

## The Family: the world's heritage

■ **María Eugenia F. de Góngora**

In 2005 the Holy Father Benedict XVI said: “The family is the world’s heritage”<sup>1</sup>. Because it is very valuable, it is the heritage. It must be sheltered, protected and placed in a privileged position since it represents the accumulation of more important assets. Truly this is family to society, to humanity. If we want to know how the society in a country is, just ask how its families are. Do they live in love and high moral values? If so, it will certainly be a country that reflects what it lives and owns. It will be healthy, safe, peaceful and have a good atmosphere for living, where a person is loved and respected.

Sociologically we have learned that the family is the cell of society. If the cells are well, the body will be well, but if the cells are sick, the whole body will reflect the imbalance.

### In the Void

Currently we witness that the holy sacred institution of the family is being fiercely attacked. Many have fallen and others have been lethally infected, similar to an ill person who cries out for treatment in emergency, because otherwise, they will die. The attacks —of every kind— are carefully orchestrated, so as to hit the mark and mortally wound its target. This is tragic, as if there is not a protective barrier, the family is totally exposed to the enemy’s fiery darts. And God’s enemy, knowing that he cannot harm Jesus Christ —who has definitely defeated him at the cost of His blood on the Cross of Calvary—, is perfectly conscious of being able to attack each of his children, who God loves most.

When a family is destroyed, the damage is collective, since it does not affect a single person but a community or, as the Magisterium says, the Domestic Church (cf. LG 11; FC 28). Parents and children are then left adrift, exposed to the devil’s hands, to fall into sin. They are left open to the many titillating temptations he offers that are locked in “the ‘me’ generation”. Its strategy: “divide and conquer”, which opposes: “in union there is strength”.

What strength subsists when plunged into the trap of division and individualism? What shelter is there without God’s unity and love? None!

Bordering on extremes is a way to distort the role and mission of the family, which begins with the union of a man and a woman in the sacred bond of Matrimony. An example of this is to call



‘marriage’ the union of two people regardless of their sex. As we know, in some countries, homosexual couples can freely adopt children... What can young people learn from that? What identity will they possess? What concept of family will they gain? And in reflection with what grounding will they raise their own families? What will be the world’s future? This is exactly the domain from which will come great saints or most wicked criminals.

God created people to only live one way. There is no other! The family is the wonderful gift conceived by God, where new lives are generated, life is respected, shelter for the human being is given, and is also promoted and trained. A true model is the Family of Nazareth, where the parental care of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary — Mother of Jesus and our Mother — are abundant: “The child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom” (Lk 2,40).

### Only on the rock

It is not enough to find a band-aid or an analgesic (painkiller) that externally heals when the infection is inside. With easy solutions we will get results that are easy, immediate and superficial. Treatment should be open heart, deep; it may hurt but it is necessary. Only God can, and wants to do this. He wants to take out the stony heart and give us a heart of flesh (cf. Ez 36:26), a heart that is sensitive and open to His love and forgiveness. A new heart where the Spirit of Jesus dwells.

The Lord is waiting for the families. He is the father to the prodigal son who returned home tired, starving, broken. The stray son who let himself be dazzled by the paths of the world and yet returned home where he was always meant to be. We could not find words to describe the wonderful feeling he relished in the warm arms of his father. He surrounded and embraced him with so much love and showered him with kisses —healing kisses and hugs. He also restored all he, his son, had lost and returned the inherent

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**A true model is the Family of Nazareth.**



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## The Family: the world's heritage (continued)

dignity of the human person.

While the humble and brave son headed for his father, we, naively, often do the opposite. We intend to fix a broken car at the florist's, get rid of a toothache at the mechanic, repair a water leak by calling a painter; we madly look for the immediacy. Many of us fall for this! We look for the solutions in the wrong places. The only salvation for the family is to head for and surrender to God, besides Him there is no salvation.

"The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock" (Mt 7:25). It is decisive: sand or rock, to resist or fall with the arrival of rains, storms, even hurricanes! Only the family that is founded on the rock can withstand all kinds of attacks. H. H. Benedict encourages us to "lay the life's foundations on the Rock of the Word which is Jesus Christ himself"<sup>2</sup>. 

<sup>1</sup> Opening speech to the V Latin American Episcopal Conference.

<sup>2</sup> XII General Assembly, Synod of Bishops on the Word of God.

## ICCRS Council Meeting 2011

The 2011 ICCRS Council Meeting was a great blessing from the Lord for us. It was held in Rome on March 21-26, right after the Colloquium on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. At this meeting, the new councillor for North America, Denise Bergeron from Canada, participated for the first time.

### Visions and priorities for the CCR

The crucial aspect of this important meeting was the long and deep reflection and prayer on the vision and priorities for the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) and international future events in preparation for the Golden Jubilee in 2017.

Among various challenges that the Renewal has for the upcoming years, the need to *increase* is, in many ways, the one that we cannot delay: to increase numerically, by promoting the Baptism in the Spirit and the Life in the Spirit seminars; to increase our influence in the world, by spreading more and more the Culture of Pentecost; to increase our "charismatic" identity, by deepening our "vision"; to increase our maturity, by working a lot in the area of formation of our leaders.

From this reflection, the Council prepared a proposal to be presented as a vision to the entire CCR working towards the year 2017. The plan is only a suggestion of broad focus areas with the goal, not to impose anything but to create a commonality among the worldwide Charismatic family: the different regions of CCR can work on their specific themes, trying to include them in the broad worldwide vision. There will be three bi-annual stages:

### 2012–2013 · Focus on the Identity of the CCR

Key words for this stage: Fire starters + *Martyria* + Renewal + Baptism in the Holy Spirit + Evangelization. Biblical reference: Rom 12:1-2. ICCRS International events: International event for youth in Brasil in 2012; possible large ICCRS Council in Jerusalem in 2013.

### 2014–2015 · Focus on Maturity of the CCR

Key words for this stage: Keeping and spreading the fire + *Koinonia* + Charismatic + Formation. Biblical reference: Jn 4:14. ICCRS International events: International Charismatic event in Uganda in 2014; Worldwide Priests Retreat in Rome in 2015.

### 2016–2017 · Focus on Influence of the CCR

Key words for this stage: Flaming the flame + *Diakonia* + Catholic + Culture of Pentecost + Mission and Evangelization. Biblical reference: Lk 4:19. ICCRS International events: CCR Golden Jubilee in Rome in 2017.

### ICCRS Formation

After considering the success of the Level 1 (LTC: Leadership Training Course) and Level 2 (LFI: Leadership Formation Institute) of our formation programme, the Council, through deep and specific reflection, established a strategic plan for a Level 3: a graduate course with some qualification/accreditation. This will be a charismatic and academic formation course. The project is to work towards establishing a University of the Holy Spirit for practical Pneumatology.

An "Ad hoc group" has been created for this purpose. This group will work on specific programs, collaborate with universities in the world, establish bursary funds, and so forth.

### Elections and new collaborations for the ICCRS Council

Sheny de Góngora from Guatemala (currently CONCCLAT President) was unanimously re-elected for a second term as councillor for Spanish speaking Central and North America. Marcos Volcan from Brasil (currently CONCCLAT Vice-President) was unanimously re-elected for a second term as councillor for Portuguese speaking Latin America. With them, replacing our beloved Bp. Joe Grech, the Council elected Ann Brereton from Australia as councillor for Oceania.

Allan Panozza completed his role as Council Advisor. We officially thank him for his long service to ICCRS, first as Councillor and President, then as Advisor. His presence has been a great blessing from the Lord.

Dr. Mary Healy from USA was unanimously chosen to be the official Chair of the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission for the next two years. Jim Murphy was re-appointed as Director of the ICCRS Leadership Formation (Level 1 and Level 2) for three years.

### Finances

The Council approved unanimously the financial budget for 2011 and also agreed to support some Charismatic projects from our Project Fund. The special donation given to ICCRS for HIV aids was also allocated: around USD 20,000 to the Medical Clinic for HIV in Haiti; USD 3,176 to the House of Love for HIV in Uganda.

### Next Council meeting

The Council Meeting is confirmed on July 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil.

Praise the Lord with me for He is good, powerful and merciful. Alleluja!

**Oreste Pesare** ICCRS DIRECTOR 

About ICCRS:

# The ICCRS Ad hoc Committee for the Family

■ María Eugenia F. de Góngora

In 2009 our Lord Jesus Christ inspired and gave the Ad hoc Committee for the Family to ICCRS. It is a commission of vital importance, since the family is the base, not only of the society, but also of the Holy Church. We see every day that the Family is a very strategic target to be attacked and torn down, because it carries very heavy repercussions on humanity. Here is where the future is at risk. If each family does not contribute with its whole being and to the mission, the great human family will not work either. This is a strong and great concern for the Council, which humbly wants to support and encourage the family so that the Family Pastoral care is encouraged to have a greater commitment and effect through the various structures of the CCR.

The contribution that the CCR can give each family is educate them and encourage them to live a new Pentecost. With that, each becomes a true Domestic Church, and thus, they actually live the life in the Spirit, that is, life of love. In other words, they live the Culture of Pentecost. On different continents and in many ways the CCR serves this pastoral need, with the creativity that the Holy Spirit gives as a grace. This is witnessed by thousands and thousands of families who

have found the true meaning of life, who have discovered the most wonderful and important Person. They have found the living Jesus Christ through the CCR.

Only in this way its core mission can we discover our. The Ad hoc Committee for the Family promotes to be a place to exchange experiences in order to enrich each other, also a meeting point where people can organize and harmonize activities that mutually edify us and allow us to meet to celebrate fraternally as families who serve our Lord, who have lived the experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and at the same time fervently long to announce and pass onto the families of the world this Good News, thus, bring to them this experience of life. They also seek to increase their service by communicating the news emanating from the Pontifical Council for the Family.


We are very confident as we commend this Committee to your prayers. The challenges are big, but we are confident that the Holy Spirit will guide us. We also have at our service, a specialist family lawyer, Most Holy Mary, for she is always taking care because when the wine runs out, she continues to lovingly whisper in our ears: "Do what He tells you." 🏠

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Organized by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Spain

Tell the world I'm  
**ALIVE**

*"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14:6)*



**WYD 2011 MADRID**

Pre-WYD Festival  
August 17th, 2011, 18:30h  
Plaza de España - Madrid, Spain

www.rccejovenes.es

## Pre-WYD Festival: Tell the world I'm ALIVE

*"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (Jn 14:6)*

■ August 17, 2011

On the occasion of the World Youth Day 2011 that will take place in Madrid, Spain, the Spanish Catholic Charismatic Renewal is organizing an evangelizing prayer-concert called "Tell the world I'm ALIVE". It will be offered to young people from all nations, within the framework of the Youth Festival that will be held from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of August.

This prayer-concert will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 18:30 in Plaza de España, Madrid.

All nations are invited to come and/or pray for this event. Follow the updates at [www.rccejovenes.es](http://www.rccejovenes.es)



In His Name, all the nations will put their hope.

July 10th to 15th, 2012 (Jn 12:21)  
Foz do Iguaçu/PR - Brazil

ICCRS

## World Youth Meeting

*"In his Name, all the nations will put their hope." (Mt 12:21)*

■ July 10 – 15, 2012

Catholic Charismatic Youth from all over the world have a common destiny in 2012. In their mission of spreading the Culture of Pentecost, they will gather in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. From July 10th to 15th, they will show to the rest of the world that their hope lies in just one name: Jesus. This will be the World Youth Meeting of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the first event with the proposal to bring together the youth of the Movement from different parts of the globe.

The event is part of the preparation for the CCR Golden Jubilee, in 2017. 5,000 young people are expected for the event, representing more than 100 countries. The event programme will include preliminary activities. The participants can have missionary experiences with the Brazilian CCR, the missions such as "Jesus on the coast", evangelization at the universities or the Amazon Project.

In the daytime, the meeting will be marked by prayers, talks, worship, teachings and Masses. During the nights, participant countries will be offered opportunities to exhibit cultural and artistic presentations. Youth will be also invited to have a different experience with Foz do Iguaçu's natural beauties.

Registration will be available in September. We will launch a special website soon.

# NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Please, send us news from your Group, Community or NSC to [newsletter@iccrs.org](mailto:newsletter@iccrs.org)

## Changes at the ICCRS Office

We thank Stephano Suh, from USA, for serving the Lord through the ICCRS Office for more than two years. Now we welcome Jhorman Pérez, from Venezuela, who takes his place as a designer and webmaster. We invite you to pray for these brothers and all the ICCRS staff who donate their time and their lives to serve the CCR worldwide. **If you are interested in coming and serving at the ICCRS Office, please send an e-mail to [director@iccrs.org](mailto:director@iccrs.org) with your CV and a photo.** 🏠

## Bp. Joe Bursary Fund

Following a suggestion from friends in Melbourne Australia, ICCRS have now launched a special fund in memory of Bishop Joe Grech. We all know that Bp. Joe was a strong believer in the need for deep ecclesial formation. Therefore, it seems appropriate that we should have a fund especially set aside to help provide people in need with some bursary help towards the costs of their ICCRS formation. This fund was officially launched at the end of the ICCRS LTC in Townsville and we received the first donation from the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Melbourne which was actually founded by Bp. Joe. The fund will remain open for one year. Donations can be made in Australia through Melbourne CCR, or paid directly to ICCRS specifying that they are for the bursary fund.

We loaded on our website a video that shows an interview with the beloved bishop during the Year of the Priests in 2010, the last year of his life on Earth. During the interview, he explains the way he received the Baptism in the Spirit, as a testimony of this powerful grace for his life and ministry. We are glad to share it with you at [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org). 🏠

### ICCRS FORMATION

Leadership Formation Institute (LFI) & Leadership Training Course (LTC)



## IV LFI Rome, Italy

■ September 4 – 24, 2011

ICCRS will be offering its IV Leadership Formation Institute programme. It is a three-week intensive course near the very heart of the Church in Rome, Italy.

Classes will include studies in Scripture, Ecclesiology, Pneumatology, Mariology, Kerygma, CCR, Leadership and Ministry. Students will be offered practical teaching and workshops on various aspects of ministry within CCR. In addition, the students will go on several field trips to Christian sites, and dicastries of the Roman Curia. People of all ages delegates from charismatic organizations worldwide are invited to have a growth experience in leadership within the CCR.



## LTC Lomé, Togo

■ January 22 – 29, 2012

■ Jean-Christophe Sakiti → [jsakiti@yahoo.fr](mailto:jsakiti@yahoo.fr)

## LTC Singapore

■ June 10 – 16, 2012

■ Jessica Francisco → [gerard\\_jess@singnet.com.sg](mailto:gerard_jess@singnet.com.sg)

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

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

## ICCRS International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services

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