

NOVEMBER 2020

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

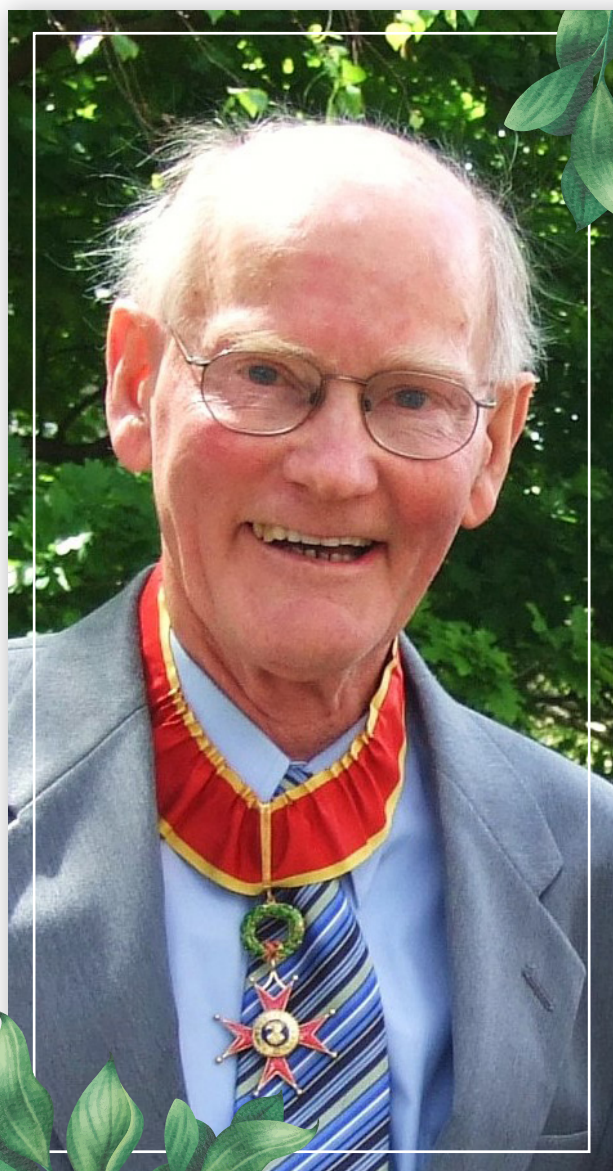
**Catholic Charismatic Renewal
serving the Church**

Good News



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

ALLAN JOHN PANOZZA 1933 - 2020



Father of 5 children, 17 grandchildren
and 12 great grandchildren

Baptised in the Holy Spirit in 1978

1979

Leader of the Body of Christ Prayer Group, Mitcham

1983

Co-ordinator of CCR Melbourne

1985 – 2009

Full-time worker for CCR Melbourne

1989 – 2009

Chair of National Service Committee of CCR Australia

1990 – 2007

Representative for Oceania on ICCRS Council

2000 – 2007

Elected International President of ICCRS

2002

Appointed by Pope John Paul II as a member of the
Pontifical Council for the Laity for a term of five years
from 2002 - 2007

2009

Pope Benedict appointed him a Papal Knight
of the Order of St. Gregory

***"The favor that brings promotion and power doesn't
come from anywhere on earth, for no one exalts a
person but God, the true judge of all."***

Ps 75: 6,7

For enquiries about Catholic Charismatic Renewal, its events or prayer groups visit the:

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Monday - Friday, except Public Holidays.

Good News

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The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is
Wednesday 20 January, 2021.



Allan demonstrated with his life a description given to Enoch
in the Bible – He was “a man who walked with God”.

Allan was a man with a pure, humble heart, totally aware of
the indwelling Holy Spirit, filled with passion and fire to see
the Baptism in the Holy Spirit experienced by all Christians.

An inspired leader and mentor to many. His intimate relationship with
the Holy Spirit gave him the strength to constantly serve well the CCR
and the wider Church. He courageously proclaimed Pentecost with his
life. Allan had time for everyone and was genuine and natural whether
meeting Pope or Pauper.

His absolute trust in God was demonstrated in a real way when CCR was
preparing for World Youth Day in Sydney. He came into the Office saying
that CCR were \$17,000 short for the costs involved. He said that all we
could do was to trust in God. Within 15 minutes he received a phone call
that left him laughing and laughing – an anonymous donor had just called
him to say that God had told them that CCR needed \$17,000 and here
was the cheque. He was laughing about just how good God was. It was
a lesson we all learned that day how his spiritual anchor were the words
spoken by Gabriel to Mary: “Nothing is impossible to God.” Allan’s deep
trust in God’s providence kept the renewal in Australia and Internationally
through ICCRS always financially buoyant.

Allan is remembered for his deep love for Jesus. He constantly reminded
us that the primary grace of the baptism in the Spirit was a deeper personal
intimacy with Jesus, the risen Lord. Allan was dedicated to spending an
hour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every day. He often shared
that this time with the Lord was the anchor of his life.

Fr Ken Barker reminded me of a time at a CCR training school in Canberra
when Allan spontaneously led us in a reflection on the Way of the Cross.
His vivid sharing of the sufferings of Jesus was profoundly moving. He
brought us into the reality of Jesus crucified and the immense love of
God for each person. In a beautiful way he opened up what Jesus, our
Saviour, has done for us and helped us to respond.

At team meetings Allan was always generous with his time and large-
hearted when struggles arose in relationships within the group. He was
always fair-minded, ready to listen and change his mind when another
viewpoint was presented. But on matters of integrity he was adamant,
having a great heart for the Lord, not willing to compromise on things that
really matter. In his personal prayer time, particularly his love for praying
before the Blessed Sacrament, he simply says “Here I am Lord, just
love me”. Vivid memories come to mind of Allan, Bishop Joe and Fr Ken
during meal times at the NSC meetings. There was a great brotherhood
between them and they (particularly Bishop Joe) would hold court and
have everyone all in fits of laughter as they shared stories of what they
had experienced on their travels. Of course, most of us were in awe of
them however these times revealed their ‘normalcy’ and particularly their
great love and joy for life and the Lord.

Allan’s example inspired so many. Jim Murphy shared that after a Praise
and Worship session while Allan was President of ICCRS, he was so
deeply touched and saw clearly into Allan’s heart. He observed him, in
the front row on his knees, arms raised, worshipping God. Jim’s comment
was “Here we have the President of ICCRS, President of the world wide
Renewal humbly and sincerely kneeling before God in Worship.”

This summed up Allan so well. He lead and inspired by example and
these moments will continue to inspire generations to come.

Rest in peace dear friend.



“Allan was an Evangelist before they became fashionable”

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Canberra Goulburn



It is hard to know where to begin when thinking about the rich legacy of Allan's life and the considerable contribution that he made to CCR worldwide. Allan was not daunted by the unenviable task of having to travel across half the world to be at the ICCRS office in Rome. He was able to push through the jet lag and work on all the pressing matters in the office with great focus and efficiency. Despite his fatigue he would always have time to invest in the ICCRS staff and volunteers. Indeed, in the ICCRS office we used to refer to him as Saint Allan. He was a kind, humble and holy man who lived a simple life. Even when presented with the rich menu of a Roman restaurant he would still choose a simple soup with chickpeas or spaghetti al pomodoro! His prayer life, devotion to the Holy Eucharist and our Blessed Mother were an example to all of us. In his leadership he was able to hold the balance between being firm and decisive and being caring and pastoral. When I succeeded him as President of ICCRS, he gave me the space that I needed to find my feet and to develop my style of leadership. Then, whenever I needed his fatherly wisdom and counsel he was always ready to respond. Allan had a strong testimony of how the Holy Spirit had completely changed his life and his belief in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit made him such an authentic witness and a great advocate for baptism in the Holy Spirit. I had the privilege of serving with Allan at several international CCR events he was not only a good teacher but also a man of the people who had time for others. He was always ready to listen and pray with people and could often be heard saying 'God love you my brother or sister'. I had the great blessing of staying with Allan and Carmel in their home on a number of occasions. I remember one trip when it seemed there were lots of complex issues in the worldwide CCR that I was trying to deal with. Allan's diagnosis was 'you are exhausted'. The remedy was to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in the local school which we did every morning and in the afternoon we watched old movies and ate ice cream. Indeed, time spent with Carmel and Allan was always upbuilding and healing.

MICHELLE MORAN, PAST PRESIDENT ICCRS

A great light has gone out, dear friend. I remember how Allan would always be so kind to me. He really was a big brother. I looked up to him as the hero he was. He stood tall among men, but always stooped down to talk to even the littlest people.

He called me his mate....and I loved him for that. He will fit in very well in heaven. We will miss him here.

JIM MURPHY, PAST PRESIDENT ICCRS

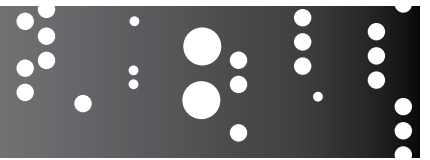
Allan had a great impact on my role as NSC Chairperson. I keenly remembered particularly in the early days as I fumbled my way through the leadership responsibility, how Allan would lead by example. His humility, his gentleness, his worship, wisdom and love for the people he served, inspired me. Although he was 'retired' he continued to lead, teach and form me and no doubt many others.

ANN BRERETON, PAST NSC CHAIR

In October 1981 the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Melbourne began to form a new group of leaders. Among the proposed names was that of Allan Panozza, who had become known as a spiritual man with leadership potential. Allan was at that time national manager of a frozen food company located at the Moonee Ponds junction. I heard of his reputation and as I was working in neighbouring Ascot Vale, I arranged to meet over coffee. When I asked him if he would accept my nomination he responded: Whatever God wills! Allan's nomination was accepted and he became a member of the coordinating committee.

In early 1984 Allan was elected as chairman of the Melbourne CCR co-ordinators, a role which he filled for 26 years to November 2010. In this capacity Allan also became the chairman of the State Service Committee in the State of Victoria. In April 1985 the co-ordinators invited Allan to full time ministry as Executive Director of CCR in Melbourne. Allan gave a positive response on condition of the blessing of Archbishop Little and the general support of CCR. At a Leaders Day in May the entire body present affirmed this choice. Financial arrangements were made to support Allan in this ministry. In this position Allan also became a member of the National Service Committee (NSC), of which he became chairman in 1988. During his time as chairman many successful national conferences, retreats and seminars were capably organised. One of the highlights of his period in office was the Catholic Charismatic Youth Rally at the 2008 World Youth Day, Sydney, attended by 80,000 participants at Barangaroo.

Allan became a member of the International Committee of CCR located in Rome in 1990. In 2000 Allan became International President of ICCRS. This international role included travel to various parts of Europe, Asia, North and South America and the South Pacific. In this capacity he met Pope John Paul II at least five times, and then Pope Benedict XVI. He met the future Pope Francis in Buenos Aires in Argentina. During this time he was an exceptional leader and speaker, and people remember many successful conferences and other events in Rome and Jerusalem and around the globe.



In 2002 Allan was invited to join the Pontifical Council for the Laity. He served a 5 year term travelling to Rome each year. On 11 October 2009 Allan was invested by Archbishop Denis Hart at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, as a Papal Knight of the Order of St Gregory: the inscription reads: in recognition of your exemplary service for the Church and for the Community.

ADRIAN COMMADEUR, PAST CO-ORDINATOR

When I heard the news of Allan's death, there was sadness and then joy, no more pain and suffering, and the wonderful reunion in Heaven with his Lord.

Allan was the voice and heart of CCR, in Melbourne for more than 30 years. He was a gentle man, honest, faithful, hardworking, and humble.

I had the privilege of being part of the leadership team in Melbourne of Catholic Charismatic with Allan and our great team for many years. It was a blessed and exciting time. I learnt so much from Allan: commitment, zeal, faithfulness to God and care of his people.

His 'Yes' to the Lord, was life changing for him: this took him all over the World, teaching, preaching, guest speaker in many countries, and he earned the respect of many wherever he shared Gods Word. He never gave up, even at times when his health was challenged, he responded to God's call.

Carmel what a wonderful wife and life partner you were to him for so long, and you too had the grace to allow him the freedom to travel, and do God's will: thank you for all your sacrifices.

Allan walked in high places, and met many dignitaries, but one of my fondest memories of him he always had time to smile, speak, listen to, give time to comfort, affirm, and say a prayer to all who sought his kindness. He had time for the little ones. He was passionate about Jesus, his great love of the Eucharist, a man of prayer and sharing God's Word.

A favourite saying resounds in me: *"if you are too busy to pray you are too busy"*.

His death will be a great loss to Carmel his loving wife, and family. May God comfort them all. Allan may you enjoy the "fruits of your labours", and may:

"The Lord bless you and keep you

May the Lord make his face shine upon you

And may you rest in Peace."

AMEN

JAN RICHARDS, PAST CO-ORDINATOR

Allan, who prayed for me to receive the baptism in the Spirit for the first time just over 20 years ago, was a faithful warrior of the Lord who contributed much to the building up of Gods kingdom. He will be greatly missed but we rejoice knowing that he is now in the arms of his beloved Jesus.

JOHN DUIKER, DIRECTOR CCR SALE

Just a few days prior to the last Renewal Day 2007 which was to be held at OLHC East Brunswick on 1 December, I was notified that the Hall had been double booked and that Parish activities took precedence. In a panic I rang Allan Panozza, who was on holiday, to tell him about the cancellation and asking what on earth was I to do as all the advertising had already been done and our American guests Lorna and Thom Lisk were due to give the healing retreat. We discussed quite a few options and I made many phone calls throughout the morning and early afternoon trying to secure another venue, but it was all in vain. Then in another phone call Allan and I prayed about it and he asked me to enquire about OLHC church. I replied that it was always booked out for weddings and that I did not think it would be possible.

However, on Allan's promptings, I rang the Secretary of OLHC asking her about that date to which she replied, as I had to Allan, that it would be impossible because OLHC was always booked out for weddings and over one year in advance. However, I asked her to look at the bookings anyway which she did reluctantly. To her surprise, and mine, Saturday 1 December, 2007 was free all day. I locked in the booking and rang Allan excitedly to tell him the good news. He laughed and said "God is good. Nothing is impossible for God!"

What amazed me during this whole day was how calm and confident Allan was, whereas I was beside myself with worry and concern. I think Allan had a direct word with the Lord about the booking because the Renewal Day turned out to be extremely well attended and all went smoothly. Thanks, be to God and Allan's explicit trust in the God of the impossible.

MIRIAM MARKIS, CO-ORDINATOR & OFFICE MANAGER CCR

Allan Panozza, a man of deep faith, a gifted leader and a caring friend. To name some of his many gifts, both natural and spiritual, administration, wisdom, love of scripture, hospitality...

He built firm relationships ecumenically and was respected by all who knew him. Allan and his wife Carmel were great travel companions, we shared many memorable experiences. He will be greatly missed.

MARGARET WEST – PAST CO-ORDINATOR

My short fond recollection of Allan: Allan's greatest strength is his faith in God. He had a deep knowledge of the Bible. He displayed this biblical knowledge whenever he gave a talk, whether at a prayer group or a big international conference. He was always willing to help and went out of his way to respond to a request to give a talk. Whenever he shared his knowledge of God, he was very humble about it. He never boasted about the exercise of his gifts, always realising they were from God.

Many of his stories were from his personal experiences as he travelled widely and encountered many situations most of us would not have had the opportunity to experience.

BAN WEE, CO-ORDINATOR



HOME is an experience that we all share. A person's experiences of HOME may be concrete, expandable, relational, and, thus, inviting many additional experiences of returning, leaving, missing, desiring, building, restoring, or cleaning as only some of the images the word HOME may evoke. We may wish to reflect on the following words to help us understand God's call to HOME: "I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright. There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light... Oh the rapture of that meeting, oh the joy to see you come!" (Author unknown)

First Sunday of Advent

"Make your home in me." (John 15:4)

Reflection

Jesus tells us to "Make your home in me". As we begin this Advent season, waiting quietly for the celebration of the Incarnation, we may begin thinking of the homeless who by choice or circumstance have no structure to call 'home'; the immigrants wanting to make their homes in America: those in consecrated, vowed life who forfeit the stability of a home; or those friends and family who own beautiful homes and welcome us as well as so many others with such graciousness. All of us are called to 'make our home in Jesus'. May each of us know, in that contemplative sense, the meaning of "Make your home in me, as we do in You." Our prayer should be that the God of our understanding teaches us, inspires us, creates us anew and welcomes us HOME to the inner dwelling of our heart.

Prayer Practice

- Pray over your house keys.
- What doors do these keys open?
- Bless each key with the intention of BEING A HOME for each person you meet as you move through each of the doors that each of those keys unlock.

Sister Carole Riley, CDP, Ph. D. WVIS Executive Director.

Second Sunday of Advent

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1-2)

Reflection

At every point in the narrative of Jesus' birth, we are reminded of the vulnerability of our salvation. A young unwed mother with an unbelievable story of divine conception flees her family home seeking the comfort of answers from a trusted older relative, Elizabeth, who had unexpectedly found herself pregnant. Days before delivery, this anxious about-to-be teenage mother makes a strenuous trip on the back of a donkey to Bethlehem and gives birth in a stable after being turned away from the local inn. Sometime after the birth, a terrified mother scoops up her infant son and with her husband flees their temporary home under cover of dark after being warned in a dream of imperial danger. Imagine the frightened Holy Couple whispering these words of the Psalmist on their

harrowing journeys as they scurried to protect the beloved infant revealed to them as the long-expected Messiah. I believe these whispered words, heard above the racing heartbeat of a faithful mother, comforted the swaddled infant and sustained Him through the dangers of His own shadowy journey to the cross.

Prayer Practice

As you listen to one of the great "old time" hymns, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," found on You Tube, offer prayers of safety for those who flee their homes, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty as they make harrowing journeys to freedom.

Rev. Dr. Rindy Trouteaud, Pastor Central Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA.

Gaudete Sunday

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: REJOICE! always. I shall say it again: REJOICE! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. (Phil 4:4-5)

Reflection

Today is the third Sunday of Advent – also known as "Gaudete Sunday" to many Christians. "Gaudete Sunday" goes way back in time to the Fifth Century when Advent was known as a time of fasting and repenting, much like Lent is today. It was a time of preparation, in anticipation of the birth of the Christ. Back then, Advent lasted five weeks, not four. And Gaudete Sunday was the "break in the middle." "Gaudete Sunday" was a step away from the fasting. It focused on REJOICING in the good news that our Savior was born! The faithful were called upon to worship and praise God with JOY that "the coming of the Lord is now near and close at hand." (James 5:8) And so Gaudete Sunday is today! It's a time to be joyful... Rejoice in the good news... Shout it out, "I'm coming home Lord Jesus! I'm coming home to you!"

Prayer Practice

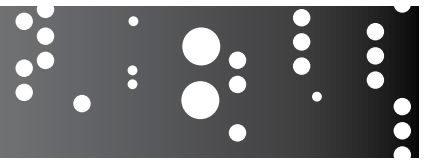
God loves us all very much and wants the best for us. So, as you move through the day today, think about...

- How we might let go of all the holiday pressures of parties, presents, and scheduled events, and draw closer to Jesus this Advent.
- How we might spend some focused time with Jesus... showing Him that we are Rejoicing that He came for each of us... and that He wants a unique relationship with each of us! Take a minute today... and REJOICE in your coming home to Him.

Elaine Soper, PhD WVIS Spiritual Director.

Fourth Week of Advent

For you, LORD, give light to my lamp; my God brightens my darkness. (Psalm 18:28 NABRE) Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike." (Luke 10:21-24 NABRE)



Reflection

As this Fourth Week of Advent heralds the coming of Christ, we welcome and receive with childlike wonder God's gift of light into our homes. My spirit joined the angelic chorus in "Gloria!" I often hike in Kanawha State Forest. I join the trees' breath taking "Hallelujah. These two events prompted me into this introspective prayer: "Probe me, God, know my heart; try me, know my thoughts. See if there is a wicked path in me. (*Psalm 139:23 NABRE*). When have I blocked the light of Christ's love through my inaction to others' needs? I open my heart to the light of God's mercy and grace. I am grateful for Paul's reminder in *Philippians 2:13-16 ERV*: Yes, it is God who is working in you. He helps you want to do what pleases him, and he gives you the power to do it. Lord, increase my desire and strengthen my will. Hosanna!

Prayer Practice

Throughout the day notice the sources of light in your home.

- What feelings are stirred?
- How have you experienced God's light through your interactions today?
- In what new way is God calling you to welcome Christ's light into your home?

Ann Winton, M.A.P.M. WVIS Associate Spiritual Direction Intern.

Christmas Eve

The Creed – A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Reflection

Christmas Eve afternoon, on a day that should be a very beautiful time in the life of the Church - a time of prayer, reflection, special services, celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Instead, people are busy running from place to place, getting ready for social gatherings, cooking, cleaning for guests, buying and sharing gifts, traveling. The 'reason for the season' is forgotten or given second place. Looking around the room, I see the Christmas Tree decorated with many brightly coloured lights, decorations, which as a child I could not touch. My mind flashes back to local news stories about abuse, neglect, rejection, murder, famine, accidents, fires, floods and last, but not least, the cries of the poor. What gift could I open from under the tree that will help during these challenging issues? My eyes wander back to the tree. Under the tree, I see a package, I had not seen before. A package, triangular shape, wrapped in purple paper – it had an aura around it. Who is this package from? Picking up and looking at this triangular package I think of the Holy Trinity – and the rich traditions of my Church. I rotate the package in my hands. I begin to take the wrappings off the box. I see images of prophets, apostles, Jesus, Our Blessed Mother. The history and traditions of my Church pass before me. I open the box, and there lies the gift I have been seeking without knowing – The Creed. I awaken, look around, and there lying on the table beside my chair is a copy of the Nicene Creed. I pick it up and prayerfully read it, section by section reading, rereading, reflecting, listening. I have

received the gift of Christmas from God. An affirmation of my beliefs. I am "HOME."

Prayer Practice

- Obtain copy the Nicene Creed.
- Prayerfully pray the Nicene Creed as a package given to you from God this Christmas Eve.

Margaret (Susie) Pace, M.Ed., M.A.

Christmas Day

"Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." (*Robert Frost*)

Reflection

I had a most unusual meeting in a most common and unexpected place. It was an experience that made me wonder: "Did I just meet an angel in disguise?" I was on a trip when I discovered I was out of gas and lost. As I was filling my car's gas tank, a woman approached me holding flyers in her hand and a basket. She was carrying a basket and asking for donations. Her name was Sinceera. Sinceera was collecting money for an organisation titled: "Sister, Can You Hear Me?" This organisation works to assist young teens in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Community who are victims of trafficking. This organisation ministers to young LGBTQ's teens who are often treated as less than human so they get even more abused and have none or few support groups. You might be thinking, "This is a rather strange reflection for Christmas!" Yet, my thoughts go to the Holy Child who had only a manger for His bed. The One whose Mother was told that; "There was no room in the inn!" It is the poor shepherds to whom the announcement of His birth was made! As I gaze upon the Infant in the Manger this Christmas, I gaze at Him through a different lens as a result of my being reminded of the plight of young teens who are homeless, potential victims of trafficking and have nowhere to lay their heads. As we go forth into celebrating the season of Christmas, let us particularly pray for all those in search of a home. Even if we are not in a position to literally provide a home, how is God inviting us to support those who are? On a spiritual level, how are we a "home" for others? Let us take time to thank God for the homes which have enriched us throughout our lives!

Prayer Practice

1. Read and Reflect on *Decree 1* "Companions in a Mission of Reconciliation and Mission" Jesuits General Congregation Meeting Document (This document is on the internet), or
2. Reflect on the ways Christ is a model of hospitality for you. What circumstances invite and challenge your ability to be hospitable? Sr. Molly Maloney, OSF, M.A., LMT.

Used with permission: The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality. Sister Carole Riley, CDP, Ph. D. WVIS Executive Director wvis: cr@aol.com

Editor's note: Sr Carole ministered in Australia as part of Centacare during the 90's.

HOLY SPIRIT OF FREEDOM (HSOF)

By JOHN SCHEMBRI



The Holy Spirit of Freedom (HSOF) is a Catholic Charismatic Community, who are called together to pray, and to love and serve Jesus in the poor, particularly those on the streets. Their outreach extends also to those caught up in drug addiction, prostitution, the emotionally injured, and their parents and families.

HSOF Community has active ministry bases in Australia (Perth, Pemberton and Melbourne) and Cebu in the Philippines. At the core of this Community is a group who live by faith (divine providence), working for God full time in ministry, and trusting in God for all their needs. They follow the radical call of Jesus to lay down their lives and follow Him, sharing all they have with each other and the poor. They live and pray together daily, and devote their whole lives to love and serve God and the poor. These members live as one family, alongside other "Live-in" members who do not live totally by divine providence but still share in the mission of embracing the poor and needy.

The HSOF Community is open to all who have a love for Jesus, and an appreciation of the needs of the poor. HSOF Community is Catholic, but is open to people of any denomination, as long as they are not critical of the Catholic Church and its teachings, and have a respect for Mary and the Pope.

Some people who are not able to physically participate in the Community still support our work by regularly praying the Prayer for Street Kids. If you are interested in joining our Prayer Support Team please contact us.

PRAYER FOR STREET KIDS

Father God, reach out with your tender love to the hurting youth who wander the streets at night - the street kids of our cities. By your love, draw them off the streets, back to their own families, or to homes you have prepared for them. Jesus, through your Divine Mercy, enable us to commit ourselves to love, pray for and assist the youth on our streets. Holy Spirit, lead many to reach out in love to these young people in distress. Mary, send out your Mother's love to those who have never known the true love of a mother. We unite this prayer with all the prayers of the Church offered to the Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Melbourne Community gathers in Keilor usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Here we start with the Rosary (12:05pm) followed by a shared lunch at 12:30pm and at 1:30pm we have a one hour Praise and Worship session. Rev Frank usually gives a talk/teaching and we sometimes

have a guest speaker. We usually finish by 4:30pm.

On Friday nights we go out on the streets of Melbourne where they know us and look forward to seeing us. We have developed a beautiful relationship with those on the streets and aim to reach out with God's love as we talk to them about what is happening in their lives. And, of course, they love getting their free cuppa and chocolate biscuits (as well as food to take away).

We also have the Philippines Ministry group that assists our Community in Cebu, as well as poor families in The Philippines. Our assistance comprises of sending food, clothing, household items (which fit in box 22 inches x 22.5 inches x 24 inches). As well as these, we also assist some families with their rent, hospital bills, sponsoring individual children through school, etc.

The Melbourne community provides funds towards enabling 100 street children to go to school each year. Our Cebu Ministry, feeds, clothes and pays for schooling for hundreds of street children they find on the streets. Many would not have a meal if it was not for our group there. They held a Christmas Party for about 500 street people last year. Also we help some of the families to open their own small business which helps them put food on the table. The Melbourne Community sponsors 6 to 10 children, apart from the 120 whom we enable to go to school.

Those who are unable to support the ministry financially or physically do support us with their prayers as well as offering up their pain and suffering for the ministry.

Matthew 25:35-36 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

Our Cebu ministry feeds and educates the street kids of Cebu (the Philippines).

OUR CHARISM

The following list gives a brief description of the spirituality and devotions of our Community. If you have any particular questions regarding our ministry, prayer life, etc. please email them to us. We will answer them directly.

Charismatic

We have always been part of the Charismatic Movement and have Charismatic Praise and Worship every day in the live-in Community.

Eucharistic

Daily Mass is the norm for those in the live-in Community, as is a daily Holy Hour, and regular Eucharistic Adoration.

Marian

We honour and love Mary and pray the Rosary daily.

Apostolic

We minister to anyone in need of help, and especially to youth on the streets, and older street people, those addicted to drugs and alcohol, those in prostitution, the homeless, the psychologically disabled, and the parents of the above.

CONTACT

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For HSOF Community
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For the Philippines account
BSB 013373 Account 186242832 (ANZ bank Niddrie)

For more info please visit our web page: www.hsof.net



Covid-19 vaccines: who should I listen to?

By KRISTINA COOPER

Regarding the issue of whether Catholics should be vaccinated, we must check our facts before we make a decision. Kristina Cooper offers some sound advice.

Due to growing cynicism and disillusionment with convention channels of communication, social media has become the new source of truth. I am often sent messages telling me the “real truth” about what is going on.

As Catholics living in a secular society where our national leadership is often promoting different values to ours, we have to be particularly discerning about which experts we listen to. However, if we might question the values and decisions of our politicians or government, at times, we need to make sure that, if we take a stand on something, we have checked our facts, and are not simply responding emotionally to the latest tweet.

Who could I trust for the truth?

I was a bit concerned recently when I received several messages urging me not to be vaccinated, as the current vaccines were making use of aborted foetal material.

Obviously this is an ethical issue for Catholics, but was it true—and who could I trust to tell me the truth? For this kind of question the Anscombe (formerly Linacre) Bioethics Centre based in Oxford is a very helpful source for Catholics (www.bioethics.org.uk). This is a Roman Catholic academic institute that works in the interface between science and Catholic morality and ethics.

It was set up in 1977 by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, but is an independent body that can speak in an informed way about thorny ethical issues from assisted suicide to human-non-human experimentation.

As well as books to be bought there are also free research papers dealing with various aspects of COVID 19 and, in particular, the question I was interested in: “COVID 19 and use of Foetal Cell lines” by Dr Helen Watt, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute. You can read the paper here.

The truth was more subtle

Reading this paper, I realised the truth was a lot more subtle than the information that had been presented to me. The scientists in the UK are not currently plundering abortion clinics for foetal material the way it was implied. Yet it is true that the vaccine that is being developed by Oxford University is using a cell line modified from tissue taken from an aborted child fifty years ago, and another in 1985.

HAPPY HOUR WITH THE Holy Spirit

Almost one of the first things I learned about God is that when one door closes he opens a window!

When the prayer groups had to close down at the end of March this year we pondered how we were to continue to gather for worship and to give hope and support to those who were struggling. Then we all discovered the open window! Zoom!

We have all been learning how to use the new technology and turn our homes in house churches of praise and prayer and encounter Jesus in new ways as we gather online to grow in hope and love together.

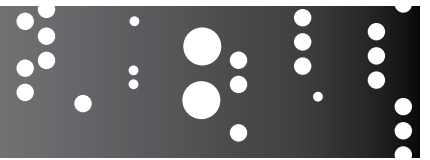
Please feel welcome to join with us as we praise God, listen to a guest break open the Word of God and pray for the needs of the hour.

Future dates for 2020:

11 November, 25 November, 9 December

Zoom log in: 71760305001

Password: 101holden



The article helpfully points out that not all vaccines currently being developed have this link, which means it could well be possible for Catholics to ask for a different vaccine, rather than refusing to be vaccinated.

If there were no other suitable successful vaccines, however, the paper weighs up the different ethical questions surrounding using, for example, the Oxford University vaccine. The link is quite old but, however far removed from the original harvesting of material, it is still there; and, by being vaccinated, is one colluding with the original practice and discouraging non-problematical vaccines from being developed?

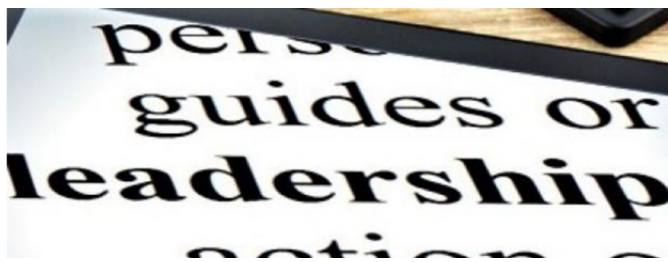
Making an informed decision

On the other hand, with mass vaccinations, it is not just oneself that suffers, if as a result of refusing to be vaccinated, the virus is given room to multiply, infect and possibly kill more people.

In a short article one cannot do justice to all nuances and questions that this paper looks at, but for anybody considering not being vaccinated, and even those who are, I would highly recommend going to the Anscombe website and downloading the paper, so an informed decision can be made.

If we are going to put our trust in someone, let's stick to those who know the facts, and are faithful to the wisdom and the official teaching of the Church. I will certainly be returning to the Anscombe Centre if any more sticky questions come up in the future

Used with permission CCR UK. Image: Jernej Furman, Flickr.



Book Review

By CHARLES WHITEHEAD

Called to lead-for just such a time as this

Effective, Spirit-filled leaders will be essential in the Church of the future, says Charles Whitehead, as new book "*Called To Lead*" is released.

I have written this book because good lay leadership in the Church is becoming more and more important as the number of priests gradually declines in many areas.

Lay leadership, both male and female, is already making an important contribution in different parts of the life of the Church. This will become even more necessary as we face an uncertain future. Our current experience of the coronavirus has forced us to completely change our ways of being church communities, and the future patterns we will be following are still far from obvious.

What will it mean to be a leader in the Church "for just such a time as this?"

Staying close to the Lord

"Called to Lead" has all Church leaders in mind - clergy, religious, lay, young and old alike.

My aim has been to focus on the key issues all leaders need to address, both in their personal spiritual lives where it is essential to maintain a close relationship with the Lord, in their relationships with fellow leaders, and very importantly with all those they are leading.

I have also considered the kinds of questions they will regularly have to face. I had in mind not just leadership in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal but in the Church generally, and secular leadership as well, where appropriate.

I have attempted to stimulate constructive thinking on a wide range of issues, and I have tried to write in a way that allows the book to be used for private reflection, or for small group study and discussion among leaders.

Drawing on my own experience

My own experience of Church leadership goes back to 1977, and over the years I have held a wide variety of leadership responsibilities in many different parts of the Catholic Church as well as ecumenically - locally, nationally and internationally.

My personal journey also covers the thirty five years I spent in the world of business and industry, both full-time and part-time, for much of which I was responsible for several subsidiary companies of a Swedish forestry group.

The foreword to the book is written by David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton, and includes these very helpful words: Things are changing in the Church and they will have to change even more in the days ahead. Some might fear this. They should not fear because history shows us God is working with power in our own time. Others will be encouraged by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Charles has certainly focused on one of the most important and pressing needs in our ecclesial world today - the need for sound leadership. There is much to think about in his twenty chapters... I commend this book to all who are called to leadership in the Church.

There is no doubt, in my own mind, that good Christian leadership will help ensure that, whatever the future may hold, and whatever plans God may have for his people, we can face the years ahead with confidence, and lead those for whom we are responsible forward-always under the guidance, and in the power, of the Holy Spirit, and for just such a time as this.

Used with permission CCR UK. Image: Leadership by Nick Youngson, Blue Diamond Gallery, Alpha Stock Images.

CCR MELBOURNE TURNS 50!

See back page for more details.
Save the date and join us.



Our front yard had a row of Lilley Pilly trees. Eleven years ago, when we planted them, we delighted in their evergreen shiny foliage, the edible purple fruit enchanting us, and their density perfect as appropriate hedge.

At the start of covid-19 lockdown, my husband and I decided to take them down, roots and all (as a major project to ease boredom). We noticed they were not as healthy as before, were obstructing the growth of our lemon and citrus trees which we loved as they provided fruit all year round. It was hard work, but the best thing we did for our front yard, as it opened up the landscape, allowed the fruit trees to bloom and bear more fruit, receiving needed sunshine and eliminating competition for water and moisture.

Similarly, in our lives, there are seasons, when people, events, circumstances, work environments are taken away from us. We are saddened and we grieve at those moments of loss and detachment, only to realise that much growth follows after these tribulations.

During my spiritual renewal in year 2000, I witnessed this – friends, community, activities, events that I enjoyed so much were taken away, creating a huge vacuum. It was a painful journey, for the days were longer, the nights were darker, and all I was left with was the question “why Lord?”

Slowly, He made me realise that there are periods when He wants me for Himself, and away from the mad rush, able to talk to me and touching me deeply, instructing me of His ways, instead of the world’s. And because He satisfies completely, I started not to mind it all, gently welcoming the isolation, seclusion, aloneness, the quietness and rest.

Under covid-19, we have been placed in a similar situation, when by “force” we were put into lockdown, restrictive life, stripping our existence to what is essential. Never in our wildest dream did we think it will happen in our generation, shocking us that a virus can hurt so much.

Some of us have been losing hope, unable to find meaning and purpose, as we wonder how we will cope.

Others remain hopeful, discovering the hidden treasures of this barren field, learning new skills and creative endeavours, clothing ourselves with dignity, strength, resilience, humility, obedience, wisdom, joy. Still others are moved by heroism and genuine love, running the extra mile as they serve and give their lives in the service of others. Our front liners, much like my Lilly Pillies had to offer themselves as a living sacrifice so others can live, grow and develop.

We have all been placed in a position of waiting... waiting patiently for a breakthrough... when our lives return to normal.

It is good to return to “normal”, (if there is such a thing - as health authorities keep saying there could only now be covid normal) as long as the significant lessons of the past are learned and not forgotten.

What have I learned? That I could live a much simpler life.

That there is no need to carry so much luggage after all. I used to cart a few bags when I left the house for work, ministry or community events. Now with covid-19, I only bring a small lunch bag – quick to reach for my wallet, phone, a mask and sanitiser.

We have also detoxed our home, removing excess decorations, furniture, knick-knacks, but our garage is bearing the brunt of it all. Indeed, we are waiting for the restrictions to ease so we can give away much of these. As I struggle to move my way around our garage, I feel overwhelmed, dismayed, wondering how we have accumulated so much stuff. Similarly, this is maybe how our spirit feels when we are choked with the many worries, anxieties, and attachments of modern living. I yearn for the space, the freedom, the room to breathe more freely.

When I look out my window, I seem to miss my Lilly Pillies, but when I see my lemon trees dancing happily in the sun, their fruit ripening to golden yellow, and more blossoms abounding, I relate them to those who serve, who give up their own so others might live.

For most of us, it is patient waiting, as encouraged by *Isaiah 40:31* “but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.”

From age to age we see God hears the cries of His people and empowers them. It is said that God not only protects His people with His wings, but He bestows on them wings of their own, an unusual gift of divine power. We only need to believe and wait patiently.

Please pray with the Co-ordinators of CCR:

- For God to provide all the resources needed as we celebrate fifty years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Melbourne.
- For God to provide a vaccine to defeat the Covid 19 virus.
- For working unity with others serving the Renewal in support of the CHARIS commission to bring, build and serve.
- For God to raise up young people to extend the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to the next generation.
- For unity among all Christians.
- For all members of CCR who have died in the past year.

Amen.



It has been a difficult year for many people including people of faith it seems. So, it could well be that we need a little bit of extra help as we approach Advent and ultimately, Christmas. Who better to help us prepare for the coming of the Christ Child than our Blessed Mother Mary?

The BVM, I am sure, has been invoked with increasing regularity during the lockdowns of 2020 with all sorts of requests especially through the recitation of the Rosary. Mary, the Ark of the new Covenant, who carried Jesus with utmost awe and delighted expectancy until she gave birth to Him, who is the Saviour of the world, in Bethlehem, can help us to bring the Infant Jesus to birth again in our lives this Christmas too!

Mary gave her fiat in response to the Angel Gabriel's announcement to her with these words in *Luke 1:38* "... You see before you the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said..." Albeit a daunting task, Mary did not shrink from God's will for her life but surrendered totally to the plan, which was yet to unfold, in accordance with God's perfect will. Do we have that same humility of heart to surrender totally to the unknown that God wants to reveal to us? And can we give birth to Jesus at Christmas in a new way this year?

Jesus came as the Prince of Peace, vulnerable and dependant. In Mary's Magnificat she says "He has pulled down princes from their thrones and raised high the lowly. He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty" (*Luke 1:52-53*). As I think of those words uttered by Mary, I am reassured that God has everything planned and will not allow anything to happen to me that is not for my growth or benefit spiritually. It is not always a smooth journey, but it is a colourful and interesting journey filled with many surprises as the author M Scott Peck wrote about in his book *The Road Less Travelled*. We have the assurance of God's guiding hand.

So, as we proceed on our journey through Advent to Christmas, do not be surprised at revelations that will come to you. Invoking the Blessed Mother's help and intercession during Advent will surely bring us closer to giving new birth to Jesus in our hearts and in our lives as we continue our spiritual journeys.

May the Infant Jesus bless you and your families with an abundance of graces this Christmas.

Important notice

Due to the current circumstances, the raffle has been extended until January 2021.

Now that restrictions have eased can you please begin to sell your tickets, and then get the ticket stubs into the CCR office by 18 December 2020.

On Prayer



1. Be real. Don't tell God what you think he wants to hear but rather what is on your heart.
2. Be honouring. God may be your best friend but he remains the Creator of the Universe.
3. Be respectful. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (*Proverbs 9:10*)
4. Be ready to listen. Prayer is a reciprocal exchange with God. When you're honest with God, prepare for Him to be honest with you.
5. It's not about how long you pray. Rambling on and on or attempting to speak eloquently is not the point. It is Who answers you that matters.
6. Don't pray to impress your friends. Prayer is not a competition nor is it a sign of superior spirituality.
7. God isn't only a crisis hotline. If you talk to God only when you have a crisis trust that he loves you enough to let you stay in one.
8. Sincerity goes a long way. It's important to tell God how you feel and to ask for what you need. Vulnerability and sincerity are acts of an open heart that pleases the Lord.
9. Talk to God about your needs. God may know what you need before you ask him but he enjoys your requests. Identifying your need postures you in a place of expectant faith that pleases him (*Hebrews 11:16*)
10. Nevertheless, pray. Instead of waiting for all else to fail, try seeking God's thoughts and ways through prayer and thanksgiving, and develop an authentic relationship with God.

RENEWAL DAY

Saturday 5 December 2020

Mass with Fr Wahid 9.30am, followed by Praise and Worship. Guest speakers Michelle Moran and Dan Hewitt.

Zoom details ID 71760305001

Password 101holden

MARK YOUR DIARIES...

Renewal Day

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

Saturday 5 December 2020

Mass with Fr Wahid 9.30am, followed by Praise and Worship.
Guest speakers Michelle Moran and Dan Hewitt.

Zoom details - ID 71760305001

Password - 101holden

Let's celebrate

On 8 March 2021 CCR is 50 years old in the Melbourne Archdiocese.

Friday 5 March to Sunday 7 March 2021

This is a time for us to thank God for his graces and blessings of the last 50 years and to ignite our passion and fire to continue the great work God has begun. The theme will be the cry of CCR for 50 years – *Jesus is Alive! The same yesterday, today and forever.* Save the date and join us.

HEALING MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Each Sunday	7.00pm	Holy Family, Doveton (Ministry after)
First Saturday	2.30pm – 5.00pm 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 Christ...

ALL PAUSED UNTIL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED

		St Francis Xavier, Frankston
Third Sunday	5.30pm	Good Samaritan Chapel, 1-29 Southern Cross Drive, Roxburgh Park
	5.30pm Praise, 6.00pm Mass	St Joseph's, Chelsea
Fourth Tuesday	10.00am	St Peter's, East Bentleigh - Healing Mass: Monday 23 November at 8pm. Celebrant will be Fr. Wahid

May the joy of Christmas bring peace and happiness to you and your family. Wishing you a very happy and holy Christmas.
Let's all pray for a healthy 2021.

The co-ordinators of CCR Melbourne