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COVID-19 PRAYER
CAMPAIGN - pg. 30-31

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As we publish this issue of CHARIS Magazine, the world is being seriously affected by the spread of Covid-19, infecting thousands of people in more and more countries. We invite you all to join the prayer campaign we launched on March 9 (see p. 30-31). Let us all together entrust the world to the protection of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary.



Since the publication of our last CHARIS Magazine, there have been various important events for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

First of all, the first international meeting of leaders of charismatic communities organized by CHARIS in Recife (Brazil). Cardinal Kevin Farrell made the trip and gave three fundamental teachings to understand the importance of the Renewal as a current of grace in the Church and the role that CHARIS is called to play. At this time of launching the new CHARIS service (we are less than a year old!), we thought it was important to make Cardinal Farrell's words accessible to the whole Renewal by publishing them in this issue. You will therefore find the full text of the cardinal's intervention intended for the leaders of the communities that contain essential elements

for the entire current of grace. We also include the most important passages addressed to the bishops (more than 60, mainly Brazilian) present in Recife.

We then propose another fundamental document for the launching of CHARIS in the world: these are the guidelines for the formation of the National Services of Communion, proposed by the International Service of Communion. All over the world these new services are being set up (see pg. 22-24) and it is important that there be general guidelines for their formation. For this reason, the International Service of Communion has been working on this document which can serve as a basis for those seeking to form their National Service of Communion. This document is accompanied by a glossary which defines the terms we use in order to avoid any ambiguity.

Another important event took place in Africa organized by CHARIS: the pan-African meeting of leaders of the Renewal in Ghana, a unique opportunity to realize the dynamism of our current of grace in Africa. Leaders from 25 countries, representing different expressions of the Renewal, met to pray, listen to the Holy Spirit and reflect on the novelty of CHARIS. You will find in this issue the essential elements of their reflection that can be useful for all countries.

I also draw your attention to the formation that CHARIS is organizing for young people next year in Rome. Thank you for making it known around you, and why not, for sponsoring young people so that they can take part in it!

In this period of the foundation of CHARIS, we are working very closely with the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life. It is a question of being fully faithful to the intuitions that led this Dicastery to erect CHARIS according to the will of Pope Francis. The texts that we propose to you in this Magazine complete and deepen what was said at Pentecost for a better understanding of what CHARIS is, but also of what the Church expects from the Charismatic Renewal as a whole. I hope that they will help you understand all that the Church expects from the Renewal and that they will therefore be an encouragement for each one of us to be ever more faithful to the call to spread the baptism in the Spirit around us.

Jean-Luc Moens
CHARIS Moderator

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CHARIS and the Charismatic Communities

Address by Cardinal K. Farrell to the International Leaders



FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF CHARISMATIC COMMUNITIES ORGANIZED BY CHARIS
(Recife – Friday 17 January 2020)

Dear friends,

I am grateful for this opportunity to speak to so many leaders in Catholic Charismatic Renewal. First of all, I would like to thank you for being present at this first international meeting for leaders of charismatic communities organized by CHARIS. Your participation is a visible sign that you have understood the role of communion, of unity in diversity, that the Holy Father entrusted to CHARIS. Many of the communities represented here were previously part of the Catholic Fraternity and I know that at least some communities - at first - regretted the disappearance of this structure. There was the fear that the communion that had been built between your different communities would no longer find a way to express itself as in the past. There was the fear that CHARIS would not take charge of animating communion between the charismatic communities of the different continents. The organization of this first meeting shows that these fears were unfounded. CHARIS was indeed erected by our Dicastery to serve all the expressions of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, among

which the communities occupy an important place.

Allow me to begin my remarks by recalling for all of you the nature, the function, and the mode of operation of CHARIS. In order to do that, I will try to answer three basic questions.

First question: what is CHARIS? As the Statutes say in article one: “Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service, also known as CHARIS, is the international service organism for all expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal” (*Statutes of CHARIS, Art. 1 § 1*). I’d like to underline two aspects of this definition.

First question: CHARIS is a service organism. It is neither a governing body, nor a parliament where laws have to be voted and imposed on all members of the Renewal. That means that it is not indispensable that every group has to be “represented” in CHARIS. It is not the presence of a representative in CHARIS that gives legitimacy to a group. Some members, from different expressions of the Renewal, take turns in working for CHARIS and provide the services that correspond to its mission. The

“members” of the International Service of Communion and the “representatives” of the Continental and National Services of Communion receive a mandate to serve for a limited period of time and then they will be replaced by someone else.

The second aspect in the statutory definition is this: CHARIS is at the service of “all realities” within Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Its work is not limited to a specific “category” (communities, prayer groups, etc), or only to bigger associations born from the Renewal. CHARIS is at the service of each and every expression of the Renewal, even the smallest ones. Indeed, one of the first tasks of each National Service of Communion is to identify all the realities that consider themselves as part of the “current of grace” that is Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and then to involve them in the greater “family” of the Renewal, sharing the same communion and offering them the same services.

Second question: What is CHARIS’s work? CHARIS aims to provide services to Renewal. One of the most important

services is “to promote and strengthen communion among all Charismatic realities, fostering a sense of the worldwide family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal” (Art. 1 §1). Through meetings, reciprocal knowledge, cooperation, common prayer and liturgical celebration and in many other ways, all the realities of the Charismatic Renewal should be helped to feel part of one big family. But communion is not the only “service” provided by CHARIS. Some other important services are offered in the area of information, formation and training, and advice (Art. 4 § 2). Sharing information is vital in order to build communion; the CHARIS office in Rome runs the CHARIS web site, a CHARIS Magazine and an e-mail address to receive comments and questions. Regarding formation and training: I can mention the CHARIS Leadership Institute (CLI), Youth Formation programs, and formation for ecumenical or charitable activities. Regarding advice, CHARIS can provide doctrinal assistance through its Theological Commission, it can provide canonical assistance for those communities who need help in writing their Statutes; it can provide pastoral assistance through its Pastoral Commission, for example, suggesting new ways to spread the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church. There is also a specific commission, within CHARIS, dedicated to serving communities born in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, called Koinonia; this commission organized the present meeting. One last “service” that I want to mention is the assistance that CHARIS can provide to bishops and priests who request its help (Art. 4 § 1). CHARIS is

available to assist local clergy to better understand the nature and practice of realities within the Renewal, in case they want to seek pastoral cooperation from the Renewal, or in case they need more elements in order to discern and accompany communities and prayer groups that already exist in their dioceses, etc.

CHARIS is available to assist local clergy to better understand the nature and practice of realities within the Renewal

One more important note: the services provided by CHARIS are not only “top-down”: they do not come only from Commissions or “experts” designated by the International Service of Communion. CHARIS is also to be a place of “exchange” to share information about formation programs, best practices, and successful pastoral activities that have been created by groups or communities in one country and can be adopted by other groups or communities in another country.

Third question: What authority does CHARIS have? The answer is simple: very little! As the Statutes say in Art. 1 § 3: “As an organism of service, CHARIS exercises no jurisdiction over the Catholic Charismatic Renewal [CCR], since all expressions of CCR are directly under the jurisdiction of the competent ecclesiastical authorities. CHARIS’s role of service does not limit the freedom of individuals or groups within CCR in their contacts with ecclesiastical authorities”. Therefore, communities, prayer groups and all the realities of the CCR can avail themselves of the different services offered by CHARIS, but they cannot be bound by decisions taken by CHARIS. In this regard, I want to mention that CHARIS has set up a registration system for communities. The objective is to know the existence of communities around the world, so that CHARIS can serve them according to their expectations. This registration does not imply any ecclesial recognition: giving recognition is reserved to the competent ecclesiastical authorities (Art. 1 § 3). By registering, a community simply expresses its desire to make itself known and to work in





Bishop Mario Spaki (center), delegate of the Brazilian Episcopal Conference for CHARIS

communion with the whole of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The different expressions of the Renewal do not become “members” of CHARIS, nor they establish a juridical “affiliation” with it: they simply want, through CHARIS, to live in communion with all the other charismatic realities.

A further clarification. CHARIS’s structure includes three different levels, all of them forming one single “network”: These levels are the International Service of Communion, the Continental Services of Communion, and the National Services of Communion. These multiple “services of Communion” exist in order to be more effective in their work and closer to the different realities of the Charismatic Renewal all over the world, with all their specific spiritual, cultural and ecclesial characteristics. Since CHARIS is not a governing body, the different Continental or National Services of Communion are not “branches” of CHARIS. They do not receive “delegated power” from the international team. They have to be set up in the same spirit as the International Service of Communion, that is, to assist, to support and to help all the expressions of the Renewal

in their respective regions, and to help and assist local Bishops and priests. If, for example here in Brazil, we talk about CHARIS-Brazil, as is beginning to happen in several other countries, this can create misunderstanding. Therefore, we recommend that, instead of speaking about “CHARIS-Brazil”, we simply speak of the National Service of Communion of the Brazilian Charismatic Renewal, meaning that we refer to the service body that exists in Brazil for the whole Charismatic Renewal in Brazil.

In the light of what I have just said, I am pleased to learn that this meeting was preceded by a day of a meeting for leaders of Brazilian charismatic communities, organized by the National Service of Communion of the Charismatic Renewal in Brazil. I strongly encourage this kind of initiative. It is part of the service that CHARIS has been entrusted: to organize meetings of communion between charismatic communities in the same country or region. I ask you to cooperate as much as possible with these local initiatives, to join them, and to avoid projects, even your own, that might conflict or compete with them.

This first meeting of leaders of charismatic communities also shows that the creation of CHARIS has allowed the desire for communion to expand. Indeed, today, the communion that is proposed to the communities resulting from the Renewal is not limited to a small number of members. It extends to all communities that wish to do so. The fact that there are community leaders here who did not belong to the Catholic Fraternity demonstrates this. It also extends to communities with members from different Christian denominations, which can now be fully associated with the services offered by CHARIS, which corresponds to the Holy Father’s desire that CHARIS works also for the unity of Christians. This meeting shows the importance for your communities to share different experiences, as proposed in the Statutes, which encourage “cooperation between communities[...] in order to make the experience of certain communities available for the common good” (Art. 3 § e).

The unity in diversity that the Holy Father proposes to us is not limited to communities. Pope Francis wishes communion to be lived more widely among all the expressions of the Charismatic Renewal. It is the role of the various National Services of Communion to lead this work of communion. CHARIS’ statutes stipulate that these National Services must be “as inclusive as possible and open to new and emerging realities “ (Art. 15). Here the word “inclusive” refers to the services provided by CHARIS, not to its constitution. CHARIS must reach out to all the expressions of the Renewal and

“include” them in its service, but it cannot “include” everybody in its organism of service. Indeed, we are seeing a great deal of interest and desire from many expressions all over the world to be in contact with their National Service of Communion. I must say that I welcome this. At the same time, it is not always possible for each particular expression of Catholic Charismatic Renewal to directly participate in the National Service of Communion. For example, here in Brazil, it is estimated that around 800 charismatic communities exist. This richness and diversity make it impossible for everyone to be physically present and require a system of representation to be put in place. The desire for communion is no less legitimate. I have been told by CHARIS that it recommends, for each country, holding some sort of national or regional gathering of the responsible persons of all the charismatic realities, in order to allow the participation of all the realities inside a country that consider themselves part of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, without distinction of size, seniority or even ecclesiastical recognition. This would allow

each of these realities to send representatives, including communities like yours.

The National Service of Communion is a body in the service of communion

The idea of having national or regional “gatherings” of the responsible persons of all the charismatic realities could be useful in order to have a place of communion, a place of exchange and sharing that will allow everyone to get to know each other and help each other. In fact, the National Service of Communion is a body in the service of communion, but is not the only place where communion is built and lived out. Some other places and occasions are necessary to create communion. In some countries, the organization of a “national gathering” of the leaders can also be a way of ensuring that a more inclusive and open National Service of Communion emerges.

Let us not forget that the National Service of Communion does not

have any power to decide who forms part of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and who does not; it is commissioned with serving in fraternity all those realities who recognize themselves as being part of this current of grace. The Bishops have the mandate of discerning and overseeing the realities that belong to the Charismatic Renewal: it is part of their ministry. Always keep in mind that the National Service of Communion is not a governing body, but, as its name implies, it is simply an instrument of communion and has a role of service. We must be vigilant that this structure remains faithful to its proper nature, and that, as time goes on, it does not acquire too much power, nor becomes a monopoly of a small group of people who exercise excessive authority limiting the freedom and autonomy of the different expressions of the Charismatic Renewal.

Communion is not the only objective that the Holy Father has set for the Charismatic Renewal. There are other priorities he proposes to us, and I would like to discuss some of them with you, focusing on the service you can provide as communities of the Renewal.

In some countries, associations or networks of prayer groups have taken for their name – in one way or another – Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR). [...] This presents a difficulty, because the Renewal is broader than any single group or network of groups. [...] It is therefore important that one “part” does not take the name of the “whole”: *“the whole is more important than the part”* (Evangelii Gaudium n. 234). No particular group or network of groups should be called “Catholic Charismatic Renewal” as such. It is preferable that a group in this position chooses for itself another name and then, as a further specification, affirms their belonging to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In other words, we must preserve the identity of the current of grace, that is, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, by avoiding any misunderstanding. It would be important to avoid, in any given country, a structure or association, recognized by the ecclesiastical authority, that takes the title of the current of grace for itself, as a monopoly. If this exists, our Dicastery asks that this structure change its name to avoid these misunderstandings and better serve communion.

Cardinal Farrell, Speech to the Bishops

The first request of the Holy Father, reiterated on various occasions, is to spread baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Catholic Church and, more broadly even, to all the baptized. In making this request, the Pope does not explain how to proceed. It gives you a blank slate to seek the means, methods and ways to offer baptism in the Holy Spirit to the greatest number of baptized people. It seems to me that, as communities of the Renewal, you have a particular responsibility in this area because you often have greater resources than other structures of the Renewal. I invite you to pray to the Holy Spirit and to discern how to respond to this call of the Church. What is the place of baptism in the Holy Spirit in your community? What is its place in your apostolate? How can this experience be offered in a new way to the greatest number of people? These are questions that I invite you to ask yourself in prayer in each of your communities. The Church expects a lot from you in this area: The Renewal must be missionary!

The Holy Father considers the ecumenical roots of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to be an opportunity to work for Christian unity. He proposes to live a “relational ecumenism”, that is to say: learning to live in friendship with other Christians while respecting our differences. In this field, it is undeniable that some charismatic communities have had, and still have, a pioneering role, a true prophetic role. The fact that Christians of different denominations come together in the same fraternal life and that this fraternal life lasts over time is a sign of hope. It demonstrates that what brings us together is more

important than what divides us. It also shows that baptism in the Holy Spirit is really a bridge that brings Catholics, Pentecostals and Evangelicals together through the same experience. It also indicates that the reality of this “fraternal ecumenism” is a confirmation for all of us to follow the Holy Father in this direction.

“It is clear that each National Service of Communion must be closely linked to the Bishops’ Conference of its country.”

Cardinal Farrell, Speech to the Brazilian Bishops - January 18

I would also like to encourage you, as communities, to live a practical ecumenism that is, to work in certain areas in unity with other Christians. I think in particular of evangelization together. Experience shows that when Christians of different traditions evangelize together, it makes their witness much more powerful and credible. In our world, the scandal of our divisions is an obstacle to evangelization. Jesus’ prayer “... that all may be one so that the world may believe” (Jn 17, 21) is more relevant than ever.

Our world expects us to evangelize in unity, respecting our differences, as underlined in Cardinal Suenens’ Malines document. Here too, I know that many charismatic communities are involved in this type of action. It is a sign of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who wants us to unite in order to hasten the coming of the Kingdom.

I encourage you to look for other areas of cooperation between your communities and Christians of other denominations. The defense of life, from conception to natural death, could perhaps be one of these areas.

The Church is enriched by the importance that many of your communities give to compassion and service of the poorest. We are here in Recife, the diocese of the servant of God Dom Helder Camara, who was a great witness of charity in difficult times. The testimony of his life must be a source of inspiration for all of us. With Cardinal Suenens, he had a prophetic role to play in drawing the attention of the Renewal, at the beginning of its history, to the service of man. Cardinal Suenens, his friend, wanted to work with him to launch the Renewal in the service of the poor. This call of the two bishops was heard throughout the world and it continues to resonate today. In particular, it must be noted that this attention to the poor is experienced by many of your communities, often since their foundation. This is a sign of the fruitfulness of your charism. This is a sign of the fecundity of the Renewal. It is also a sign of the authenticity of the action of the Holy Spirit among you: the Holy Spirit is love and urges us to live this love, this charity in a concrete way, by serving all those who suffer. CHARIS too has received a mission to promote “service to the poor and social action through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal” (Art. 3 § i), and I am confident that your material support for CHARIS will help it to carry out

this mission. I would also like to highlight two other aspects that are present in CHARIS’ statutes. The first is the promotion of the exercise of charisms, the second is the spiritual deepening and call to holiness of those who have received baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The statutes of CHARIS underline the importance of “promoting the exercise of charisms not only in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal but also in the whole Church” (Art. 3 § b). Your communities, it seems to me, have a leading role to play in this area. Do not be afraid to exercise charisms. Do not suffocate them. On the contrary, encourage them among your members. Ask the Holy Spirit to renew his gifts in your communities. They are privileged places where, among brothers and sisters, you can exercise charisms, discern them, encourage them and correct them, for the good of the whole Church. Do not be afraid to go down this path, with the necessary discernment of the competent ecclesiastical authorities: it is always a good sign of spiritual and ecclesial maturity to be close to your bishops! The evangelization of today’s world needs you to be open to charisms. Contemporary Man is in search of signs as were the Jews in Jesus’ time. Charisms are those signs, those gifts of the Holy Spirit that are given to you for the evangelization of our world. They are part of the promise that Jesus made: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and he will do even greater ones, because I go to the Father” (Jn 14:12).

The second important aspect is “to encourage the spiritual



deepening and holiness of persons who live the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit” (Art 3 § c). Here too, the communities that emerged from the Renewal have a special role to play. If the Holy Spirit raises communities in the Church - charismatic or not - it is to help their members to advance towards holiness. The founders and moderators of these communities have a great responsibility: they are chosen by God to lead a people to Him... and their first duty is to lead a holy life themselves. Unfortunately, recent history shows that this has not been always the case. The Church has suffered in different countries from truly unfortunate situations that have claimed innocent victims. In several cases, communities were involved. It is good that CHARIS, as a service, has dared to address these delicate issues of sex abuses and other abuses for the good of all communities. I ask you, as community leaders, to seriously address these issues, to correct what needs to be corrected in your habits that could lead to abuse, to take all the necessary preventive measures to ensure that such situations do not occur. We must not leave any space for the evil one to enter our

communities and ruin the work of the Holy Spirit.

I cannot encourage you enough to evangelize. The fruit of Pentecost was the first evangelization, with conversions by the thousands, and the birth of the Church. Everything I have just said in this intervention about baptism in the Holy Spirit, Christian unity, love in serving the poor, the exercise of charisms and the life of holiness is directed towards a single objective: evangelization. Your communities have been fully engaged in evangelization since their foundation. It is a gift for the whole Church. I encourage you to continue and intensify your missionary effort, especially with young people. I remind you of the Pope’s encouragement during the Pentecost vigil meeting in Rome: “Young people are the present and the future of the Church. I am pleased that you have given them a high profile and a chance to exercise the responsibility that is theirs.” The evangelization of young people is a priority for the Church, and I thank you for having already committed yourself to it. The Church is counting on you to reach young people where they are and to proclaim Christ to them: in schools, universities,

The fact that the Charismatic Renewal is a current of grace [...] is a little uncomfortable for us bishops. In carrying out our ministry, we find it easier to deal with a well-defined association or ecclesial movement, without the inevitable vagueness associated with a “current of grace”. Here, the Holy Father presents us with a real challenge: are we ready to accept that the Charismatic Renewal is a current of grace, a breath of rejuvenation for the Church through the work of the Holy Spirit? One day, the Holy Father, speaking at a congress of the Congregation for Consecrated Life in Rome, said that the Holy Spirit was the master of chaos. Yes, the Holy Spirit always brings forth new, often surprising things. “He makes all things new” (Rev. 21:5). [...] At the same time, I continue to quote the Holy Father, that the Holy Spirit is also the master of harmony.

Cardinal Farrell, Speech to the Brazilian Bishops - January 18

on the streets, in bars, wherever they are. Feel free to help each other as you did on the first day by sharing your experiences on evangelization. This evangelization of young people was at the root of Saint John Paul II’s intuition when he created the World Youth Day (WYD). I count on the support of all your communities for the next WYD, which will take place in 2022, in Lisbon, Portugal.

I have listed here some of the expectations that the Holy Father has with regard to CHARIS and with regard to the whole of Charismatic Renewal. He expects you to foster communion within the Renewal and in the Church, to promote ecumenism, to spread the Baptism in the Spirit among all the baptized and to deepen their spiritual life, to be at the service of the poor, to promote the exercise of the charisms in the Renewal and in the whole Church, to be always active and in the forefront in the evangelization, especially of young people.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, considers all the members and all the expressions of the Charismatic Renewal as cooperators in his

“Petrine ministry”. What the Pope asks of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, today and for the future, requires that it understand itself as a pastoral instrument in the service of the Successor of Peter. This means that we must enter with profound docility into an understanding that Catholic Charismatic Renewal does not belong to its members, but, rather, to the Church. This might surprise us: after all, the Renewal was not an episcopal or a pontifical initiative. Charismatic Renewal really has grown from the bottom up, from person to person, through a series of private initiatives, powered by the Spirit, like a forest fire pushed by a powerful wind.

When Pope Francis talks of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a “current of grace”, it reminds us of how the then Cardinal Ratzinger talked of the gift that has been given to the Church through the docility of Francis of Assisi. Yes, there are Franciscan orders and communities, but there is a spiritual current that envelops them and goes beyond them and which has become the patrimony of the whole Church. In the

same way, Catholic Charismatic Renewal has given birth to specific communities and institutes, but this current of grace goes beyond them, and does not belong to any of them. Pope Francis calls on the Renewal, therefore, to enter into an ever-deeper ecclesial maturity concerning its identity and its mission, and CHARIS is the instrument given in the service of this process of maturity. Catholic Charismatic Renewal, because of this ecclesial identity, receives the confirmation of its identity from the Pastors of the Church.

CHARIS will accompany the Renewal as it prays and strives to let the Holy Spirit come down again, as in a new Pentecost. To paraphrase Pope Francis on Pentecost Sunday 2017: The Spirit resting on each person and then bringing all together in fellowship, giving new gifts to each person and gathering all into unity, the same Spirit creating unity and diversity. It is in this logic that CHARIS will serve Catholic Charismatic Renewal, in the service of all expressions of Renewal, giving support, providing training and formation, helping in discernment, encouraging mission, and assisting those who serve, at all levels, to avoid the recurrent temptations of seeking diversity without unity and of seeking unity without diversity.

Please allow me to add some considerations specifically for those among you who are leaders in Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which I already mentioned in the last Pentecost meeting in Rome. I borrow several points from Saint John Paul II, speaking to people like you in 1981, for they help us understand how, within CHARIS, each of us is called to be a servant.

Firstly, “The role of the leader is, in the first place, to give the example of prayer [...] with confident hope, with careful solicitude, it falls to the leader to ensure that the multiform patrimony of the Church’s life of prayer is known and experienced by those who seek spiritual renewal”.

“Secondly, you must be concerned to provide solid food for spiritual nourishment through the breaking of the bread of true doctrine. The love for the revealed word of God, written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is a pledge of your desire to ‘stand firm in the Gospel’ preached by the Apostles” [...] Take care, then, that as leaders you seek a sound theological formation designed to ensure for you, and for all who depend upon you for guidance, a mature and complete understanding of God’s word. ‘Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another’ (Col. 3: 16-17)”.

“Thirdly, as leaders in the Renewal, you must take the initiative in building bonds of trust and cooperation with the Bishops, who have the pastoral responsibility in God’s providence for shepherding the entire body of Christ, including Charismatic Renewal. Even when they do not share with you the forms of prayer which you have found so enriching, they will take to heart your desire for spiritual renewal for yourselves and for the Church”.

One final point. Taking stock of what we have received and looking to what must be done for the future requires of us that we plan for a new generation of

leaders. One of the functions of good leadership is the capacity to plan for a time when others must come to the fore and, like the Precursor John the Baptist; we must diminish and make way (John 3: 30). In the Church, this is a requirement of good health, and this is why the Statutes of CHARIS include clear references to the renewal of our leadership teams. It is your responsibility to pay particular attention to renew the term of services. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis refers to various temptations among those who serve in the Church. Among other points, he talks of the challenge of providing young people with a sense of belonging in our communities and structures.

“Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another”
(Col. 3: 16=17)

He notes that the Holy Spirit “blazes new trails to meet their expectations and their search for a deep spirituality”, so the challenge for Catholic Charismatic Renewal is that of making our existing communities places where we allow young people to lead us forward in holiness and mission.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for all that your communities are doing for the service of the Church. It is the same Holy Spirit who has awakened all your charisms and guides the Church. The Holy Spirit is coherent. By working in your communities, he wants to

serve not only the Church but also the whole world. The vast majority of the members of your communities are lay persons who are deeply immersed in all the secular environments of our modern societies: work, schools, politics, culture and arts, sport. Men and women profoundly transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit can become the evangelical “leaven” that changes the society, makes it more human and more in conformity with the Kingdom of God. I encourage you to continue not to be too closed in on yourself. May your communities not be like fortresses protecting themselves from the world. On the contrary! Go into the world and proclaim the Good News to all your brothers and sisters. As our Holy Father says: “Let us go forth, then, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ... I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security” (EG 49). Do not be afraid of the world: you are in the world without being of the world. But you are not alone. Christ promised to all those who would obey his missionary command: “I am with you always, until the end of time” (Mt 28:20). So let us not be afraid. With Saint Paul, we can say: “I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me” (Phil 4:13).

Thank you for your generous service to your communities, to the whole of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and to the Universal Church. May the Lord always bless you and the Holy Spirit strengthen you in faith and unity. ♦

First International Conference for Charismatic Communities Leaders

Recife - Brazil



The First International Conference organized by CHARIS for leaders of Charismatic Communities took place in Recife (Brazil) last January 15th to 17th. About 90 Brazilian Communities and 31 Communities from outside of Brazil met for the first time, gathered by CHARIS.

Various members of the International Service of Communion attended the Conference as well, including Gabriela Marcia da Rocha Días, representative of Portuguese-speaking America.

The day before the Conference, January 14th, 90 Brazilian communities gathered to live a time of sharing and communion. This event was organised by the "Community Commission" of the CHARIS Brazilian National Service of Communion. Italo Fasanella, coordinator of this "Communities Commission", spoke of God's dream, which is communion and holiness for all. He urged participants to enter this dream of God, that is, to enter fully into His will. Katia Roldi, coordinator of the CHARIS Brazilian National Service of Communion, developed a sentence of Pope Francis during

the launch of CHARIS at Pentecost 2019: The Charismatic Renewal as a family.

The three days of the International Conference were very rich.

It is impossible to account here for all that was lived there. Those who wish can have access to all the talks on the CHARIS website.

However, here are some highlights:

After a day dedicated to the evangelisation of young people, the second day was devoted to abuses in the Church and in our communities. This delicate matter was introduced by Dr. Linda Ghisoni, undersecretary of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. She based her talk on testimonies which arrived at the Dicastery, enabling the participants to begin to understand how abuses can happen and what victims

experience. A heartrending talk, but it was only the beginning. Nelson Giovannelli, founder of the "Fazenda da Esperanza Community" and member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, shared the experience of his community which receives young drug addicts, the majority of whom have been abused. He introduced witnesses who shocked all the participants. All sexual abuses are primarily abuses of authority. How can we avoid such abuses in our communities? This was the matter developed by Jean-Luc Moens, the CHARIS Moderator.

On the last day, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, addressed the participants. You will find his talk in this Magazine (see p. 4) because he addressed many key matters for the Renewal



in the new step it is called to take, among which: the identity of CHARIS, ecumenism, the exercise of charisms, the call to holiness, evangelisation, young people...

Among the testimonies given, we highlight two testimonies from communities working or having worked in war zones, one in Ukraine, the other in Sri Lanka. These two testimonies closed these three days in apotheosis, showing how the Charismatic Renewal can invest, with the help of the Holy Spirit, in building peace and reconciliation.

On Saturday January 18th, Cardinal Farrell addressed the 64 bishops present.

Over the weekend, we celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the "Obra de Maria Community - Eis aí tua mãe" which hosted the Conference of Leaders in its headquarters in Recife. Thanks to the whole community for its welcome, helpfulness and availability which contributed to the success of this first conference. And happy birthday to the whole community! ♦





PAN AFRICAN CCR Leaders MEETING

The Charismatic Renewal leaders from 25 African countries met in Ghana, in the city of Kumasi, from January 30th to February 2nd. The meeting took place in the centre of the Ghanaian Charismatic Renewal, Adom Fie, which means “House of Grace”.

The delegations were made up of representatives of various expressions of the Renewal, present in the countries (prayer groups, communities, etc.). This meeting had been organised by the two African delegates of the International Service of Communion, Jean-Christophe Sakiti and Fred Mawanda. Unfortunately, the day before the Meeting started, Fred Mawanda's mother died. He had to leave to be with his family. Let us pray for him and all his loved ones.

This was the first time - since CHARIS has been launched - that leaders from across an entire continent were meeting under the aegis of CHARIS. Its moderator, Jean-Luc Moens,

was present. He was able to share the Pope's vision on the Renewal (see Cardinal Farrell's article in this issue) and answer all questions about the formation of the National Services of Communion. Several important elements have emerged: The first refers to the name of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In many countries, the structures called CCR are in fact only dedicated to prayer groups.

The participants of this meeting understood that it had to be changed. The Renewal is the whole “current of grace” of which prayer groups are obviously a key element, but it is better to speak of the coordination of prayer groups rather than coordination

of the Renewal. A second point held the attention of the participants: It is the formation of the National Services of Communion.

All participants showed great willingness to set them up, while asking themselves a lot of questions. Jean-Luc Moens answered all these questions (see also the guidelines in this Magazine). Given the great diversity of situations according to the various countries, he proposed to set up transitional NSCs until 2021. The role of these services is to begin to experience the novelty of CHARIS and to see how, in each country, things can be set up in accordance with the existing realities. After a year and a half, through

this experience, each country will be better able to set up a CHARIS National Service of Communion adapted to its needs. It is from these CHARIS National Communion Services constituted in 2021 that each continent will form its CHARIS Continental Service of Communion which will be a decisive step towards the constitution of the general assembly of CHARIS and the elections of 2022.

Many countries also wondered: what should they do with the existing statutes for the national network of prayer groups and how to transform them with the

arrival of CHARIS? Here too, the advice given is that of prudence. Statutes cannot be written until one sees how the CHARIS National Service of Communion works.

The role of these services is to begin to experience the novelty of CHARIS

The proposal, therefore, is to wait until 2021 to change the statutes and to operate in the meantime with the existing statutes. The meeting was filled with many times of charismatic prayer,

an opening Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Archbishop of Kumasi, Archbishop Justice Gabriel Yaw Anokye, and a closing celebration, presided over by Archbishop John Yaw Afoakwa, referent of the Ghanaian Episcopal Conference for the Renewal. One moment was particularly moving and symbolic: the eldest leader in the meeting was invited to pray for all the young people present. At the end, he gave them a lit candle, as symbol of the passing of the torch. The African Charismatic Renewal has decided to trust the young people. A new era is beginning in Africa! ♦



Guidelines for the Creation of a National Service of Communion



« Today one thing ends and another begins. A new stage of this journey is beginning. A stage marked by communion between all the members of the charismatic family, in which the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit is manifested for the good of the entire Church. A presence that makes each one equal, since each has been born of the same Spirit: great and small, old and young, engaged on the worldwide or local levels, all form a whole that is always greater than the part. » (Pope Francis, 8-6-2019)

To be clear, we have to agree on the terms we use. For this reason, we have added to these orientations a glossary. See pages 18-19.



With the inauguration of CHARIS, the constitution of CNSC stipulated by the Statutes is a priority.

With the encouragement of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, the CISC (CHARIS International Service of Communion) has prepared these guidelines to help to build the CNSC in each country. This document offers general orientations that can help the creation and the work of the CNSC. These orientations may be adapted with flexibility to the particular situation of each country. These guidelines have been prepared and approved by the CISC.

The CHARIS statutes establish basic principles for their formation in each country.

Art. 15. Functions

The goal of National Services of Communion is to build and strengthen the wide and diverse family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. They should therefore be as inclusive as possible and open to new and emerging realities. The model focuses on communion rather than government or structure.

Art. 16. Composition

National Services of Communion should consist of representatives from realities in the current of grace who identify themselves as a part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and who are seeking to build communion within the wide and diverse family of Catholic

Charismatic Renewal. This may include prayer groups, communities, networks, schools of evangelisation, religious institutes, publishing houses, particular ministries, ecumenical initiatives, youth etc.

For practical and statutory reasons, it is proposed to form a single CNSC per country (or per National Episcopal Conference), even in countries where different regions, languages or cultures coexist. This does not prevent them from forming sectoral services (for example by language or for a singular charismatic expression), Regional Services or Diocesan Service. But in any case, there should be only one CNSC per country.



Members of the International Service of Communion (ISC)

On this basis it is useful to build a minimum structure necessary to be effective in the communion and service to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and in announcing Jesus Christ.

1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The CNSC will:

- Be attentive to the pastoral needs of the different expressions, as well as to the new realities arisen by the Spirit; it will invite all of them to communion;
- Identify the different expressions or realities of the current of grace present in the country;
- Organize National (or regional) gatherings of the responsible persons of all the charismatic realities (See point 7 below);
- Offer training courses if required;
- Be in contact with international instances: CCSC

(CHARIS Continental Service of Communion), CISC and CHARIS office;

- Identify needs and provide information;
- Be a link between the country's current of grace and the Episcopal Conference;
- Help the formation of eventual regional or diocesan communion services;
- Organize the election of the next CNSC.

The CNSC is also in charge to put in practice the general objectives defined by the CHARIS Statutes (cf. art. 3 – in bold the three points that the Pope has strongly underlined - See, for example, the Pope message for the launching of CHARIS: Saturday June 8, 2019.):

- a) **To help deepen and promote the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church;**
- b) **To promote the exercise of charisms not only in Catholic**

Charismatic renewal but also in the whole Church;

- c) *To encourage the spiritual deepening and holiness of people who live the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit;*
 - d) *To encourage commitment to evangelization, particularly through the new evangelization and the evangelisation of culture, while respecting religious freedom;*
 - e) *To encourage cooperation between communities born from Catholic Charismatic Renewal, with a view making the experience of particular communities available for the good of all;*
 - f) **To promote the ecumenical dimension of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and foster the commitment to serving the unity of all Christians;**
 - g) *To identify and promote specific topics that can help deepen the grace of Pentecost;*
- (continued on pg. 20)

GLOSSERY

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal began in the Catholic Church in Pittsburgh in 1967 when a group of Catholic university students received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, experienced in the protestant churches since 1901. This experience of conversion renewed their faith and all their life and opened them to the gifts and the charisms of the Holy Spirit.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit quickly spread to millions of people around the world, helped by the spirit of openness initiated by the recent Vatican II Council.



CURRENT OF GRACE

The Holy Father Francis has defined the Charismatic Renewal, following the indication of Cardinal Leo J. Suenens, as “a current of grace”, composed of a diversity of realities or expressions (prayer groups, communities, ministries, associations, religious institutes, etc.). “It is called to warm up the whole Church so that all the baptized are renewed in the Holy Spirit. Why is the Charismatic Renewal such a current? This is due to its very identity. What characterizes the Charismatic Renewal is the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit. This experience can be received by any baptized person because it simply reflects baptism itself. [...] If the Holy Father has repeatedly asked the members of the Renewal – and especially CHARIS – to spread baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church, it is precisely because he is convinced that baptism in the Holy Spirit is a grace that every baptized person can and should live. It is an experience of a personal Pentecost, an irruption of the Holy Spirit into the life of the baptized person, accompanied by an experience of conversion and an encounter with the living Jesus. All this should be part of the normal life of every baptized person called to holiness. The Charismatic Renewal as a current of grace offers baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church (Cardinal Farrell, January 18th, 2020, *Address to the Brazilian bishops*, Recife).”

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a life-transforming experience of the love of God the Father poured into one’s heart by the Holy Spirit, received through a surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ. It brings alive sacramental baptism and confirmation, deepens communion with God and with fellows Christians, enkindles evangelistic

fervor and equips a person with charisms for service and mission (Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Jubilee Anniversary Edition, *Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS*, part I p.15).

REALITIES OR EXPRESSIONS

Realities or expressions are an indication of the diverse ways in which the Holy Spirit calls people and puts them together in this current of grace. The most common forms of gathering together are Prayer Groups, Communities, Ministries, Schools of evangelization, and Religious Institutes.

PRAYER GROUP

Prayer Groups are groups of people who meet periodically (in general, weekly) to pray together listening to the Holy Spirit and welcoming his charisms. Some prayer groups may have more than one meeting a week; they may develop ministries or apostolates.

These groups generally form an extensive network that coincides with the organization of the Church through diocesan and national coordinations. The membership of these groups is spontaneous and there is usually no formal record of them.

Prayer Groups are the most widespread expression of the CCR worldwide. They can be considered the basic and common cell of all forms of expression in the CCR. In addition to praying together, these groups take on a variety of missions.

NATIONAL NETWORKS OF PRAYER GROUPS

In many countries, the prayer groups are organized in a national coordination, sometimes called Charismatic Renewal coordination or National Team for the CCR. In this document, these structures are called “National Network of prayer groups” in order to avoid a confusion between the prayer groups structure and the whole CCR as a current of grace.

COMMUNITIES, COVENANT OR COMMITMENT COMMUNITIES

A Community is a group of persons having a fraternal life, residential or not, around a charism, with a characteristic emphasis or mission. To belong, members make a formal commitment sometimes called “covenant”. Membership is not limited to the development of the specific charism but also the incorporation into community life. The commitment or the Covenant can vary in length, duration and level of commitment. Often, they gather different states of life: lay people, single for the Lord, priests and deacons.

Some charismatic communities are born from prayer groups.

Many communities are canonically recognized as associations of the faithful by bishops, episcopal conferences or the Holy See.

MINISTRIES

A ministry is a service in relation with a charism exercised for the good of the Church either by a particular person (P. Emiliano Tardif had a preaching and healing ministry) either by a group of people who share the same charism.

h) To encourage networking and cooperation between realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the areas of formation, evangelization etc.;

i) To promote service of the poor and social action through Catholic Charismatic Renewal;

j) To organize training and formation opportunities, according to the needs expressed by the General Assembly;

k) To enable clerics and religious to deepen their experience of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to participate more fully in it;

l) To foster communion: among persons involved in various realities within Catholic Charismatic Renewal; with ecclesial movements that do not refer to this current of grace; and with other Christian Churches and Communities, especially those living the experience of Pentecost;

m) To organise major events, colloquia, leader's gatherings, in order to share and exchange the various experiences flowing from the Holy Spirit.

2. All the expressions of the CCR have to be represented in the CNSC. It is advisable to prevent the CNSC from exceeding 15-20 members.

If the Episcopal Conference designates a bishop or a priest to attend the current of grace, he accompanies the CNSC in its meetings and in the meetings it organizes.

3. Communion between the different expressions of the CCR is at the center of the CHARIS Statutes. This communion does not prevent each expression from retaining its independence and its own associative form.

The CNSC is a service for this communion. It is not a government. It is important in the same time to promote the possibility of communion and ensure that the services currently provided can last and even expand. For this reason, all the charismatic expressions represented in the CNSC will continue to provide their services maintaining their specificity.

4. CHARIS Statutes also promote a renewal of leadership. That is why it limits the duration of each mandate to three years (renewable only once) and includes spaces for young people at different levels of representation.

We strongly recommend that these orientations be reflected in the creation of the CNSCs.

5. The continental representatives of the CISC (Statutes art. 9) supervise, accompany and assist in the formation of the CNSC.

6. The CHARIS Statutes speak about the inclusion, as much as possible, of all the realities or expressions of the current of grace present in each country. For this integration, it is important that the creation of the CNSC's be made according to the following objective and transparent criteria:

6.1 Each reality has the same dignity, "no one member is more important than another neither in virtue of age, intelligence or ability, for all are beloved children of the same Father" (Pope Francis, June 8th 2019)

6.2 For a practical reason, it is impossible that each single reality have a representative in the CNSC. But, the CNSC must ensure that each form of expression is represented.

6.3 In countries where there are no other national expressions known than the prayer groups, the national network of prayer groups provisionally becomes the CNSC and is charged to investigate if there are other charismatic expressions which could participate.

6.4 The criteria for the representation of each different reality depend on each country and must be transparent. It will take into account:

- Nihil Obstat, approval or recognition of the competent ecclesiastical authorities.



Members of the CHARIS National Service of Communion Spain (CNSC)

- Each reality identifying itself as part of the current of grace through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- Communion with charismatic expressions.

6.5 A reality should not be represented twice; if a reality is attached to a network or movement already represented in the CNSC, this reality should not have another representative.

6.6 Each CNSC chooses a coordinator from among its members. He or she is not in any way responsible for the current of grace in his or her country, but coordinates the communion.

6.7 All members of the CNSC, including the coordinator, are volunteers.

7. National (or regional) gatherings of the responsible persons of all the charismatic realities

All expressions of the Charismatic Renewal of a country cannot physically participate in the CNSC's meetings but all are invited to participate in the **National (or Regional) Meetings for leaders of the expressions of the Charismatic Renewal** prepared by the CNSC, according to the needs of communion, formation and mission in the country. These meetings are a privileged place to build and live the communion that the Holy Father asks: "With one heart, returned to the Father, witnessing unity in diversity: diversity of charisms that the Spirit has raised in these fifty-two years. 'Lengthen the ropes of the tent' we read in the prophecy of Isaiah (54.2), so that everyone can dwell in it as members of a single family. A family where there is only one God and Father, one Lord Jesus Christ and one Spirit of life" (Pope Francis, June 8, 2019).

8. A CNSC may be required to write statutes for civil or canonical recognition in the jurisdiction of its country. In this case, these Statutes must be approved by the CISC to assure the coherence with the spirit of the CHARIS statutes.

TRANSITORY ARTICLE

If the establishment of the CNSC is in need of a special adaptation time, it can start with the creation of a transitional CNSC until 2021. This transitional CNSC will be in charge of identifying all the charismatic expressions of the country and organizing national meetings for the leaders of these realities of the Charismatic Renewal, to arrive in 2021 to the constitution of the final CNSC, with a term of three years. This will allow the organization of the elections for the CISC and the CHARIS Moderator in 2022, as provided by the Statutes.◊

CHARIS National Services of Communion

The CHARIS National Services of Communion (CNSC) are being set up all over the world. We publish here those that have been communicated to us. Some of these CNSC are transitional services (see *Orientations, transitional article, p. 19*). We will continue to publish in the next magazine the CNSC of your different countries of which we will be aware.

CNSC ITALY



Ciro Fusco (*Coordinator*), Anna Leonetti, Corrado di Gennaro, Daniele Casetta, Domenico Novi, Griselda Ciclista, Mariano Benzi, Mario Landi, Matteo Calisi, Mauro Loreti, Mirko Pettinacci, Roberto Ricci, Sara Ferretti, Thulio Fonseca, Silva Vincenzo Genovese, Don Pasquale di Dio, Alessandro Ruoi, Alessandro Fusco, Carmen Franzese, Francesco Casadei

CNSC USA



Msgr. Joe Malagrecia (*Coordinator*), Ron Riggins, Walter Matthews, Katia Arango, Marie Joséée Joseph, Bob Canton, Fr. Anthony Ouellette, Fr. Francis Chung, Bob Thornton, Chuck Hornsby, Jane Guenther, Oscar Serrano, Jessica Navin, Paul Dinolfo, Fr. Bob Hogan

CNSC SCOTLAND



Teresa Lally (*Coordinator*), Carol Masterton, Greg Swanney, Margaret Farrell, Elizabeth Danby, Anne Hendry, Michael Jordan, Shirley Ogilvie, Ged Farrell, Teresa Lally, Bishop John Keenan, Bishop William Nolan, Maria Bartlet

CNSC GUATEMALA



Jorge Mario Marroquín (*Coordinator*), Nelson Martínez, Víctor García, Ely de Monterroso, Víctor Álvarez, Cupertino Castro.



CNSC QATAR

Dexter Carreon (*Coordinator*), JensilD'silva, Sunil Cerejo, Rey, Nick Bonus, Vinod Silva, Sunita Mascarenhas, Maria Sonia Wilma, Mahesh Perera, AdithReyes, Art Bargo, Bernie, Neil Rutor, Augustine Fernandes, Rashmi Cerejo, Joseph Mangio; Fr. Rally Gonzaga (*Spiritual Director*)



CNSC INDIA

Joy Antony (*Coordinator*), Stephen Bernard, Ajin Joseph, Verghese Joseph, Shaji Scaria, Mervyn Luis, Mary Prakash, Sr. Paulina Melite MSMI, Vargheese Ittera, Robin Dias, Philmon Ekka, Elias Lyngdoh, Fr. VV George, Bishop Francis Kalist (*Episcopal Advisor*), Cyril John



CNSC PHILIPPINES

Arcadio Tamayo (*Coordinator*), Mars Catan, Nestor Mangio, Jun Cruz, Fe Barino, Jing Mendoza, Lina Eusebio, Annie Corpin, Shok Ariola, Fr. Bart Pastor, Archbishop Jose Palma (*Episcopal Adviser*)



CNSC PANAMA

Sergio Calderón (*Coordinator*) Itzel Galván, Carlos e Itzel de Rivera, Edwin Gutiérrez, Noel Peñafiel, Anayansi Bustamante de Peñafiel, Lisandro Solano, Luis Rodríguez, Eduardo Smith, Rodis Martínez, Lourdes de Tamayo, Lelia Lombardo, Angélica de García, María Jesús de Kam (Susy de Kam) P. Alberto Narváez, Wilbert Toruño



CNSC IVORY COAST

Séraphin N'Dattien (*Coordinator*), Davide Dougnon, Anthony Acka, Angèle Morrisson, Berger Roger Ango, Clément Tuho, Père duple, Paul Adoh, Véronique Adou, Guillaume Koffi, Daniel Bolou, Boris Kouame, Ble Cyrille Debroh, Ghislain Lattes



CNSC SRI LANKA

Ranjana Kaviratne (*Coordinator*), Indrani Perea, Nihal Fernando, Marie Dissanayake, Rev. Fr. Robinson Wijesignhe, Dr. Delryn Waniagaratne



CNSC SPAIN

Oscar Puebla (*Coordinador*), Mª Carmen Rubio, P. Lázaro Iparraguirre, Montserrat González, Mª Carmen Rosa Gito, Lourdes Magallón, Alejandro Bo Andreu



CNSC INDONESIA

Ronald Moniaga (*Coordinator*), Pastor Steve Winarto, Fransiskus Eric Wijaya, Endie Raharja, Eleine Magdalena, Maria, Budi Huang, Tenoyo, David Adinata

CNSC FRANCE

Cathy Brenti (*Coordinator*), Mgr Hervé Gosselin, Mgr Thierry Scherrer, P. Xavier Jahan sj, P. Jean-Christophe Meyer, P. Patrick Sempere, Yannic Cossiez, Brigitte D'Artemare, Marianne De Boisredon, Bernard Decotte, Chantal Devot, Monique Graessel, Marc Hodara, Julie Le Rouge De Guer David, Etienne Mellot, Jean-Paul Perez, Claire Pécout

CNSC UAE

Dr (Br) Joseph Lukose (*Coordinator*), Br Regi Xavier, Br Clinton Joseph, Br. Arockiaraj, Br Joe D'Silva, Ruby Prakasham, Rev. Fr. Victor Prakash

CHARIS YOUTH TESTIMONIES

“What has changed the formation you received in your life?”



I am 23 years old and have been brought up in a Catholic family attending Catholic retreats and festivals my whole life. I wanted to attend the Charis Leadership Institute to enter into a time of formation to help with my movement towards leadership within the Church, in whatever capacity that presents itself in the future.

My experience with the CHARIS Leadership Institute was an enriching and joyful time, filled with inspiring teaching and a deepening of my relationship with Christ. I received so much

from the lessons but also from visiting the beautiful and prayerful sights in and around Rome which allowed for us to spend time in personal prayer and reflection.

The structure of the days when we were in teaching were manageable and had a time for lessons, for praise and worship, for social time and also for daily mass and adoration. I feel like my roots have been deepened from my time in Rome and I would recommend attending this formation programme if you are looking to grow in leadership

and an understanding of the Holy Spirit. I was also able to meet some incredible leaders within the worldwide church who I am sure I will be in touch with for a long time. It was so life-giving to be able to pray with these people every day and by the end of the 3 weeks I felt as though I had gained a new family.

- Emmanulle Toone, *England*



At the time of writing this article, almost four months have passed since the end of the CHARIS Leadership Institute 2019. It has been three weeks of blessings in Rome for us, along

with many great leaders from around the world. We have been able to share with people from the heart of CCR from different countries. We got a first-hand glimpse of the Renewal and were able to see where it is in the world today. And the speakers gave us insights into the challenges that lie ahead.

We understood why the Holy Spirit initiated the Renewal.

This grace is not only for us, nor only for our communities and prayer groups: the Holy Spirit wants to spread this current of grace throughout the Church. We have understood that the Holy Spirit, through the CCR, opens a new and almost forgotten door for the whole Church. It is not a question of a new spirituality, but of the renewal of true Catholicism by rediscovering how the Holy Spirit transforms and sanctifies us.

- Mišo Lukenda and Josip Bilandžija, *Croatia*



FIRST CHARIS TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

CASA DIVIN MAESTRO (ARICCIA-ROMA)

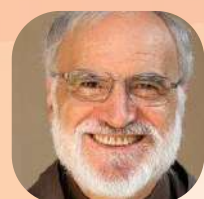
DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY, THIS COURSE IS POSTPONED TO 2021 WITH DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This first course organized by CHARIS for young people is part of the mission entrusted (to it) by Pope Francis to share and deepen his Baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the Church, giving space above all to the young people who are the “now” of God, as the Holy Father’s appeal in June 2019.

The course is addressed to those who are part of or have undertaken a journey in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and will deepen above all the aspects that distinguish us by focusing on: Baptism in the Spirit, Christian unity, service to the poorest, etc.. We care that young people are listened to, accompanied and prepared to be the future leader/servant of the Church and neighbor.

SPEAKERS



FR. RANIERO CANTALAMESSA
Preacher to the Papal Household and CHARIS Ecclesiastical Assistant.



IRONI SPULDARO
A Brazilian charismatic for more than 30 years, he uses the gifts from the Lord over the world: the ministry of healing, knowledge, prophecy, etc.



JOE TOSINI
A lover of unity and founder of John 17 Movement.



FR. ETIENNE VETÖ
Priest, professor of Theology and member of CHARIS International Service of Communion.



GIULIA RANCAN
Youth representative in the CHARIS International Service of Communion.



JEAN-LUC MOENS
CHARIS Moderator.

2021 SPONSORSHIP

CHARIS offers the possibility to take advantage of a discount of up to 200€ per person to young people who are unable to cover the total cost of the course, thanks to a SPONSORSHIP (fruit of the donations that we trust will arrive).

Whoever is interested please write to:
events@charis.international

DEAR FRIENDS,

CHARIS is organizing this first course in response to the request of the Holy Father who, on the occasion of the first CHARIS International Conference at Pentecost 2019, asked the whole Charismatic Renewal to give visibility and trust to young people.

With the launch of CHARIS we live a new stage and the invitation addressed to all of us is to feel responsible to accompany the new generations so that together we can follow the path traced by the Holy Spirit for the whole family of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

HELP US TO SUPPORT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE

Many young people wish to participate to this important week of training, but not everyone has the opportunity to cover the costs of the course as well as the travel.

Aware of this obstacle, we are launching a campaign: “help a young person realize his dream”. Our goal is to collect at least 20,000 €, this will allow us to lower our costs. If we collect 10,000 € we can make a discount of up to 200 € for 50 young people (the most difficult ones). If we collect 20 000 €, we can further help young people from the poorest countries.

Our appeal is addressed to all those who recognize themselves as part of the Grace Stream and who care about the training of future leaders for the RCC. We believe that it is worth to invest in the formation of future leaders who can announce even more with the power of the Holy Spirit in the world.

You will find on the last page of this magazine our bank details to make your donations.

We already thank you for your generosity and your prayers for this prophetic formation.



Giulia Rancan
Youth representative of the International Service of Communion

For more information, please visit our website: www.charis.international

Registration now open

Claire Émérentienne Fichfeux

A charismatic youth, simple and joyful, living her life in the odor of sanctity...

God First



Born on October 9, 1986, in France, Claire was adopted by a family of the Emmanuel community when she was 9 months old. She was affected by the handicap of trisomy 21. Encouraged by her family (one sister and six brothers), she quickly chose to live with tenacity and courage, until she became at the age of 22 a civil servant in the catering trade at the Arsenal in Toulon (France). At the age of 18, when her sister Marie got married, she painfully understood that she would not get married. Over the years, she discovered that her life could have a meaning, that she could know another Love and give herself to its measure. We read in her notebook, 6 months before her sudden death: "My decision is to adore more often and to take the Lord as my spouse and to love like Jesus to the end. "Jesus took her at her word. On May 24, 2014, she entered into the immortal joy of the royal wedding feast.

Claire Émérentienne was joy!

That doesn't mean that she didn't have mood swings or a few sulks. But her bottom line was joy, a joy that allowed her to go through various trials: discovery of the consequences of her trisomy, the departures and marriages of all her brothers and her beloved sister, serious illnesses of her parents. If she could withdraw into herself, she knew how to bounce back. Beyond the spontaneous joy, there was a deeper joy in the very midst of difficulties.

Her Family

Claire was extremely happy in her family: her sister, her

brothers, brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, her many nephews and nieces! Claire who had been "abandoned" became the beating heart and memory of the family. If she perceived any tension, she managed to bring them closer together (she had several strategies) in a great burst of laughter.

Her charismatic life

Claire received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at the age of 15. She treasured the paper on which some brothers had written the words received for her during prayer. She was radiant. She lived her outpouring as a very important

step in her desire to grow and "become adult" (as she said) both humanly and spiritually. She always had a simple and very charismatic expression of faith without fear. She liked to take the microphone and lead the charismatic praise. During times of prayer, she always had the right words from God. She also exercised with determination a strong charisma of prophecy and words of exhortation. What most impressed those who knew her was her natural sense, greatly increased by the Holy Spirit, of compassion for those who suffer. She perceived them very quickly and came to console them with great delicacy.

Her compassion

Claire, who was adopted, had a great fear of abandonment. She would say to her father, often absent and travelling, a "I miss you" that would bring tears to her eyes. It took her a long time to be sure of the Love of her family, of God and of others. When she was finally established in trust, she was able to trust and pray for others. Thus, she was "caught up" in intercession. She did not let go of her intentions! Her great sensitivity to suffering and her love of Jesus led her to have a compassion close to the charism. She had antennas and went without knowing anything to those in need.

Her love for the Eucharist and Adoration

Claire went to mass every Sunday. She would sit in the front row. She wanted to see the priest. She wanted to see God. She learned to worship with her family and her community. In adoration, she saw her Jesus and simply without our usual human respect, she touched the monstrance and kissed Jesus. At the age of 7, she convinced a 20 year old, very sceptical about the real presence, that it



was JESUS. Instant conversion ! We noted what she said one day: "Lord, thank you for the adoration, for the chance we have to pray to you here. We believe in you. You are present in this host. You are here among us. Show us your glory. We want to see you."

Her great secret

Claire soon discovered that the Church was her family, the one where she was loved and where she was given Jesus. As soon as

she met a priest she would kneel down and ask for his blessing, and then she liked to slip into his ear "you are my favourite". In the last months of her life she experienced a strong and visible spiritual ascension and was able to detach herself from her overly emotional attachment to the priests close to her and one day she confided to us her great secret: "Parents, I understood. I want God to be first... even before the priests!"

Jacques and Marie-Hélène

There is talk of opening a beatification process for Claire Émérentienne. If you receive graces through her, please send your testimony to the following address:

claire.intercession@gmail.com

Hope Does not Disappoint

FR. RANIERO CANTALAMESSA



During the general audience transmitted by video on Wednesday, March 11, referring to the Coronavirus crisis, the Holy Father exhorted the faithful of the whole world to face the situation “with strength, responsibility and hope”. Let us try to give meaning to each of these three provisions.

Strength. Let us listen to the Word that God addresses to his People in a particular moment of trial as if it were addressed to us today: “Not by power, nor by might, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zac 4:6). This does not exempt us from putting into action all human resources and precautions, but it assures us that we are not alone in our struggle. God is never so much Emmanuel, God-with-us, as when we are in trial. In such a moment, let us also cry out to Jesus like the apostles in the storm: “Lord, don’t you care that we perish?” He awaits our cry so that his intervention may be at the same time the fruit of his grace and of our faith.

Responsibility. Let us not think only of ourselves, of taking shelter, possibly even at the expense of others. Let us think of the consequences that one of our actions or

omissions may have. This situation offers us a unique opportunity to remember that we are one family and “members of each other”. A true captain does not abandon ship until all those for whom he is responsible have been rescued. This is the selflessness that so many doctors and caregivers have shown in such magnificent ways, but which has been exemplified above all else by our Saviour who “offered himself to death for all of us. »

Hope. The most beautiful contribution we can offer our brothers and sisters as people of the Charismatic Renewal is this: to keep alive the theological hope, the hope that “does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom 5:5). In the name of the Moderator of CHARIS and of the whole International Service of Communion, as ecclesiastical assistant, I address to all the brothers and sisters of the CCR the wish that the Apostle addresses to the faithful of Rome: “May the God of hope give you joy and peace in your act of faith, so that hope may abound in you by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rm 15:13).

The CHARIS offices in Rome are temporarily closed until 3 April to comply with the Italian government’s order asking all citizens to stay at home as much as possible. Each member of the staff therefore continues to work from home. You can always reach us by email. We entrust ourselves to your prayers.

COVID-19 PRAYER CAMPAIGN

A request from the Moderator of CHARIS

Dear friends,

The Christian world mobilizes everywhere to intercede for the end of the coronavirus epidemic. Our Pope celebrated a Mass for this intention on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. and entrusted the protection of the whole world to the Mother of God.

CHARIS also launched a worldwide prayer campaign asking all members of the Renewal of the whole world to intercede for the end of the coronavirus epidemic, to heal the sick, to save the souls of the victims of this scourge.

Jesus healed the sick with the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us all turn to the same Spirit whatever our country, whatever the reality of the Renewal to which we belong. Let us unite our prayer that the current of grace that is the Renewal may intercede with one voice in communion.

We remind you that we propose to pray every day until the end of the epidemic the sequence of Pentecost in which the Church prays for the healing of the sick followed by three “Hail Marys”. Those who want it can also fast for this intention.

Let us ask with faith that the Holy Spirit may descend upon our wounded world and manifest the Father’s tenderness for all men and women who suffer. With Pope Francis, we ask Mary to extend her maternal mantle of protection over all men.

I ask you to continue to spread this call to prayer as widely as possible, and I thank from now on all those who join or will join us for this campaign of intercession.

In union of prayer,

Jean-Luc Moens
CHARIS Moderator

Sequence to the Holy Spirit

*Come, Holy Spirit,
send forth the heavenly
radiance of your light.*

*Come, father of the poor,
come, giver of gifts,
come, light of the heart.*

*Greatest comforter,
sweet guest of the soul,
sweet consolation.*

*In labor, rest,
in heat, temperance,
in tears, solace.*

*O most blessed light,
fill the inmost heart*

*of your faithful.
Without your grace,
there is nothing in us,
nothing that is not harmful.*

*Cleanse that which is unclean,
water that which is dry,
heal that which is wounded.*

*Bend that which is inflexible,
fire that which is chilled,
correct what goes astray.*

*Give to your faithful,
those who trust in you,*

*the sevenfold gifts.
Grant the reward of virtue,
grant the deliverance of salvation,
grant eternal joy.*

Amen.

Concerning the coronavirus epidemic, the Pope said: However, I would not like this pain, this very strong epidemic make us forget the poor Syrians that are suffering at the border between Greece and Turkey: a people suffering for years. They must flee from war, from hunger, from sicknesses. Let us not forget our brothers and sisters, the many children that are suffering there.”



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I WISH TO SUPPORT THE SERVICE THAT CHARIS PROVIDES TO THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL WORLDWIDE, AND BECAUSE I AM A PART OF THIS CURRENT OF GRACE, I HAVE DECIDED TO COMMIT MYSELF MORE CONCRETELY WITH MY FINANCES SO THAT THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHARISMATIC LIFE CAN FLOURISH WITHIN THE CHURCH.

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