

## IN THIS ISSUE

**The Gift of Priesthood** – *Bishop Joseph Grech*

**ICCRS Financial Report 2009** – *Cyril John*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**12/09 — 18/09**  
**Steubenville, USA**  
ICCRS Leadership  
Training Course

**26/9 — 02/10**  
**Buenos Aires,  
Argentina**  
ICCRS Leadership  
Training Course

**07/11 — 14/11**  
**Abuja, Nigeria**  
ICCRS Leadership  
Training Course

**29/06 — 06/07, 2011**  
**Townsville, Australia**  
ICCRS Leadership  
Training Course



**As priests we are called to bring the people who are the church and who are also the bride, not to ourselves but to the bridegroom: to Jesus.**

# The Gift of Priesthood

■ **Bishop Joseph Grech**

The “Year for Priests” promulgated by Pope Benedict XVI is coming to a close. It will officially end on June 19, 2010. This year has given us the opportunity to reflect and think about the ministry of the priest. This has come at a very opportune time. We have become more aware of the strengths and giftedness of many priests. We have also become more conscious that priests are not immune from sinfulness and frailties.

What is the essence of the priesthood? I need to go to the Bible. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews has this to say, “Every high priest is taken from among men and is appointed to act on their behalf in relationships with God” (Heb 5:1). In the first place it is evident that priesthood is a call. It is a particular vocation with a very specific ministry in the church. The particular ministry of the priest entails him being the link between God and the people; to intercede on behalf of the people. What does this mean in practice?

There is a very insightful story in the Book of Genesis, Chapter 24 which can help us to understand this. Abraham was getting on in years and he realised that his son Isaac was not yet married. He desired to see him settled. So one day, he sent for one of his most trusted servants and asked him to go to the land of his ancestors

in order to find a wife for his son. How is he going to achieve this?

When he arrived in the town where Abraham came from he sat beside the village well towards the evening and he prayed. “Yahweh, God

of my master Abraham, give me success today and show faithful love to my master Abraham. While I stand by the spring as the young women from the town come out to draw water, I shall say to one of the girls, ‘Please lower your pitcher and let me drink’ and if she answers, ‘drink and I shall water your camels’ let it be the one you decreed for your servant Isaac” (Gen 24:12-14).

This is precisely what happened. Rebekah whose father Bethuel was a relative of Abraham came to the well and when the loyal servant asked her

for a drink, she also volunteered to give water to the camels. The servant was invited to stay at Rebekah’s house and he related to her father and brother the precise nature of his mission. He spoke so well about his master that Rebekah felt very comfortable and ready to leave her family to meet her future husband even though she had never met him before.

The role of the servant was very definite. He had to bring the bride to the bridegroom. He could have easily been tempted to keep the bride for himself. After all, the Bible tells us that, “The girl was beautiful and a virgin, no man had touched her” (Gen 24:16). Yet he remained faithful to his mission. This is also the mission of the priest. As priests we are called to bring the people who are the church and who are also the bride, not to ourselves but to the bridegroom: to Jesus.

This is an awesome vocation. Our call as baptised people is to change the world based on the values and principles of Jesus. Our call is to help all people to live a truly balanced and fulfilled life based on the teaching of Jesus and of His church. We cannot do this on our own. It is too hard and difficult. We need the life giving presence of Jesus to animate, nurture, empower and enable us to live up to this call. Through his ministry as a servant leader, the priest is called to make present the power and the touch of Jesus Christ so that we can all continue this mission of Jesus.

The role of the priest is to enable and empower the church (the people) to be what it is supposed to be, the people of God. His role is at the service of the whole church enabling all the members of the church to live fully their baptismal dignity that is to participate fully in the mission of Jesus as priest, prophet and king. The priest is to enable all baptised to be priestly in the sense of being guided to worship God and to spend time with God in prayer in every circumstance of our lives; to be prophets in the sense of being encouraged to speak, live and act according to what is true and right and to reject everything that is contrary to the mind and heart of Jesus; to be king in the sense of being of service to others following the example of Jesus.

How is the priest going to achieve this? In the first



### The Gift of Priesthood *(continued)*

place, by conforming himself to the mind and heart of Jesus. This requires time for prayer, for personal reflection, for reading and for being familiar with the Word of God and with the teaching of the church. God's work needs God's Holy Spirit.

The celebration of the daily Eucharist and the other Sacraments is another vital way enabling the priest to exercise his ministry. However, "Do this in memory of me", does not only entail the call to continue to celebrate the Eucharist. It also entails living the Eucharist, to be the Eucharist. Jesus literally broke his body in service to others. We are asked to put our life on the line too, even to the point of death in order that others might live with dignity.

The preaching of the Word is also a powerful means to teach and to inculcate in the hearts of our people the desire to fully embrace their mission. The Scriptures contain the story of our lives. In the Word of God we find God's plan for each one of us. As priests we are called to help our people interpret what is happening in their own lives and in the world around us according to the life—giving presence of Jesus contained in His Word. Whenever God speaks, hearts are changed, minds are uplifted and souls become inflamed. As priests we are called to expound and break open the Word of God in such a way as to achieve these results.

I thank God for all the priests who in spite of

difficulties, disappointments and anxiety are powerful witnesses of the Resurrected Lord. I thank God for so many of our people who support priest by their generosity, wisdom, kindness, care and prayer. Priests and lay people committed to their particular vocation in the church and firmly bonded by our faith in Jesus Christ are a very tangible witness which cannot fail to touch the lives of many for the better.

I urge many of our young men to pray and to seriously consider a vocation to the priesthood. I am more than happy to help in any way I can. Contact me at [chancery@sand.catholic.org.au](mailto:chancery@sand.catholic.org.au)

In this spirit let us pray for all priests,

*Bless them in their ministry.  
Empower those hurting or confused,  
nurture the lonely, refresh the fervent,  
enthuse the hardworking  
and accompany closely the sick and the dying.*

*May they continue to love like you,  
to think like you, to feel like you,  
to understand like you  
and to speak like you.*

*May our mother,  
Nurture in the hearts of all priests  
the same love that you have  
for your son Jesus.*

Amen



## ICCRS Financial Report 2009

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I thank all those who have generously contributed to support the work of ICCRS on behalf of the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I consider it important that we place a brief report about the financial position of ICCRS before you to ensure transparency and accountability.

The following are some highlights relating to the financial position of ICCRS in the year 2009:

### Income

Our total income for the year, from January to December, 2009, was 143,120 €. It included 61,317 € received as donations from ICCRS Sub-Committees and National Service Committees (NSCs). Donations from individuals, groups and communities amounted to 47,871 € whereas response to Hope Sack appeal was only 9,341 €. Special appeal for funds including sponsorship for ICCRS staff generated 13,763 €. The ICCRS International Event in Kkottongnae brought in a surplus of 63,771.30 USD. On the other hand the ICCRS Newsletter, books and material incurred a deficit of 3,928 €.

### Expenses

We took stringent measures to control expenditure at ICCRS. As a result, expenditure for the Council members and meetings

was 1,931 € less than what was budgeted. There was a saving of 2,940 € in office and administrative expenses. Even on the Newsletter there was a saving of 3,520 €. Despite all our efforts, on account of the increase in costs, the total expenses for the year came to 199,082 €, which exceeded the budget by 2,082 €.

### Present Position

Despite the deficit, ICCRS was able to carry on its operations only with some surplus it had from the previous year. The surplus generated at the ICCRS International Event at Kkottongnae, South Korea was a timely help. In order to carry on the service of ICCRS to the worldwide Renewal, we need generous and sacrificial offerings, support and prayers from every one of you—the Sub-Committees, NSCs, communities, groups and individual donors.

### Please support ICCRS

Through financial assistance, you have helped ICCRS to continue its important mission in the Church. Please continue to help us in 2010 and thereafter. I pray that Almighty God will bless all those who generously responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to support ICCRS through contributions and prayers. May you be enriched in every way for your great generosity! (2 Cor 9:11)

**Cyril John** CHAIRMAN OF THE ICCRS FINANCE COMMITTEE



## Assisi 2010

### Intercession Event


■ May 19–23, 2010

It was with great joy and expectation that around 300 participants from 40 countries came together in Assisi to participate in the special *Road to Pentecost* ICCRS intercession event. The programme was varied and included inspiring teachings, reflecting the different continental perspectives on intercession. There were informative workshops covering various aspects of intercession plus many special prayer times.

There were several highlights of our time together, such as, the Pentecost Vigil where we all gathered together to pray for a new out-pouring of the Holy Spirit for ourselves, the Church and the world. Then people continued to pray before the Blessed Sacrament throughout the whole night. When Pentecost morning arrived we all gathered together in one place to give God thanks and praise, then we marched out into the streets of Assisi in a special ‘parade of the nations’. The streets were full of joy and colour as we praised and worshiped God in a variety of languages. We then joined the Bishop and many people from the Diocese who were gathered together in a large tent for a special Pentecost mission. The Bishop invited us to share in the liturgy by singing some charismatic songs and he spoke about us being a living reflection of what actually happened on the first day of Pentecost.

We have a sense that this special event on intercession was just the beginning of what the Lord is calling ICCRS to do regarding the call to intercession. We are currently discerning the next steps that are necessary in order to further encourage and promote the need for strong intercession at local and national levels. We also hope to offer some further ICCRS events on intercession and work towards forming a global network for intercession.




We are building on this year's experience by offering another Assisi 'Road to Pentecost' event in 2011 where the special focus will be growing in the Charisms. Please note the dates now and further details will follow; 8th–12th June 2011 plus optional pilgrimages on 12th–15th June 2011. 

## One Day Retreat

### for Bishops, priests, seminarians, and friends of the CCR

■ June 8, 2010

The Saint John Lateran Basilica in Rome, provided a magnificent environment for the special one day priest's retreat which ICCRS co-hosted with the Catholic Fraternity. Around 500 people gathered together for praise and worship which was animated by *Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo Italy*. This was followed by a powerful exhortation delivered by Bishop Joe Grech from Australia. He began by reflecting upon three aspects from the life of St. Francis — his preaching, his prayer and his poverty. Then, using many Biblical examples and personal testimonies, Bishop Joe went on to highlight the role and mission of the priest in today's world. Bishop Mauro Piacenza, the Secretary of the Congregation of the Clergy shared a meditation before leading into a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Lunch proved to be a beautiful time of fraternal fellowship as the priests and participants adjourned to a nearby marquee and shared together informally over a catered lunch. In the afternoon we were encouraged by Fr. Tom Forrest who shared his own personal experience of living the joyous call to the priesthood for over 50 years. The priests were then led in a very deep time of ministry by Fr. Kevin Scallan and Sr. Briege McKenna. Sr. Briege shared a very stirring prophetic word for all the priests. We hope to print the text of this in a future newsletter. The day drew to a close with a beautiful Eucharistic celebration presided over by Cardinal Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. It was a great joy to gather together with Charismatic priests from all over the world as they began their retreat time in Rome with the Holy Father. 



Visit **[www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)** or e-mail **[events@iccrs.org](mailto:events@iccrs.org)** or call us at **+39 06 6988 7126** for more information.

*Take strength from the grace which is in Christ Jesus. Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses, so that they in turn will be able to teach others.*

## 2 Tim 2:1-2

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is a way for ICCRS to help foster leadership in the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In partnership with local Charismatic realities, ICCRS provides this week-long programme that will call and empower new leaders as well as strengthen and encourage current leaders.

## September 12–18, 2010

Please feel free to contact Franciscan University's customer service staff by phone at **+00 740 283 6314** for more information, or register today at **<http://www.franciscanconferences.com>**

■ **September 26—October 2, 2010**

Please feel free to contact Mr. Pino Scafuro by e-mail at **[pinoscafuro@yahoo.it](mailto:pinoscafuro@yahoo.it)** for more information.

■ November 07-14, 2010

Please feel free to contact Dr. Isaac Urlorolo by e-mail at [ehaleoye@gmail.com](mailto:ehaleoye@gmail.com) for more information.

## June 29—July 06, 2011

Please feel free to contact Trudy Clarke by e-mail at [trudy.clarke4@bigpond.com](mailto:trudy.clarke4@bigpond.com) for more information.

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FEATURED IN THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP FORMATION

### Intercession: Spiritual Warfare during Ministry – Cyril John

## Love in Action: Healing – Robert Canton

## What is Resting in the Spirit? – Questions to the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission



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