *1Th 5:20 & 1Cor 14:39*). At the same time we are to test everything to ensure it is of God, to call prayer group members to use their gifts, to Oversee and Coordinate the use of the gifts. This also include gentle correction where needed.
- Love is the way (*1Cor 13:1*) The heart of the spiritual gifts is love. The Charisms are the tools of love.

What did the Fathers of the Church have to say about the Charisms? Irenaeus of Lyon wrote that the Charisms are a part of normal Christian life. To perform miracles, to heal the sick, receive visions and to prophesy is the normal life of a Christian. St Hilary of Poitiers wrote, "We who are reborn through the sacrament of baptism experience intense joy when we feel within us the first stirring of the Holy Spirit." Charisms enter us like gentle rain and they grow and mature in us until "they bring forth fruit in abundance." St Augustine denied their existence until he saw in them in operation.

The following are four keys for seeing the supernatural.

1. Intimacy with Jesus: daily prayer, reading his word each day, Eucharistic adoration, anointed praise and worship. As we deepen our love of Jesus the more we have to give away.
2. Get God's heart for the lost. Beg God to give you his heart for the lost. Universalism which rejects eternal torment in hell is a lie, a heresy. There are eternal consequences to our choices. Many around us are walking in deep moral and spiritual darkness. There are many lost (prodigal) sons who are taking small steps towards God – will they meet the (loving) Father or the (judgemental) elder brother? The church is meant to be a place of music and dancing, rejoicing as the lost come home.
3. Ask/Seek/Knock. We cannot ask too much of God. We expect too little.
4. 'Do whatever he tells you'. Obedience is the key. If we give the Lord our obedience he will turn water into wine – the impossible becomes possible.

Finally, if we encounter difficulties in our witness pray like the apostles, "And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (*Acts 4:29-30, NRSVCE*)



Vague wanting

Our lives, yours and mine, are too precious to fritter away on lukewarm commitments and half-hearted vows, writes Good Samaritan Sister Patty Fawkner.

“Do you want God?”

The retreat director’s question to me, a young nun preparing to renew her vows as a Good Samaritan Sister, was uncharacteristically blunt. The much-revered Benedictine priest must have picked up something in my attitude during our daily one-on-one encounters. “I vaguely want God,” I replied somewhat evasively.

Not a word from the kindly monk. He simply and deliberately picked up his pen, took a blank sheet of paper and in large letters wrote: VAGUE WANTING = 0.

Floored by one punch. I was shaken. I was shocked by the truth of the simple mathematical formula. I was sobered, not so much because my youthful arrogance had been exposed, but by the seeping realisation that I was a hypocrite; worse, I was wasting my life. Here I was about to renew my vows, declaring to myself, publicly to my Sisters, to the world, that God was the love and the primary relationship of my life, a God whom I “vaguely wanted”! It was a moment of clarity – yes, a moment of conversion. Did I want God? Did I? My prayer was raw, not even “God, help me to want you”, but a more primal “God, help me to want to want you”. At the end of the retreat I did renew my vows; I did so intentionally and willingly, and I experienced deep joy.

Commitment is an ongoing issue. I have had to make the choice for God and to pray to want God again and again and again. Initially, more often than not, our commitments are anything but tepid. Loving of heart and firm of faith, we earnestly avow the “yes” and “I do”. But in the wake of our first fervour, as we settle in for the long haul of ‘ordinary time’, it’s hard to be faithful and focused; it’s hard to resist the vague wanting which comes upon us in many guises.

We may become nesters, allowing a creeping desire for comfort over commitment to overtake us. We opt for the convenient and casual in our relationships with our increasingly taken-for-granted God, spouse, friend or colleague.

We may become dabblers, succumbing, in Thomas Merton’s words, to the “temptation to diddle around in the contemplative life, making itchy-bitsy statues”. All of us, not only contemplatives, may become “itchy-bitsy” people, dabbling in a bit of this and a bit of that, but lacking a real and passionate commitment to specific people or cause.

We may become complacent or compliant. Sure, I turn up for communal prayer, I still bring home the pay packet, and I never miss the family meal. But my heart is elsewhere. Nesting numbs, dabbling drains and complacency kills commitment.

“Tell me what is it you plan to do with your one wild and

precious life.” I love the import of Mary Oliver’s challenge. Our lives, yours and mine, are too precious to fritter away on lukewarm commitments and half-hearted vows. Don’t settle for the bland commitment palette, Oliver infers, when the vibrant primary-coloured one is within our reach.

If I want God, if I want to be truly committed, excising the “vague” part of my wanting is not enough. “The seduction of embarking on a spiritual life,” warns Joan Chittister, “is that people can be fooled into believing that wanting it is doing it.” I can earnestly want God but, as my spiritual director reminds me, “choice outstrips desire”. It is not enough to want God. I must choose and do what I can to nurture this relationship with the One who first creates and chooses me.

Love is the fuel and fruit of commitment. And like love, commitment is difficult and demanding. It is not an abstraction, nor is it a technique. It is personal and relational and its currency is space and time. So I make the time and I create the space for the one to whom I am committed, reassured by the mystics that where God finds space, God enters. And I make time and create space daily. “How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives,” counsels Annie Dillard.

Inevitably there will be infidelities – minor or major. I fall in love with another, I become lax or I become more devoted to an enterprise at the expense of my loved ones. There have been times when people or projects, utterly good in themselves, have become false gods because I have allowed them to decentre my primary commitment to God. But in this relationship, God never ‘decentres’ me. Profligate in love, God always forgives my infidelities, always cherishes me as “beloved”, always yearns for my love in return, and always invites me to begin again and commit myself again.

Leonard Cohen’s classic song, Anthem, consoles me. “Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in.”

My commitment and offering will never be perfect. God, the Light, will use even my ‘cracks’, perhaps especially, my ‘cracks’ – my failures, infidelities and vague wantings – to invite me closer to God. This is what happened on that retreat all those decades ago. Once I admitted my vague wanting I was drawn closer to the One who fiercely, passionately – never vaguely – wants me.

***Good Samaritan Sister Patty Fawkner is an adult educator, writer and facilitator. Patty is interested in exploring what wisdom the Christian tradition has for contemporary issues. She has an abiding interest in questions of justice and spirituality. Her formal tertiary qualifications are in arts, education, theology and spirituality.**

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Intercession Training Course

We are convinced that intercession is the need of the hour, for the Church and for the world. The Training Course, **"A Call to Prophetic Intercession"** is the concrete realisation of the desire to form a large family of intercessors worldwide. Intercession concerns all Christians, not just those who are members of a particular group or movement.

This programme will train and equip those who sense a calling for intercession and will offer an opportunity for growth in holiness, development of trust in God in all things, deeper spiritual reflection, meditation on the life of Jesus, the main intercessor and full opening to the Holy Spirit, who is dwelling in us, strengthens us and gives us all the tools necessary for intercession.

St. Paul, as with the Ephesians Christian community, makes this appeal: "Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication." (Ep 6:18)

When: Saturday 1 October 2016, 10am – 4pm

Where: CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street, Nth Fitzroy.

Please call the CCR Centre, 9486 6544, to register.

BYO lunch, refreshments will be provided.

A love offering will be taken up to cover expenses.



New Co-ordinator appointed

The Co-ordinators of CCR Melbourne have great pleasure in announcing the appointment of Vera Gelo to the Melbourne Service Team.

Vera first came to Australia in 1970 at the age of 13. She has been married to Tom for 35 years and they have 3 grown up sons. She encountered the Lord more than 25 years ago and has been the leader of the Croatian Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group in Clifton Hill for 18 years as well as a leader in the Croatian community.

Vera is a valued member of the healing ministry where she has ministered in the Healing Prayer and Evangelisation Centre at Pascoe Vale for the past 9 years. Being an excellent Intercessor she has represented CCR Melbourne at the ISAO School of Prophetic Intercession held in Sri Lanka in 2014 and along with Christine Grech is presently involved in the Prophetic Intercession Ministry. The focus for this ministry is to hear prophetically what the Lord is saying to the Nation. The prophetic word is gathered, discerned at a National level and then becomes part of the National prayer focus for each month.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL Golden Jubilee Pilgrimage

MAY / JUNE 2017



Commemorate 50 years since the beginning of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. Join us to celebrate Pentecost with Pope Francis and pray with the Charismatic Communities of the world for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



In Jesus' Footsteps - to CCR Rome



PRIEST CHAPLAIN: Dan Serratore MGL*

DURATION: 18 Day Journey
DEPARTS: Sunday 21st May 2017

Featuring: Dead Sea (1) • Baptismal Site of Jesus • Mt Beatitudes • Sea of Galilee (3) • Cana • Nazareth • Mt Tabor • Bethlehem & Jerusalem (4) • Gethsemane • Calvary • Rome CCR Jubilee Week (6) Religious House lodgings near St Peter's • Extend in Europe option

* Ordination to the Priesthood on Friday 7th October 2016.

COST:
\$5890
AIR & TOUR PACKAGE

HARVEST ENQUIRIES:
Website: harvestjourneys.com/ccr2017
Email: info@harvestjourneys.com
Toll Free: 1800 819 156

CCR ENQUIRIES:
Miriam Markis
Phone: (03) 9486 6544
Email: miriam@ccr.org.au

harvest.
journeys

guadalupe theatre presents JOHN PAUL 2 the musical

Renaissance Theatre -

823 High Street, Kew

Wed 21 Sept - Sat 24 Sept

Tickets: Adult \$35 Concession \$20
group booking (10) \$20 each
www.trybooking.com/KPEK

"This Show can easily go round the world!"

"I am surprised at how professional this group is. Wonderful."

"Joining this cast has been a life-changing move for me."

"This performance has transformed my life."



Enquiries Ph: 9017 5065 Patrick 0488 333 737

MUSICAL PREMIERE JOHN PAUL II

COME AND BE INSPIRED AND UPLIFTED BY THIS WONDERFUL CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF THIS INFLUENTIAL AND COURAGEOUS MAN OF GOD.

Renaissance Theatre (Kew High School)
SEPT 21-23 @ 7PM / SEPT 24 @ 1PM and 7PM
www.trybooking.com/KPEK

www.callofguadalupe.com *phone: 9017 5065 / 0488 333 737

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

JUBILEE CONFERENCE



THE GREAT DISCOVERY THE HOLY SPIRIT

16-20 JANUARY 2017

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

241 ROYAL PARADE,
PARKVILLE.

*Live-in
accommodation
is available.
Please phone
the Centre on
9486 6544.*

SPEAKERS

MICHELLE MORAN

Michelle together with her husband Peter is a founder member of Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism. She originally trained as a teacher and taught in a College for 5 years before ministering full time in Sion Community.



Michelle has been involved in Catholic Charismatic renewal from her youth. She had a "conversion" experience and was baptised in the Holy Spirit as a teenager. She has ministered in CCR all over the world as a conference speaker and teacher. Michelle is currently Chair of the NSC for Catholic Charismatic Renewal in England and Wales and President of ICCRS, the International Council for Renewal in Rome. In 2007 she was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to be a member of the Pontifical Council of the Laity. One of her desires is to see the next generation of young leaders in CCR trained and equipped for ministry and leadership.

ULF EKMAN

Ulf Ekman is the founder of Word of Life, a non-denominational Charismatic church in Uppsala, Sweden and was its Senior Pastor for 30 years.



In May 2014 he and his wife Birgitta converted and joined the Catholic Church. Ekman has held conferences and leadership seminars in many nations, especially in the former USSR, Eastern Europe and India. He founded bible schools and a Theological Seminary, hosted a TV show aired in many nations, and has written more than 40 books and booklets, translated into over 30 languages. For three years he and his wife lived in Jerusalem. He presently lives in Uppsala with his wife and they have four sons and seven grandchildren.

First Name		Surname	
Address			
State		Postcode	
Phone Number			
Email			
Dietary Requirements			
REGISTRATION			
Full Conference Registration		\$295	
Early Bird Registration		\$250	
Deposit only enclosed		\$100	
Donation to ICCRS		\$	
Total amount enclosed		\$	
METHOD OF PAYMENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque			
CREDIT CARD DETAILS			
Name			
Credit Card Number			
Expiry Date		CCV No.	
/ /			
Signed			
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: Catholic Charismatic Renewal Melbourne			



Praise the lord

Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Proclaiming the power of the Holy Spirit and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

2017 Holy Pilgrimages Journey to Rome or Rome and Fatima.

CCR together with Mirabella Travel are pleased to present the opportunity to join together in a holy pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee of Charismatic Renewal at Pentecost 2017 or Rome and Fatima to further celebrate with the 100th anniversary of the vision of Our Lady in the Portuguese town of Fatima. Tours are inclusive of airfares, all accommodation, breakfast daily, some dinners and return airport transfers as well as local transport via private coach to all events.



Rome & Pentecost Celebrations

With Archbishop Christopher Prowse

We are most grateful to Archbishop Christopher Prowse who has generously accepted to be the spiritual director and lead the delegation right through from Melbourne to Rome and back.

Depart Melbourne 29 May 2017, fly to Rome arriving 30 May. 6 nights accommodation in 3-4 star hotel with breakfast daily.

Return private coach transfers to and from Rome airport and daily transport to attend Pentecost and local activities. Depart Rome 05 June 2017 to Melbourne.

*\$3110.00** per person twin share. Includes all airline taxes and levies, transfers and 6 nights accommodation. Valid from all capital cities.*

*Single traveller supplement \$250.00***

**I.C.C.R.S registration for all events will be completed by
C.C.R Melbourne, please call Miriam Markis +613 9486 6544**



*"I expect all of you, Charismatics
From around the world, to celebrate your great Jubilee with
the Pope at Pentecost 2017 in St. Peters Square".
-Pope Francis, Rome's Olympic stadium, 2 June 2014*



Rome & Our Lady of Fatima

With Father Wahid Riad

Depart Melbourne 29 May 2017, fly to Rome arriving 30 May. 6 nights accommodation in 3-4 star hotel with breakfast daily. Join Father Wahid Riad as he leads the program from Rome and on to Fatima. 5-8 June Assisi, 3 nights accommodation with breakfast and dinner, 3-4 star hotel. 8-10 June San Giovanni Rotondo, 2 nights accommodation with breakfast and dinner, 3-4 star hotel. 10-11 June, overnight in Rome, free time and fly to Lisbon on 11 June. 11-14 June Fatima, visit the chapel of apparitions, the Basilica of Our Lady of the rosary, Valinhos. 13 June full day excursion to Cova di Iria for the 100th anniversary of apparitions.

Return private coach transfers to and from Rome and Lisbon airports and daily transport for all sightseeing and activities. Depart Lisbon 14 June 2017 to Melbourne.

*\$5495.00** per person twin share. Includes all airline taxes and levies, transfers, 15 nights accommodation and meals as specified. Valid from all capital cities.*

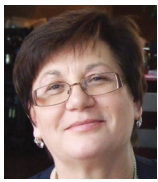
*Single traveller supplement \$650.00***

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal Melbourne
Miriam Markis**

101 Holden street
Fitzroy Nth
Victoria 3068

Phone: 03 9486 6544 | E-mail: miriam@ccr.org.au

****subject to variance, terms & conditions apply, BOOKINGS CLOSE 30/09/2016**



Winter time is my least favourite of the four seasons. Sounds absurd when I put it in writing as I feel I should be indifferent to hot or cold weather. Reputation has it that we can often have all four seasons in the one day in Melbourne. Honestly, I'd like to hibernate. Bears do. So why can't I?

However, day follows day... and it seems the good Lord has other intentions. Prayer then becomes a lifeline.

I'd just like to offer up food for thought from the following saying of St John Vianney, which I've had occasion to reflect upon from time to time, that is, "If we don't accuse ourselves we excuse ourselves." There is a lot to ponder in these words of wisdom. After pondering these words we might need to avail ourselves of a good confession or make an appointment for healing ministry.

May the good Lord help and heal us all!

God at work – Testimony to the healing power of God.

I was overseas on Pilgrimage with some of our CFD group, Tim Hamilton and his wife Margaret, Juliana Coburn, my wife Ula and myself, and Val Dale. We went with another small group of about 12 called 'The Equestrian group of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem'

While there I felt I was a burden to all as I was struggling to walk and keep up. Before I left home I had X-rays on my spine, foot, and knee, and it showed all were damaged in different ways, and causing a lot of pain and discomfort. I was dragging myself along behind everyone. I thought from now on I should just stay in my hotel room and read a book!

However, I thought I should go with the group this particular day regardless. We went to the Holy Sepulchre. Our Guide was very helpful he knew everything about the place. He said, "This altar was put here, for when Jesus was abused and ridiculed during his Passion". And it is said, that if you put your ear on the cold surface of the altar you will hear people shouting abuse at Jesus. Many were there and we had to cue up and wait our turn. All the time I was thinking, this is silly, it won't work! Something happened to me after I put my head on the altar. As I stood up to walk away and grabbing my stick for support I felt a big relief, no pain in my leg, or back! I said nothing to anyone as I walked away.

But, I was striding ahead of everyone and beating them up the stairs and down. Some noticed me doing that and asked, "What has happened to you?" And why aren't you using your walking stick?

Delighted, I told each one the whole story as they asked, that Jesus healed me.

I'm still free of pain and discomfort.

Blessings, *Paul Harris*

I would like to give witness to two physical healings I was surprised with this year. At Renewal Day in February I remember a lady proclaiming that a healing of shoulder pain would happen during the meeting. I did not think anything about it at the time. I have suffered regularly with excruciating pain between my shoulder blades which would prevent me from doing anything with my arms for about two minutes. However, the week following Renewal Day I was sitting in the office when I felt the first signs of the pain beginning in my shoulder blades. I braced myself to experience the pain that I thought would come... but the pain did not proceed! I then remembered what the lady had proclaimed about shoulder blades being healed. I sat dumb founded in the office... this kind of healing happens to others – not to me! Just in case it actually had happened to me I thanked God there and then! Since that day in the Office I have been completely free of any shoulder pain!

The second healing I have received is to my knee. I have been hobbling around on my right knee because I have lost my cartilage and at times bone rubs on bone. I have had prayer on a number of occasions and a surgeon had recommended a knee replacement. Not wanting a knee replacement I have soldiered on. About four months ago I was having lunch with the coordinators when one of them asked me if I wanted prayer for my knee. They had noticed me hobbling. In my mind I instantly thought that was a nice thought, but I had had prayer before and nothing had happened. I courteously replied that I would be grateful for the prayer, so a short prayer was said for there and then. I went on to finish my lunch with a sense over me that my knee felt lighter. Not really sure what to make of this feeling I decided to go outside and go for a run-down Holden Street. There were people walking along the path to the right so I started to jog towards the left. The jog turned into a sprint – I sprinted twenty metres up the road, then sprinted back to the CCR Centre, and just to make sure I sprinted again another twenty metres!!! By then I could not care less if there were any people watching!! My right knee no longer causes me to hobble or drag my right foot when the knee gets tired. The alignment between my right knee, right hip and back is a bit out – certainly not as good as my left side. So I would give the Lord a rating of 85% out of 100%. All humour aside... I do not know how to thank him enough.

Jacek

Prayer and Praise
are the oars by
which a man
may row his boat
into the deep
waters of the
knowledge of Christ.

-Charles Spurgeon



MARK YOUR DIARIES...

Renewal Days

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

19 November 2016 - A Special Advent Event – mark your diaries!

Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, 49 Nicholson St, East Brunswick.

NO PARKING IN SCHOOL GROUNDS. *Public Transport:* train to Parliament Station, tram no.96 along Nicholson St to stop no.22.

Annual Conference

16 - 20 January 2017

Special guests Michelle Moran and Ulf Ekman will help us celebrate 50 years. There will be an open Praise Rally on Saturday 21 January led by ONE. Brochures now available.

Training in Prophetic Intercession

The Intercession Training Course, "A call to prophetic Intercession" is an opportunity for growth in holiness. See ad on page 8 for details.

Can't make it to a Healing Prayer Centre during the week?

Then you are welcome to come to the Open House Healing Ministry Days 2016: Saturday's 10 September and 3 December. 9.30am - 2.30pm at the CCR Centre.

CHARISMATIC MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Third Sunday	12 Noon	St Benedict's, Burwood
HEALING MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Each Sunday	7.00pm	Holy Family, Doveton (Ministry after)
First Saturday	2.30pm – 5pm Adoration followed by Healing Mass	St Peter's, 38 Guinane Ave, Hoppers Crossing
First Sunday	2.30pm	St Peter Chanel, Deer Park
	3.00pm Praise & Worship, 3.30pm Mass	St Christopher's Parish, 5 Doon Ave, Glen Waverley
	5.00pm	St Benedicts, Burwood. Prayer Ministry after Mass, Praise Rally at 7.00pm
	5.30pm Praise, Worship, Adoration 6pm Mass, followed by Prayer Ministry	St Marks, Fawkner
First Monday	7.00pm Praise, 7.30pm Mass	St Joseph's, Springvale Phone 9547 9557
First Friday	8.00pm	St Patrick's Parish, Rovira House, 5 Dalny Road Murrumbena
	8.15pm	St Peter's Clayton
First Wednesday	7.30pm	St Peter & Paul, East Doncaster
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	St Mary's, Castlemaine
Third Thursday	7.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry St, Eltham
Third Sunday	5.30pm	St Francis Xavier, Frankston
	5.30pm Praise, 6.00pm Mass	Good Samaritan Chapel, 1-29 Southern Cross Drive, Roxburgh Park
Fourth Tuesday	10.00am	St Joseph's, Chelsea
First Friday	10.00am	Holy Hour For Priests St Anthony's, Noble Park

St Peter's, East Bentleigh. Monday 21 November 2016.