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Services

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the Charismatic Renewal
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Why the Charisms?

by Jean Pliya



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All who are baptized receive the same essential grace of faith, hope, charity, and eternal life in Jesus Christ (Rm 6:23). The Holy Spirit also grants to each one particular, special gifts or charisms for a particular task, for a specific ministry, and for the development and the growth of the Church. These gifts are given by the Lord when the Holy Spirit comes into our life at baptism, confirmation or at the outpouring of the Spirit. They are not given as a personal blessing. The believer is being so "equipped" for the needs of the Church. Charisms determine everyone's place in the community and this makes us able and available. Saint Paul tells us: "About the gifts of the Spirit, brothers, I want you to be quite certain." (1 Co 12:1). He even invites us to ask for these gifts for the building of the congregation. (1 Co 14:12)

After his baptism in the Jordan, there was "the descending of the Spirit on him." (Mk 1:10) In his victory over Satan in the desert, Jesus "returned to Galilee with the power of the Spirit on him." (Lk 4:14) He began his charismatic life teaching the crowds, commanding with authority and power to the spirits and healing the sick. (Lk 4:31-40)

After Pentecost, the Apostles and the disciples were filled with the Spirit. They "worked many signs and miracles among the people." (Ac 5:12) There are a great variety of charisms. All are dispensed by the Holy Spirit so that, through his power in our lives, we may become "a blessing for others." (Zp 8:13) Peter tells us: "Each one of you has received a special grace so, like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it at the service of others." (1 P 4:10)

In many places in Scripture we are given lists of charisms, nor exhaustive nor restricted. The Holy Spirit gives them according to the needs of the Church: Rm 12:6-8; Ep 4:11; 1 Co 12:28-31; 1 Co 12:8-10.

The 9 charisms mentioned in 1 Co 12:8-10 can be grouped in 3 categories:

A-THE CHARISMS OF REVELATION

1- The word of knowledge was used by Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the Jacob's well and she was converted. In the Acts (9:10-18), Ananias received a word of knowledge from the Lord, that Saul of Tarsus' was in Damascus at the home of Judas. There he was prompted to lay hands over Saul, but Ananias wondered about Saul, who was known as a persecutor of the believers. Then, Jesus gave him a word of wisdom that revealed to him God's plan of salvation and his plan for Saul, now Paul. Paul could see again and he then received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In the prayers of intercession following evangelization, there is often a message of knowledge to announce healings or other signs of liberation which are often confirmed later by testimonies.

The word of knowledge reveals then, hidden situations, obstacles to God's graces, and stimulates the expectant faith to obtain the answer to our requests. Related with this gift, could be interesting to say something about the so called word of science.

It comes in teaching, preaching, and exhorting. Jesus would speak it when pushing the Pharisees back. E.g.: "Pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)

The word of science allows a comment on the Scriptures in order to give light and touch the assembly or for refuting fallacious arguments.

2- The word of wisdom can be an inner vision, often of the future, and in the mystery of redemption, an understanding of the plan of

salvation established by God. It helps us see with God's eyes, to take the right direction, to know how to speak, in what way we should pray, and how we should behave in order to act with prudence and efficiency.

3- The charism of discerning the spirits allows us to know which spirit we have to deal with in a particular situation: God's divine spirit, our human spirit or an evil spirit so we can avoid evil which only brings confusion and disorder. The gift of discernment fights again false prophets. It helps clear confusion between troubles caused by psycho-affective traumas and those traumas provoked by evil spirits. This charism can show clearly what has been forgotten, hidden, to reveal psychological problems, sends away the evil and acknowledges the true gifts of the Holy Spirit.

B-THE CHARISMS OF INSPIRATION

1- The gift of prophecy. Prophecy is a message coming from God, given to all. It does not mean to predict or announce the future, nor to reveal facts of the intimate life of a person. The prophetic inspiration is received in words, images, thoughts, visions, or dreams. If it has been truly discerned, prophecy builds the congregation with exhortation and encouragement. Prophecy does not only speak, it acts also. For example, if it is a message of comfort, it will comfort; a word of reprimand, it will correct and lead to repentance. Father Rufus Pereira writes: "Since I have received the gift of prophecy,

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"...These gifts are given by the Lord when the Holy Spirit comes into our life at baptism, confirmation or at the outpouring of the Spirit. They are not given as a personal blessing. The believer is being so "equipped" for the needs of the Church. ..."

Report on the ESCI Meeting in Warsaw

by *Dariusz Jeziorny*

Using the opportunity of the European Celebration of the 40th anniversary of CCR in Warsaw, the European Sub-Committee of ICCRS (ESCI) gathered a day before, i.e. on 26th September 2007.

It was the last meeting of the Sub-Committee in the old composition. Several questions were touched. First of all Kim-Catherine-Marie Kollins (ICCRS Project Coordinator of the "Operation Upper Room") and Oreste Pesare (ICCRS Office Director) presented the idea named "Pentecost of the Nations". This is a two-part project, which integrates the "Operation Upper Room" (that will be held on May 2-10, 2008) with the Celebration on the Pentecost Day on May 11, 2008. Its aim is to unite various charismatic realities in various places during the same days to spread and live the culture of Pentecost in contemporary world according to the Pope's calling. A special CD was prepared to promote this project and was distributed free to representatives of all European

countries. The ESCI approved this project, which was later on presented to the gathered delegates in Warsaw as a possibility to be taken up in their own countries.

Another question touched by the ICCRS European Sub-Committee was the problem of having statutes and creating National Service Committees in European countries. It is regarded as a very sensitive question which led, in some States, even to strong divisions among the charismatic movement. The ESCI is aware of the delicacy of this problem and anyway its members do not want to avoid it. Its mission is the same as the ICCRS one: serving and helping CCR to find solutions in painful situations. The ESCI's idea is to remain flexible in this area because different charismatic realities in various countries have different needs and historical circumstances of development. But Michelle Moran and Charles Whitehead were asked to prepare some general guidelines about the idea and identity of National Service Committees.

The ESCI discussed also the future activities of ICCRS and the involvement of European Charismatic Renewal in them. Calendar seems to be rather full and the European Sub-Committee declared its support in promoting the future ICCRS events.

Finally the delegates from the National Service Committees of the European countries elected 4 new members for the Sub-Committee during the celebration. Their names are: Jude Muscat from Malta, Kateřina Lachmanova from Czech Republic, Pierre Chieux from France and Laszlo Gorove from Hungary. They joined Michelle Moran (ICCRS President), Fr. Renato Tisot and Dariusz Jeziorny (ICCRS Council Members), Oreste Pesare, Kees Slijkerman who remained in as the secretary, Christof Hemberger from Germany as representative of the youth, and Charles Whitehead co-opted as adviser. The ESCI registered its thanks to Kim Kollins who has served for the unity of CCR on European level for many years, and participated in the Committee from its beginning in 2000. 

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my talks and homilies, even the most simple, seem to change people's life almost right away!"

For Saint Paul, the gift of prophecy prevails on the gift of tongues in the community prayer because "those who speak in a tongue may build themselves up, but those who prophesy build up the community." (1 Co 14:4)

2- The gift to speak in tongues is given by God to praise him in the language of the Holy Spirit (Rm 8:26). Saint Paul wanted all Corinthians to "speak in tongues." (1 Co 14:5) Praying in tongues helps us in our personal prayer to sing, bless and give thanks to God. Praying in tongues is also a precious gift for intercession. When I pray in tongues myself during intercession, I receive more words of knowledge.

3- The gift of interpreting tongues does not mean we can translate a message given in tongues in the assembly. The one who has spoken in tongues (or someone else in the assembly) can receive an interpretation of the same message from the Holy Spirit so that

everyone present may understand. Then, everyone can consider and put into practice what the Lord has said in tongues.


C- THE CHARISMS OF POWER

1- The charisms of healing, cf. 1 Co 12:9; 28-30. These are the fruits of the mission of evangelization the Lord has entrusted to the Church. They will help manifest some of the "signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out demons, they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover." (Mk 16:17-18) These signs come and confirm the Good News of Jesus who rose from the dead. It is not a power or a personal gift, but a grace given to the believers which help them to be like channels or instruments of the healing power of God.

2- The charismatic faith is a special anointing of faith which enables us to believe in what God is doing and to collaborate him. It puts in our heart trust, confidence, and even the certainty that our prayer will be answered.

3- The gift to work out miracles often comes from the charism of faith or is linked with it. No doubt Lazarus' resurrection is one of the best examples. Through Peter and Paul's faith at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple, Jesus' Name healed the cripple (Ac 3:4-10). "In Lystra, there was a man who had never walked in his life who was listening to Paul; Paul looked at him intently and saw he had the faith to be cured. He said in a loud voice, 'Get to your feet, stand up,' and the cripple jumped up and began to walk." (Ac 14:8-10)

Through Padre Pio's intercession, a young girl blind from birth began to see even though her eyes had no pupil.

Let us remain in thanksgiving and let's thank the Holy Spirit for the charisms he gives to all believers. They enable us to accomplish great works out of faith in Christ (Jn 14:12). Holiness is the fruit of God's life in us; the charisms are the instruments of his actions. Let us therefore, live in the fullness of the outpouring of the Spirit. Let us be led by the Spirit so that Christ may be glorified in all those who belong to Him. 

ICCRS presents:

Francis
& Judith Mc Nutt

School of Healing Prayer[®]

2nd edition
We are looking forward for you!



ICCRS is happy to announce that we are in the process of planning another conference with Christian Healing Ministries (Francis and Judith MacNutt).

Date : October 20-25, 2008
Place: Jacksonville, Florida, USA

This second conference will be more in-depth than the first one, so that all those who attended this year and can return will benefit by the experience. At the same time, we encourage everyone who was not able to come to April's conference to come to this one. You will be able to take part fully even if you were not able to come to the first. The topic will be: "Becoming a transformed person and Church through Jesus Christ's healing power."



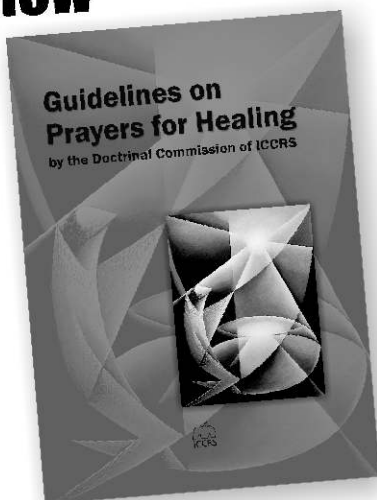
Cosponsored by The National Service Committee of the United States



Christian Healing Ministries, Inc.

* These mailing costs will be applied for every book sent.

new



Guidelines on Prayers for Healing by the Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS

This booklet will be of great assistance to those who seek to continue their function within the healing ministry of Jesus, recalling the promise which he gave to his disciples '...they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover...' (Mk 16:18).

Guidelines on Prayers for Healing, ICCRS, Vatican City 2007.

53 pages.

Price : € 5.00 + postal costs.*

Available only in English.

ICCRS NEWSLETTER

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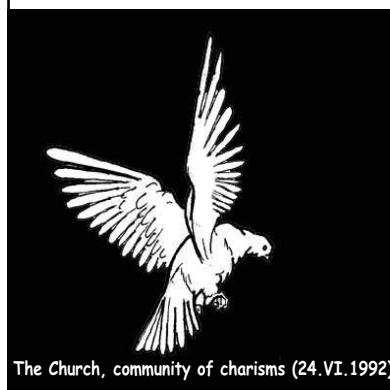
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WHY THE CHARISMS?

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (1 Co 12:11)



The Church, community of charisms (24.VI.1992)

"Whether extraordinary or simple and humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men, and to the needs of the world." CCC 799 - see also Cristifideles Laici 21-24



"There are furthermore special graces, also called charisms... Whatever their character - sometimes it is extraordinary, such as the gift of miracles or of tongues- charisms are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity which builds up the Church." (cf 1 Co 12) CCC 2003.

BY JAMT

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the name of the Apostles Peter and Paul, we wish to exhort all those who, thanks to the charisms of the Holy Spirit and to the mandate of the Church, are true evangelizers to be worthy of this vocation, to exercise it without the reticence of doubt or fear, and not to neglect the conditions that will make this evangelization not only possible but also active and fruitful."

(Evangelii Nuntianti 74)