

"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](http://www.ccr.org.au)

## Happy Catholics in Rome

By LENYCE WILLASON



The worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal gathered in Rome to celebrate its Golden Jubilee. More than merely a nostalgic look backwards, there was anticipation for the days ahead. ICCRS exists to serve the worldwide Charismatic family and having many Charismatic realities celebrating together in one place showed the Pastoral heart of ICCRS. There was also a clearly ecumenical focus, initiated by Pope Francis himself!

The Holy Father had specifically invited many Protestant speakers and featured them with him on Saturday night as a way to underscore the ecumenical nature of this current of grace. It was a visual picture of the ICCRS commitment to Ecumenism. The Golden Jubilee was described as both an historic and prophetic moment. The Renewal gathered to seek wisdom... and the grace of God in order to live and work in a new season of Pentecost.

This was a celebration for the Universal Church and all continents were represented with peoples from 128 countries. Fifty Bishops and Archbishops along with 800 priests participated in the joyful events.

The involvement of the Holy Father gave a deep impression and accountability to the Church hierarchy throughout the World. To see and hear the voice of the Holy Father was very important particularly for those who have a lack of support from their local bishops or priests.

It was encouraging to see the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in the hearts of Pilgrims. People came looking for a new dynamic and through the many diverse activities being offered, they found this dynamic.

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## Good News

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Many years ago, when I first began to become aware of the action of the Holy Spirit in my life, I was given a book that has had a major influence on my life. It is called *Sensing Your Hidden Presence* by Fr Ignacio Larrañaga sj. Within the pages of this book is a small half chapter that has been a guiding inspiration in my journey.

*There they were like two old friends. Between the two of them, they were carrying on a memorable epic. Fighting elbow to elbow in a singular battle, without giving or taking refuge, they had gathered together an oppressed people. Then they took them to the land of the free, which is the desert. And, walking over the golden sands, they began marching towards a far-off and almost impossible dream. They treated each other with the camaraderie of two war veterans. The two were God and Moses.*

This created within me a desire for a relationship with God that had a similar intimacy, knowing full well that a desire to go deeper each day in my walk with God brings with it risk, challenges, constant surrender and repentance and often, testing. But these are far outweighed by the peace and love that is given me as I allow him to orchestrate the twists and turns as well as bring the revelations of surrender.

I experienced one of these “revelations” on our recent Pilgrimage to Rome. In attending the Ecumenical Symposium, I was privileged to listen to the many speakers (Bishops, Priests, Pastors and Lay people) who have been actively working in this area for many years. It was humbling to listen to each of them give their witness to the work God had to do in their hearts to enable them to engage in conversations and build relationships with those of other faiths. Two speakers touched me deeply as they shared their journey with each other. One was a Messianic Jew from New York and the other a converted Nazi from Germany. Even though there had been much conversion in his life since becoming a Catholic, and a Charismatic, the German man spoke with tears in his voice of discovering just how much hatred was still hiding in his heart towards the Jewish race. This manifested itself vehemently when he first met the Messianic Jew. Until then he believed that he had repented of his past, had forgiven and given forgiveness many times over. Until the day he met the Jewish man from New York, and he knew in that instance that there is much inner healing needed, along with daily repentance, when one is surrendered to the will of God. He could recognise the deeper call the Holy Spirit was making on his life and his willingness to surrender his own feelings enabled his work in Ecumenism to go forward, and his intimacy with his God to increase.

After many years praying with the healing ministry I still find it interesting how many times God uses the cause of our pain to also be the cause of our healing and freedom. The hatred this German had for the Jewish race was the very thing God used to bring him healing, freedom and a deeper intimacy with Him who knows us better than we know ourselves.

Each one of us is called to a deeper walk with God. Our response to that invitation often means examining those areas of resistance, and being honest about what prevents us from saying ‘yes’.

*Search me O God and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts. Psalm 139:10*

**Lenyce Willason**

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE NEW ICCRS PRESIDENT



By JAMES MURPHY

Dear brothers and sisters,

I was baptised into the Catholic faith when I was 2 weeks old, and have loved being in the body of Christ my entire life. I LOVE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH!!!

My introduction to the Charismatic Renewal began in Juneau, Alaska (USA). It was June of 1971. I had gone into an Assembly of God church, out of mere curiosity. I was surprised by what I encountered there, but fell in love with these new brothers and sisters. So many things that I had longed for in my relationship with God I found in that amazing encounter with the Holy Spirit!

I returned to my home in Michigan (USA) and attended a prayer meeting put on by the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In the following years, I became very involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I was excited to see how the Spirit was transforming the lives of so many people. I was happy to serve where I could, as I believed the Renewal was a significant way God was working in the world, and was excited to be part of this amazing grace.

Eventually, I was asked to serve on ICCRS, which was a great honor, but also carried a sense of responsibility. In ICCRS, I met many wonderful brothers and sisters from all over the world. I also saw how the one Spirit could move in many ways. God's work was much bigger than anything I could imagine. I also understood that God works in a variety of ways through a variety of people. No one "owns" the Spirit.

Those years of service and all those important lessons came to a new moment of realization and clarity as I stood in the crowd at Circus Maximus, during the recent celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal held in Rome at Pentecost. The Jubilee was an opportunity to look back, give thanks, and reflect upon some important lessons. It was also a time to look ahead, trying to understand God's plans for us and learning how to respond in this new day.

In the ICCRS Council meeting that followed the festivities, there was a surprise of the Spirit with my election as the next President of ICCRS. I love and respect our former President, Michelle Moran so much, that to be honest, it is a bit intimidating to try to walk the path she has blazed for us. Still, I have to trust God and rely on the prayers of my beloved brothers and sisters, that God will give me the grace necessary to fulfill my task.

As the ICCRS council was coming to a close, we returned once more to the now empty Circus Maximus. The open field was in sharp contrast to the throng of nearly 38,000 people gathered there just a few days earlier. We walked back to the place where Pope Francis had addressed the crowd. The stage was gone; the chairs were taken away. It was an empty space. However, as we stood

there looking over the open area, I seemed to see again the smiling faces, the banners snapping in the breeze, and the hands lifted in prayer and jubilation. "Looking out" over the crowd once more, a crowd from more than 120 nations, I fell in love with the Renewal all over again. But the "Renewal" I felt so deeply for at that moment wasn't simply a structure, an organization, or an office. It was the men and women, the brothers and sisters... the family from all over the world who had experienced and surrendered to this sweet touch of God's love, the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the day, the Renewal is not about numbers, demographics, or even accomplishments. It's about people... you and me... who have been "set on fire" with the love of God. People who believe that the Spirit of the Lord still moves upon the land to bring hearts close to the Father under the Lordship of Jesus.

That is the Renewal that I love. That is the Renewal I will serve.

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## NO JANUARY CONFERENCE IN 2018

Over many months in prayer the Melbourne Coordinators have been aware of the Lord impressing upon them that he is doing a 'new thing'. Coupled with this is the sense that we are to make space for this 'new thing', to be fallow ground. Fallow ground occurs when the land is ploughed up and left to lie in wait. The prophecy received from ICCRS last year when the Jubilee Cross programme was in the planning stages speaks of the way in which the journey of the Cross will plough the land (*see below*).

As a result, the Coordinators have decided not to hold any event in January 2018 but to spend that time in prayer waiting for the thousands of seeds that have been planted in this Jubilee Year to receive the rain of the Holy Spirit.

A Prophecy received from ICCRS Intercessors

*When I prayed for the cross and its journey I saw a picture of the cross where ever it went leaving ploughed ground, then I saw angels planting thousands of seeds, the Holy Spirit then rained upon them and there was a supernatural growth, as soon as the water hit them they grew into established plants.*

*This cross journey is an important part of the harvest of people turning to God that is about to come upon our land, our churches.*



*“A current  
of grace of  
the Spirit”*



Pope Francis

# The Pope's speech at Pentecost Vigil

By POPE FRANCIS

Brothers and sisters, thank you for your witness today, here: thank you! It is good for all of us, it is good for me, for all!

In the first chapter of the book of the Acts of the Apostles we read that: “And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, ‘you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’” (Acts 1: 4-5).

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2: 1-4).

Today we are here, as in an open-air Cenacle, because we are not afraid: in the open air, and also with a heart open to the promise of the Father. We are gathered, “all believers”, all those who profess that Jesus is the Lord. Many have come from different parts of the world and the Holy Spirit has gathered us to establish bonds of fraternal friendship that encourage us on the path to unity, unity for the mission: not to be static, no! for the mission, to proclaim that Jesus is the Lord – *Jesús es el Señor* – to announce together the love of the Father for all His children! To announce the Good News to all peoples! To demonstrate that peace is possible. It is not so easy to demonstrate to this, today's world, that peace is possible, but in the name of Jesus we can show with our witness that peace is possible! But it is possible only if we are at peace among ourselves. If we accentuate our differences, we are at war with each other and we cannot proclaim peace. Peace is possible starting from our confession that Jesus is the Lord and from our evangelization on this road. It is possible. While showing that we have differences – but this is obvious, we have differences – but that we wish to be a reconciled diversity. Here, we must not forget this phrase, but say it to everyone: **reconciled diversity**. And this phrase is not mine, it is not mine. It is from a Lutheran brother. Reconciled diversity.

And now we are here, and there are many of us! We managed to pray together, to ask the coming of the Holy Spirit upon each one of us to go out into the streets of the city and of the world, to proclaim the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The book of the Acts affirms that we are “Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians – we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God” (Acts 2: 9-11). Speaking in the same language, listening, understanding... There are differences, but the Spirit enables us to understand the message of the resurrection of Jesus in our own language.

We are gathered here, believers from 120 countries in the world, to celebrate the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, that took the initiative fifty years ago and gave rise to... an institution? **No**. An organization? **No**. To a current of grace, to the current of grace of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. A work that was born... Catholic? **No**. It was born ecumenical! It was born ecumenical because it is the Holy Spirit that creates unity and the same Holy Spirit that gave the inspiration for it to be thus! It is important to read the works of Cardinal Suenens on this: it is very important!

The coming of the Holy Spirit transforms men wrapped up in fear into courageous witnesses of Jesus. Peter, who had denied Jesus three times, full of the strength of the Holy Spirit proclaims: “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain



that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus Whom you crucified" (Acts 2: 36). And this is the profession of faith of every Christian. God constituted as Lord and Christ that Jesus Whom you have or has been crucified. Do you agree on this profession of faith? [Answer: **"yes"**]. It is ours, everyone's, all of us, the same!

The Word continues, saying, "And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2: 44-47). The community was growing, and it was the Spirit that inspired it. I like very much to think of Philip, when the Angel said to him, "Go on the road to Gaza and find the proselyte, minister of economy of the Queen of Ethiopia, Candace. He was a proselyte and was reading Isaiah. And Philip explained the Word to him, proclaimed Jesus, and the man converted. And at a certain point, he said, "But here there is water: I want to be baptized". It was the Spirit that drove Philip to go there, and from the beginning it was that the Spirit that drove all believers to proclaim the Lord.

Today we have chosen to gather here, in this place – as Pastor Traettino said – because here during the persecutions, Christians were martyred for the enjoyment of those who were watching. Today there are more martyrs than yesteryear! Today there are more martyrs, Christians. Those who kill Christians, before killing them, do not ask, "Are you Orthodox? Are you Catholic? Are you Evangelical? Are you Lutheran? Are you Calvinist?" No. "Are you Christian?" "Yes" – then your throat is cut, immediately. Today there are more martyrs than in the early times. And this is the ecumenism of blood: we are united by the witness of our martyrs of today. In several parts of the world Christian blood is being shed! Today the unity of Christians, united by the work of the Holy Spirit, in prayer and in action for the weakest, is more urgent than ever. Walk together, work together. Love each other. Love each other. And together seek to explain the differences, agree, but on the path! If we stay still, without walking, we will never, ever agree. This is how it is, because the Holy Spirit wants us to be on the move.

Fifty years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. A current of grace of the Spirit! And why a current of grace? Because it has neither a founder, nor statutes, nor organs of governance. Clearly in this current, multiple expressions have been born that are certainly human works inspired by the Spirit, with various charisms, and all in the service of the Church. But this current cannot be dammed, nor can the Holy Spirit be enclosed in a cage!

Fifty years have passed. When we reach this age, perhaps our strengths begin to decline. It is the halfway point in life – in my homeland we call it *"el cincuentazo"* – wrinkles

become deeper – unless you make yourself up, but the wrinkles are there – the grey hairs increase in number and we begin to forget certain things...

Fifty years is a good moment in life to stop and reflect. It is the moment for reflection: halfway through life. And I would say to you: it is the moment to go ahead with greater strength, leaving behind the dust of time that we have allowed to accumulate, being thankful for what we have received and facing the new with trust in the action of the Holy Spirit!

Pentecost enabled the birth of the Church. The Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father announced by Jesus Christ, it is He Who makes the Church: the Bride of the Apocalypse, a single bride! As Pastor Traettino said: the Lord has *one* bride!

The most precious gift that we have all received is baptism. And now the Spirit leads us on the path of conversion that all the Christian world follows, and which is another reason why Catholic Charismatic Renewal is a special place for following the way towards unity!

This current of grace is for all the Church, not just for some, and no-one among us is the "master" and all the other servants. No. We are all servants of this current of grace.

Together with this experience, you continually remind the Church of the power of prayer and praise. Praise which is the prayer of acknowledgment and thanksgiving for the gratuitous love of God. It may be that not everyone likes this form of prayer, but it is certainly fully integrated in the biblical tradition. The Psalms, for example: David who danced before the Ark of the Covenant, full of jubilation... and please, let us not fall into the trap of the attitude of Christians with the "Michal complex", named after she who was ashamed of how David praised God [dancing before the Ark].

Jubilation, cheer, joy, fruit of the same action of the Holy Spirit! Either the Christian experiences joy in his or her heart, or there is something wrong. The joy of the announcement of the Good News of the Gospel!

Jesus in the Synagogue of Nazareth reads the passage of Isaiah. He reads. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (cf. Lk 4:18-19; Is 61: 1-2). The good news: do not forget this. The good, the joyful news: the Christian proclamation is always joyful.

The third document of Malines, "Charismatic Renewal and Service to Man", written by Cardinal Suenens and Dom Helder Camara, is clear: charismatic renewal and also service to man.

*Baptism in the Holy Spirit, praise, service to man.* The three things are indissolubly joined. I can praise profoundly, but if I do not help those most in need, it is not enough.

“There was not a needy person among them” (Acts 4: 34), said the Book of the Acts.

We will not be judged for our praise but for how much we have done for Jesus. But Lord, when did we do this for You? “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers” (cf. Mt. 25: 39-40).

Dear sisters and dear brothers, I wish you a time of reflection, of remembrance of your origins; a time to leave behind all the things added by the self and transform them into listening and joyful welcome of the action of the Holy Spirit, which breathes where and how He wishes!

I thank the Catholic Fraternity and the ICCRS for organizing this Golden Jubilee, for this Vigil. And I thank each one of the volunteers who have made this possible, many of whom are here. I wanted to greet the members of staff of the office when I arrived, because I know they have worked hard! And without payment! They have worked a lot. The majority are young people from various continents. May the Lord bless you.

I am thankful in particular for the fact that the request I made to you two years ago to give the Charismatic Renewal worldwide a single international service based here has started to take shape in the Constitutive Acts of this new single service. It is the first step; others will follow, but soon unity, the work of the Holy Spirit, will be a reality. “Behold, I am making all things new”, says the Lord (Rev. 21: 5).

Thank you, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, for what you have given the Church in these fifty years! The Church counts on you, on your fidelity to the Spirit, on your willingness to serve and your witness of lives transformed by the Holy Spirit!

Share with all in the Church the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, praise the Lord ceaselessly, walk together with Christians of different Churches and Christian communities in prayer and in action for those most in need. Serve the poorest and the sick, this is what the Church and the Pope expect of you, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, but from all of you: all, all of you who have entered in this current of grace!

Thank you.



## Two days at the Body, Mind and Spirit Festival

By MICHAEL & WENDY POWER

Honey, bean bags, health regimes, and offers of spirituality of many and various kinds were on offer at the *Body, Mind and Spirit Festival*. At our Catholic Charismatic Renewal stand, with the words ‘What are you seeking?’ challenging those who passed by, we offered Holy Spirit cards, a catholic show bag and a willingness to pray with people, for their needs. All for free!!

What a privilege it was to be there. Many took up one or more of these offers. One woman returned to give thanks. “Two years ago I visited the stall and people prayed for my autistic son and his condition markedly improved within a week. We were able to get other help and he is now coping well with normal schooling - thank you.” She knew the prayer of CCR people to God was the source of real help.

We prayed with about a dozen people on each of Friday and Saturday afternoon sessions and listened to many and answered questions. Most appreciated a prayer card. One lady, who said she was Greek Orthodox, brought her friend around to the stall to get a Holy Spirit card.

Many others used phrases like, I was baptised Catholic or brought up Catholic or I went to a Catholic school or a ‘thank you for being here’ or ‘Good on you it is good to see the Catholic Church here’.

A woman, from another stall promoting self healing came in the last few minutes of the first day and said ‘you all look so peaceful’. She readily accepted prayer for her needs, with tears in her eyes as we prayed. Praise God.

We saw many, many people seeking something! Some were drinking at very dry wells. May they all come, ‘to know Him, who they seek’. “In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

A very big thank you to all those wonderful people who gave up their time to man the stand and pray for people over the four days of the festival.

### Can't make it to a Healing Prayer Centre during the week? These are dates for 2017.

Then you are welcome to come to the Open House Healing Ministry Days:

Saturday's 23 September and 25 November.  
9.30am - 2.30pm at the CCR Centre.



# A WEEK IN THE UPPER ROOM

By SR KATHRYN KINGSLEY MGL



I arrived on Monday morning, not entirely sure what I had signed myself up for. A week-long intensive discipleship training. What did that mean? What would happen? Would I learn? Grow? Though I didn't have any specific expectations, I did have a feeling that I was going to encounter something special during the week. Little did I know however exactly how special it would be.

The One Spirit Discipleship Intensive was a week-long formation retreat aimed at raising up and nurturing young leaders in the Church. It was a live-in retreat featuring Jim Murphy from the United States, recently elected President of ICCRS. Including our facilitator Fr Dan Serratore MGL, there were twelve participants from various ministries throughout Melbourne. Twelve seemed to be a significant number, as we began gathered around a fireplace with the winds hurling outside. Though we sat in a room at Casa Pallotti in Millgrove, we had a very real experience of journeying as companions in the Upper Room.

Jim was a real highlight of the retreat for us with his warm, fatherly encouragement and guidance. He led us through the Pentecost account in Acts, and opened us up to what the encounter was like for the original disciples, as well as what it means for us as disciples now. Every hour was so rich in insight, with profound implications for us living in relationship with the Holy Spirit today. Something very special about the retreat was the way Jim opened up each session into a dialogue, where the movement and wisdom of the Spirit flowed out through each person who shared experiences and insights.

Conversing at that level was both profound and beautiful. The week nurtured an authenticity and vulnerability in sharing that bore incredible graces for us as individuals, but also as a group of young leaders striving to live the fullness of God's will. Together we explored the nature of baptism in the Spirit, what it means to be charismatic, and what role the charismatic gifts can play in our everyday lives, amongst other things.

As well as formal sessions, we also had beautiful times of prayer together. We celebrated Eucharist daily, prayed the Divine Office, an hour of adoration daily, regularly had times of praise and worship, and entered into other forms of prayer and reflection in a number of our sessions. Our times of input, discussion, and prayer were complimented by deep community living through our meals times, and other informal times such as playing games and going on walks together.

The fire stirred in us during the week was then taken out from the 'Upper Room', through an outreach at St Simon's

Parish in Rowville. The team supported Jim in a Spiritual Leadership day retreat, and then in a night rally under the theme of 'Free'. It was a week of inner healings, where we came to recognise the work of the Spirit in bringing greater freedom into all areas of our lives and relationships. Jim's parting words to us were that the days spent together were some of the happiest and most profound of his life. I think this is a sentiment shared by all of us. It was a privilege to be there in the 'Upper Room', but it is also a privilege and a necessity share with the world something of the fire we have encountered.

The group extend their deep gratitude to CCR Melbourne, for their generous support in enabling this intensive to take place. We trust that this formation will help carry forward the youth outreach of CCR Melbourne (ONE Spirit), raising up a generation of young leaders moving powerfully in relationship with the Holy Spirit.

## The CCR Jubilee Cross

By PETER SCHREURS, SALE DIOCESE

St Agatha's Parish in Cranbourne was honoured to receive the Jubilee Cross in their Parish from 9 to 13 July 2017. The cross was processed into the church at the 6pm healing mass on the 9 July which was attended by approximately 600 people.

It was explained to the congregation the reason the cross was there and what it represented. The responses after the mass of people going up to venerate the cross and write a petition on the prayer card, was extraordinary. These prayer cards will later be burned at the concluding ceremony after the cross has travelled to forty parishes in forty weeks throughout Victoria.

On Monday afternoon at our regular Charismatic Meeting, we had a gathering in the church which was attended by approximately 30 people. We commenced the service with prayers and the filling out of prayer cards. After the reading of scripture, prayerful reflection and the singing of a hymn we commenced a procession of the cross down our local street, and around the block and back into the church. We concluded our gathering by forming a circle around the cross and singing the hymn "Bind us together".



On the following Wednesday evening an ecumenical prayer night was organised. This was attended by five different denominations who were privileged to listen to our guest speaker who gave a powerful testimony of what Jesus had done in his life. There was a tremendous atmosphere and witness of unity that night.

We farewelled the cross at our Thursday morning mass.

It has truly been a blessing for St. Agatha's parish to have the cross.

## Holy Family Parish Prayer Group Doveton celebrates its Silver Jubilee (1992-2017)

By JOE MARVIN

A thanksgiving Mass of God's graces and blessings on our prayer group for 25 years, was celebrated on Tuesday 16 May 2017, by Fr. Michael Shadbolt, con-celebrated with Fr. Joseph Amal (Parish Priest of St. Luke's, Wantirna), Fr. Anthony Santiago from Sydney, Fr. Rembert Fernando and Br. Ekene from (MGL Burwood).

Peter, Victor and the music Ministry of our Prayer Group made the celebration very uplifting.

Monque Onezime shared how she was inspired to get the Prayer group started in 1992, and the challenges she faced did not deter her in fulfilling her God given mission, because she believed it was God's plan.

Frank Onzime, her husband supported her and Maureen Marvin assisted in the process. From the inception we observed the guidelines of the CCR. and thank the CCR for their continuous support.

Miriam Markis, from the Catholic Charismatic Renewal spoke of the importance of being a member of the prayer group, to grow in the knowledge and love of God. We are very grateful to her for making the effort of joining us in the celebration. Adrian Commadeur from the School of Evangelization testified how the Renewal had an impact on his life, and for the last 40 years and now visits various prayer groups spreading the Good News which is very exemplary. We thank him also for his participation.

We thank Fr. Michael, our Spiritual Director, for all his support, encouragement and promotion especially the Life in the Spirit seminars, over the years.

Practically every year we have conducted Seminars 'New Life in God's Spirit' which were well attended, and we are grateful to speakers who shared God's Word with us. Just to mention a few: Adrian, Ron Joseph, Pat Kelly, Peter Scheurs, John Duiker, Fr. Joseph Ammal, Fr. Anthony Santiago, Fr. Rembert, Bro. Ekene from the MGL. The talks were very inspiring and we thank God for them. We meet Tuesdays evenings and we thank all the members for their commitment and dedication right from its inception, which has been focal point of our success. We are so grateful to God for the many miracles God has worked over the years, which changed the lives of many members.

After Mass a lovely supper was served in the Big Hall, which was well attended, and we thank all who participated and made the event a great success. The core group did a marvelous job in organising the event, the co-operation and combined effort made it a memorable event. Praise God.



## 30 Golden Years

By HELGA HOROBA

On the 30 May the Sacred Heart Prayer Group at Chelsea celebrated 30 years. What a special day it was for all.

Many of the former leaders of our group could attend, including the founder Dorothy Scarlett. Former leaders Rita Poply, Dorothy Francis, Christine Desen were among those present.

Fr Gregory Pritchard, our parish priest, said a special Mass for the group and the current leader, Mary Cameron welcomed everyone. Prayer and praise was led by Peter Foster on the organ and an extended time of intercession at the end of Mass with many words of knowledge being shared. The Holy spirit's presence was felt by all and especially beautiful was the quiet time at the very end. Despite being a cold wintery day, our hearts were warmed by the attendance of many of the parishioners who joined us for fellowship and a scrumptious morning tea. Love was certainly overflowing.

Praise and thanks to our Lord Jesus and his mother for all the graces received over the last 30 years with the hope that many more will follow. May the Holy Spirit remain with us.

### *Continued from page 1*

Some Pilgrims experienced the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit along with His gifts for the first time. Impromptu meetings occurred with the Holy Spirit causing opportunities to happen, in unexpected places. This was particularly evident with Pilgrims who, while initially disappointed in being unable to attend Mass at Saint Mary Major and St John Lateran, were moved to Praise and Worship of the Lord while waiting in line.

There were morning and afternoon workshops of various topics held throughout the city, with many being filled to overflowing. Particularly popular were the Theological Symposium and the Ecumenical Symposium held at the Universita Urbana. There were many Prayer Meetings held during the week as each of the 128 countries gathered to praise God together. The Australian and New Zealand contingent met in the church of St Anastasia for a night of fellowship and praise. Pope Francis organized to have the poor brought in to some of the workshops and meetings, and have them seated in the front rows. It was a pilgrimage not to be forgotten by those who attended.





# WATER OF LIFE QLD REGIONAL CONFERENCE

**Celebrating the  
Golden Jubilee  
of Catholic  
Charismatic  
Renewal.**



**Qld CCR Regional Conference  
9th & 10th September 2017**



Venue:  
**Mater Conference Centre,  
Fulham Road, Townsville**

*Therefore you will joyously draw  
water from the springs of salvation*

Isaiah 12:3

**Guest Speaker:**

**Aneel Aranha**



Aneel is the founder and director of Holy Spirit Interactive (HSI), a Catholic lay apostolate recognized as an Association of Faith and Outreach by Bishop Paul Hinder, Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia and supported by several bishops around the world.

A hard-core atheist for twenty five years, a series of catastrophic events that took place in his life in 2002 led to a powerful encounter with Jesus, transforming him from a hedonistic unbeliever to a fiery proclaimer of the gospel across the globe.

A renowned international preacher and retreat leader, Aneel has spoken to hundreds of thousands of people in parishes and prayer groups around the world, including the United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, and several countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

He has also preached retreats to priests, politicians and prisoners, and addressed millions of viewers on international television.

**Conference Fees:**

Single \$50.00

Couple \$80.00

**One Day Registration: \$35.00**

*Please complete separate Registration form*

Registration time from 9:15am.

On arrival please visit the registration desk to collect your name badges which you are asked to kindly wear at all times as entry to each session and meal is by name tag.

**BOOKING CANCELLATION**

75% refundable up to 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

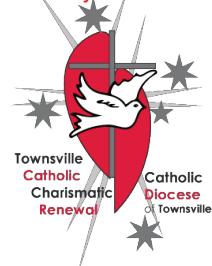
Non-refundable after 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

Bank Details for direct payment:

Townsville Catholic Charismatic

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**Hosted by:**



**Email: clarkson999@hotmail.com**

**Donna Clarkson 0411 689 471**

**Mail Registration**

**T C C R**

**P.O. Box 1111,**

**Aitkenvale Qld 4814**

**Email Registration**

**Townsville.CCR@gmail.com**

**Payment by EFT to:**

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**Enquiries: Donna Clarkson 0411 689 471**

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**Name Registrant 2:**

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# STEP INTO THE LIGHT

By DINA MANANQUIL-DELFINO



**“Your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.”**

*Isaiah 58:10*

A friend once called me, distressed that she is in a horrible place - she seems to be losing everything due to her alcohol addiction - home, family, friends, work and health. She is in deep mess.

I prayed for her and without sounding unkind, I shared that sometimes being in a horrible place is the best place for us to be, for there, once we admit to our errors, and in humility, the good Lord can start working on us.

It reminded me of the many “horrible, dark” places I had been in – and in hindsight, I can only thank God for not giving up on me and helping me learn important lessons as I crawled my way through every one of these shady periods of my life. They were painful moments but at the end of each of them, the liberating feeling of being healed.

I loved watching TFC Healing Eucharist. In one of the homilies of Father Gomez, he taught about being salt and light to the earth. He explained that in our “multiverse” (no longer universe, as more new galaxies are discovered), 95% of what surrounds is darkness (dark matter and dark energy); only 5% is light.

I started to wander about the significance of this in our personal lives. Is it the reason why Jesus preached on the theme of light and darkness all the time? Fr Gomez illustrated how we can exacerbate darkness around us – when we become negative, critical, evil, carnal – these seem to be manifestations of the dark energy that surrounds us; when we become peace-makers and apply the character that Jesus advocates, we are dispelling this darkness. Is this also the premise that Heaven is described as a place of eternal light, compared to earth where frightening shadows follow us most of the time?

My grand-daughter Eva, aged 7 has always expressed fear of the dark. Often I counsel her about it - prayers will dispel these fears. And so we pray together before she sleeps – and indeed she sleeps quite well through the night. Prayers chase away darkness too.

An incident involved my hubby recently. He gets up to go to the bathroom but does not bother to turn on the light as the sudden glare awakens him. However, once he walked to the bathroom in the dark, he bumped his head against a post and cut his forehead. I warned him that darkness can be dangerous – we need the light to guide us. At least now he uses a flashlight. In whatever form the light comes – candle, flashlight, bulb, we need the light to see. Darkness cannot conquer light unless the light is diminished or departs.

In our spiritual life, Jesus calls us to be light and salt of the earth. He knows there is a lot of darkness around. When we discern that darkness is about to descend on us, on our loved ones, family members or community,

through disunity, disharmony, intrigue, quarrels, rage, revenge, negativity, evil, bigotry, let us step up and dispel the gloom and doom through our loving prayers and encouragement of one another, asking the Holy Spirit to vanquish the spell of evil.

Andy Otto in his “Ignatian Spirituality” shares: “God is always calling us to the light, transforming what feels like bleak emptiness into a joy-filled abiding with God, a divine light that the darkness cannot overcome.”

Darkness and light cannot occupy the same space. We can choose which one will inhabit us.

## REDISCOVER JESUS

**What:** The Churches of Melbourne will join in unity celebrating their diversity and bringing the love and hope of Jesus into the City of Melbourne gathered around the Jubilee Cross.

**Where:** Federation Square Melbourne

**When:** Saturday 28 October 2017  
1.00pm – 8.00pm

**Mark your diaries - more details soon.**

## Freed

**By the Spirit of God**  
**October 13 | 7.30pm**

**St Mary MacKillop Church**  
**152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs**

**Guest speaker Mrs Elena Reidy**  
**Holy Spirit of Freedom Community Perth**

Elena is one of the foundational leaders of the Holy Spirit of Freedom Community.  
In 1986, as a 21 year old nurse, Elena gave up everything to serve God in the poor and marginalized in society because she fell in love with Jesus. Since then she has worked tirelessly in assisting street kids, the homeless and those caught in addictions in Victoria, Western Australia and the Philippines.  
If you want your faith IGNITED then do not miss this talk.

For catering purposes  
please advise attendance  
by calling Christina on  
0431 955 975.





# A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



Pilgrimages are a wonderful way of journeying with excitement and awe in the hope that a special encounter with the Lord will take place. Having just returned from the awesome *Jubilee of Catholic Charismatic Renewal* in Rome and then journeying on through holy sites around Italy, Portugal and Spain, it was certainly easier to get into the spiritual frame of mind because it didn't have the normal every day distractions of work, phones ringing, etc. etc. and so it was, in a sense, easier for God also to breakthrough and reveal himself in so many wonderful ways.

Returning home from a Pilgrimage can, however, sometimes seem like a little bit of a letdown. Reflecting on Pilgrimage experiences both recently and those long ago, I've come to a deeper understanding of life's journey being truly a great Pilgrimage towards encountering God. Not that I didn't realize it earlier but there's been an insight such as I've never had before. But thanks to the Grace of God who waits to encounter us at each moment of our lives if we but remember that He is with us always!

The wonderful song *The Lord is My Shepherd*, from *Psalms* 23 states that 'I want to follow, wherever He leads me, wherever He goes (not my will but yours Lord). Over the mountains, the valleys (the depth of our pain) and highways (the joyful times), waters (our tears) and byways (the search for peace), He's waiting for me. How encouraging that our Lord is right there beside us in all moments of our lives and that it is He himself that leads us on our journey with all its twists and turns and bring us to a place of safety and peace.

In coming to the Table of the Lord in the Daily Eucharist we reach that place of safety and peace.

- Pope Paul VI said: *"The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!"*
- St John Vianney said: *"If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy."*
- St. Padre Pio said: *"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass"*

If we could but understand how true this is we would embrace the Eucharist as the 'source and summit' of our lives. We are called to be people of faith and hope journeying towards the greatest encounter we could possibly have with our God. The beauty of it is that we don't have to wait until we travel on a Pilgrimage interstate or overseas but travelling from our homes to church can give us that same Pilgrimage experience, if we would but heed the still small voice of the Lord calling us, that we would normally expect to have when we travel to various holy sites around the world. Sure, these places encourage us and gives us a new perspective and sense of the divine but for many this is not possible.

So, what is possible? A pilgrimage, as often as possible, to the Eucharistic celebration enhances awareness that God is with us on this Pilgrimage of Life. We hear words of encouragement, beauty and truth if we open our hearts

to hear the Word proclaimed, the Liturgy pronounced and the Eucharistic Bread joining us to the Lord and leading us towards that perfect union of God and man. This is the perfect Pilgrimage!

## A Day for Leaders

By LENYCE WILLASON

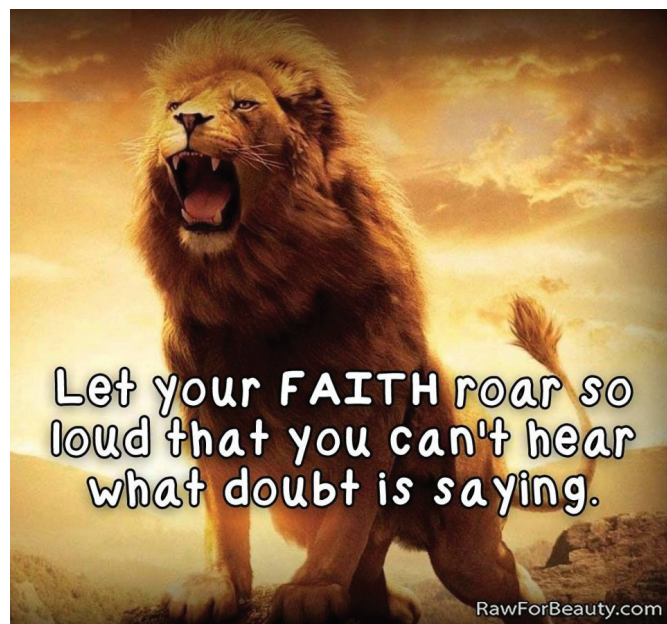


There was a gathering of Leaders and Core from many Prayer Groups across Victoria on Saturday 15 July. It was held earlier than usual to coincide with the visit of Jim Murphy to Australia. Jim gave some of the best teaching on Leadership that I have heard in many years. He gave from the heart both spiritual and practical aspects of leadership as he drew on *1 Peter 2:9* to highlight that a leader is **called** to the position by the Lord – set apart for service. It is God the Father who is loving us into the fullness of who we are meant to be and is calling us to leadership. Jim drew out qualities that ought to denote a leader: they are visionary or they are pastoral or they have very good administrative gifts. It is rare to find all three in one person.

Some of the feedback received:

*I really enjoy Jim Murphy's style of teaching. His talks always seem to hit the mark and it's as if he is speaking directly to you. His thoughts are always deep and profound yet it never feels like he is speaking over you or trying to sound "High and Mighty". I admire the way he speaks off the cuff with no notes - just a Bible in one hand and the Holy Spirit by his side. His teaching on Leader's Day left me with not only a better understanding of my role as a leader but also my call to "holiness" in the now. Thank you, Jim, for once again impelling me to go deeper in my walk with the Lord.*

Giovanna







## Regional Mass

Sunday 27 August 2017

Regional Mass as the Jubilee Cross leaves the Southern region.  
St. Patrick's Church, Dalny St, Murrumbena.  
11.00am Praise & Worship, 11.30am Mass.

## Federation Square

Saturday 28 October 2017

A celebration by the Churches of Melbourne who will be joining together in unity celebrating their diversity and bringing the love and hope of Jesus into the City of Melbourne. Bring your friends.

## Jubilee Cross Festival

Sunday 12 November 2017

**A festival of nations (including food) - St Brigid's Catholic Church**

One this day we will celebrate the final procession of the Cross.

2.30pm Praise & Worship, 3.00pm Mass followed by food, festivities and fellowship. 378 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy North.

**THIS WILL REPLACE THE USUAL RENEWAL DAY.**

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	7.30pm Eucharistic Adoration	St Pius X Church, Heidelberg
	8.00pm Healing Mass	St Pius X Church, Heidelberg
	8.00pm	St Patrick's Church Murrumbena, Cnr Dalny and Murrumbena 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 - Healing Mass:** Monday 20 November with Fr Francis.