

# NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Christmas 2012

Papal Christmas Blessings to you all



The Pope's Christmas Hat

The Pope wearing the *camauro*, a fur trimmed, red velvet hat that had been worn since the 12th century but hadn't been donned by a pontiff since 1963, and giving his blessing.

# The Year of Faith and the New Evangelization

**Michelle Moran. President of ICCRS**

Vatican II highlighted the vocation and mission of laity and Catholic Charismatic Renewal is one of the ecclesial movements in the Church that was birthed in the slip-stream of the second Vatican Council. Indeed, the Church is looking to all the ecclesial movements to actively play their part in the Year of Faith. To this end, the Pontifical Council for the Laity, has urged the movements to exercise their particular charisms. The movements are schools of faith that have the capacity to build solid Christians. The faith needs to be taught again but also lived in a new way. Many movements emphasize the need for personal conversion and when we live a life orientated towards on-going conversion we take on a new personality. There is then a unity between life and faith.

The Year of Faith provides Catholic Charismatic Renewal with an opportunity to invite as many people as possible into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. One of the ways that we can do this is by more widely promoting the Life in the Spirit Seminars and by doing all that we can to invite new people to participate. The Seminars are meant to be the launch pad for a life in the Spirit that is grown and nurtured in the Christian community, ideally the prayer group. In order to grow to maturity we all need the support and guidance of a community. So again the Year of Faith prompts us to build stronger communities, places of belonging that can both strengthen the faith of individuals and be a dynamic witness to those around. So during this special year it would be good to reflect on the quality of life in our prayer groups. Are we growing in faith? Is there a deep sense of *koinonia* community, where we seek to have “one heart and mind” and are always ready to love, respect and forgive each other? How are our prayer groups reaching out to those around us through witness and service?

We can also use this special year as an opportunity for a spiritual check up and commit ourselves to going deeper in our faith. The Year of Faith gives

us a wonderful invitation to re-visit some of those Vatican II texts that have been so important in our growth and development. Alongside this the CCC is a rich treasure chest to both nurture and enlighten our faith enabling us to present an even more credible witness of faith to those around us.

*Excerpted from an article of the same title in the ICCRS Leadership Newsletter for October-December 2012. You can find the entire article at <http://iccrs.org/en/index.php/blog/comments/nl12-05>*

## **Jesse Romero at the National Conference**



The keynote address at the National Conference earlier this year was given by Catholic evangelist Jesse Romero. Romero inspired the attendees with a rousing talk. Exerpts of it can be found here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzmfXXL8V7U&feature=youtu.be>

The sound begins at about the 30 second mark. The excerpt is about 10 minutes long.

## First Worldwide Charismatic Youth Encounter

The Encounter was in Brazil and went from July 10 to 15 of this year. This event was sponsored by **ICCRS**, and hosted by the Charismatic Renewal of Brazil. The theme was **“In Jesus all the nations will put their hope”**.

The Encounter attracted over 6,000 youth. The housing was simple but the enthusiasm was tremendous. Of the attendees, 48 were from the USA.

The Encounter focused on several important areas:

**1. Mission:** As can be seen from the theme, the entire Encounter centered around evangelizing the world. The aim of the Encounter was to mobilize the youth of the Renewal to be witnesses to Jesus in all circumstances of life. The Renewal of Brazil is engaged in developing a sustained outreach to universities. So far they have prayer groups in over 700 universities. There is an effort to take this “Renewed Universities” outreach to other nations.

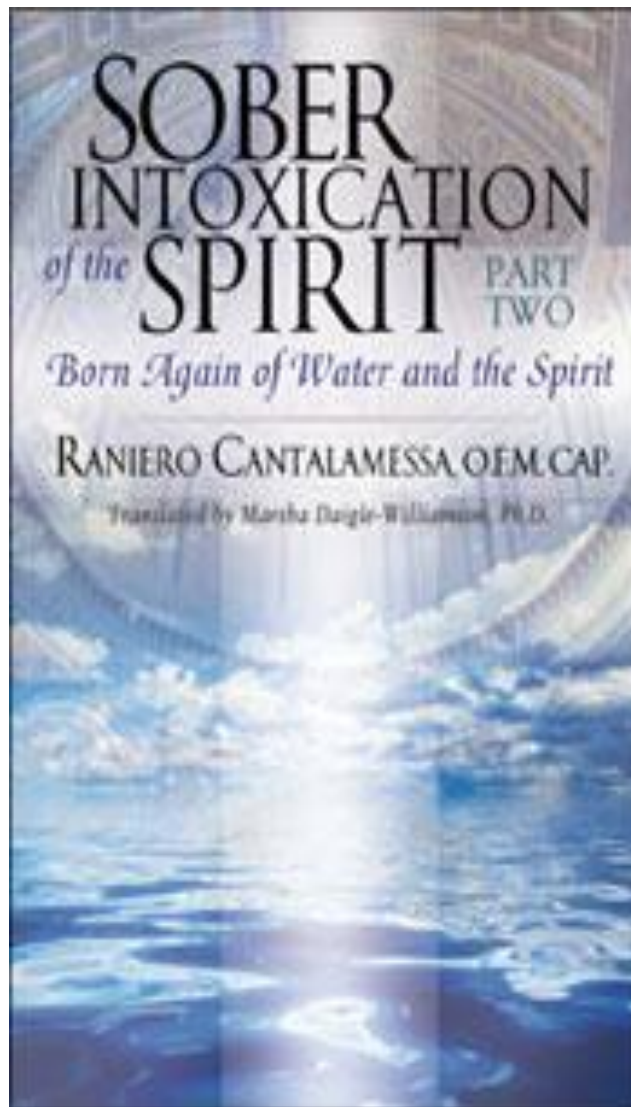
**2. Church involvement:** The Renewal in Brazil has a significant number of clergy involved, including bishops. The Encounter was very Catholic with strong elements of the Church’s sacramental, doctrinal, Marian, and Eucharistic life.

**3. Gospel values:** Speakers clearly challenged the young people to not only be excited about witnessing to Jesus, but to do so with holy lives. Patti

Gallagher Mansfield, from the USA, called all the young people to chastity and radical Gospel-living.

Overall, it was a very successful and inspiring event.

## New Book from Fr. Cantalamessa



Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher to the Papal household, and longtime leader in the Renewal, has a new book. It is *Sober Intoxication of the Spirit, Part Two: Born Again of Water and the Spirit*. The focus of the

book is to encourage people to keep on living in the Spirit and challenges the Renewal not to end in the flesh what was begun in the Spirit.

This book is a follow-up to his earlier book, *Sober Intoxication of the Spirit*. Like the earlier book, this is a collection of various talks given by Fr. Cantalamessa. They all focus on ongoing conversion, our transformation in faith, and our need to always focus on eternity. Cantalamessa says that baptism in the Spirit renews the sacramental birth of baptism, and is “a conscious awareness and a powerful experience of its meaning and its potentialities.” “We need to discover what we have become in baptism in order to understand what we ought to do in life. Our duty flows out of who we have become: If we live by the Spirit, we should walk by the Spirit

He challenges leaders not to “end with the flesh” what was begun in the Spirit. To “end with the flesh” can be a regression into “a certain *ritualism*” – “of ‘domesticating’ the charismatic renewal and the Spirit himself.” It can be a “focus on externals. I mean an excessive preoccupation with our external image.” Another way to “end with the flesh” “is the temptation to want to do everything ourselves instead of seeking and trusting in the Lord.

The book is available from Renewed Life Media:

<http://www.renewed-life.com>

1-800-348-2227