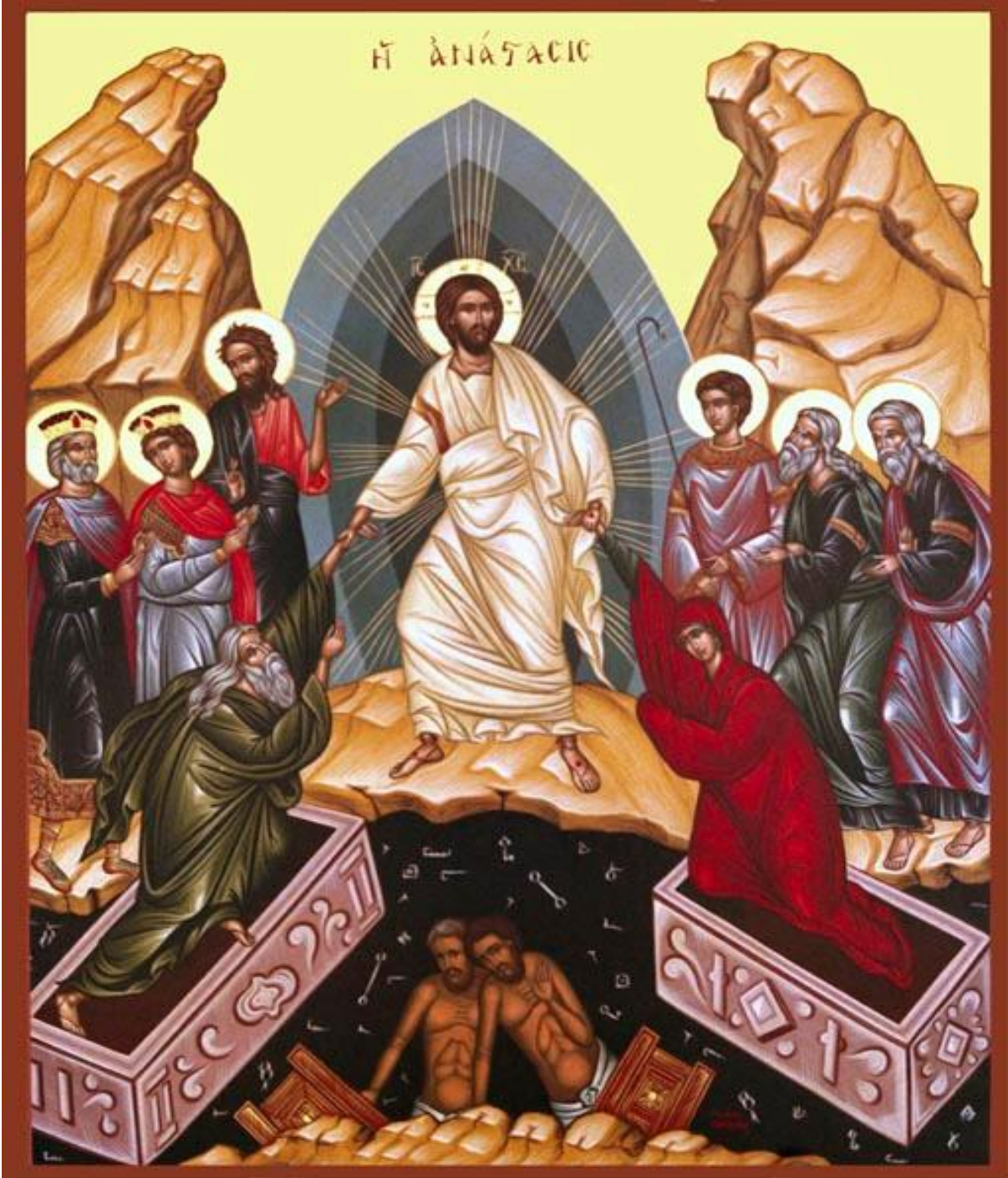


# NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

## EASTER 2012



# **Pope Benedict on the Holy Spirit**

**World Youth Day 2008**

"The Holy Spirit is God eternally giving Himself; like a never-ending spring He pours forth nothing less than Himself. In view of this ceaseless gift, we come to see the limitations of all that perishes, the folly of the consumerist mindset. We begin to understand why the quest for novelty leaves us unsatisfied and wanting. Are we not looking for an eternal gift? The spring that will never run dry?"

"Dear young people, we have seen that it is the Holy Spirit Who brings about the wonderful communion of believers in Jesus Christ. True to His nature as giver and gift alike, He is even now working through you. Inspired by the insights of St. Augustine: let unifying love be your measure; abiding love your challenge; self-giving love your mission!"

"Let us invoke the Holy Spirit: He is the artisan of God's works", the Pope concluded. "Let His gifts shape you! Just as the Church travels the same journey with all humanity, so too you are called to exercise the Spirit's gifts amidst the ups and downs of your daily life. Let your faith mature through your studies, work, sport, music and art. Let it be sustained by prayer and nurtured by the Sacraments. . . In the end, life is not about accumulation. It is much more than success. To be truly alive is to be transformed from within, open to the energy of God's love. In accepting the power of the Holy Spirit you too can transform your families, communities and nations. Set free the gifts! Let wisdom, courage, awe and reverence be the marks of greatness!"

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**Be Faithful to Your Calling!**

**Christof Hemberger**

*The following article is taken from the March-April 2012 ICCRS Newsletter. You can find the website and article at:*

[http://iccrs.org/images/uploads/newsletters/NL12-2/NL12-2\\_En.pdf](http://iccrs.org/images/uploads/newsletters/NL12-2/NL12-2_En.pdf)

Soon the CCR will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Such times are a good opportunity to look back. Usually at anniversaries, people ask themselves questions like “did I reach my goals?” and “what did I achieve?” What are the questions we shall ask as groups, communities and individuals that belong to the CCR all over the world?

I think it is good and wise to look at the beginning of the CCR and its roots: What is the nature, the identity of the CCR? I personally think this is one of the most important questions we can ask and we all should reflect on it. If we don't know our identity well, we do not live it as we should. If we do not live it, we are in danger of neglecting or losing it. God chose us and gave us a calling. If we do not live it, who will?

What is the identity of the CCR? What does the CCR has in common all over the world since the beginning?

A personal relationship with the living God.

My life turned upside down when I experienced God in a personal way—many others have experienced the same! God is a personal God; He is interested in us and wants us to live in His fullness! It is his desire to lead and guide us in our daily life, as well as to help us understand our full calling in His Kingdom. It is essential we remind ourselves and our groups of this truth and the need to live it!

Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the use of the charisms.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit and CCR go together like a horse and carriage! The charisms always go along with the baptism in the Holy Spirit and therefore are a fruit of our encounter with the living God. In some regions, we see people getting hesitant towards the charisms. I would like to encourage you to live a full life in the power of the Holy Spirit and to use the charisms wherever and wherever you can! God entrusted them to us to build His Kingdom and to reach out to His people! This is power evangelization! We must not keep them as a hidden treasure, but as well used tools in our ministry and daily life!

**Call to grow in holiness.**

**As disciples of Christ we are called to grow in holiness—not through our own human deeds and strength but through power of the Holy Spirit. The results of this transformation are the signs of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Gal 5:22), a deeper love for the word of God and a deeper commitment to serve the Lord wherever He calls us, especially to serve Him in His Holy Church.**

**There is more . . .**

**There is much more! I could mention the areas of “praise and worship”; the fact that the CCR started to spread all over the globe by sharing the lived experiences with others (“mission”); the “ecumenical dimension” from the very beginning; the “special call for the young generation” (it started among students...). In every nation there may be even more stories that are part of our history and roots.**

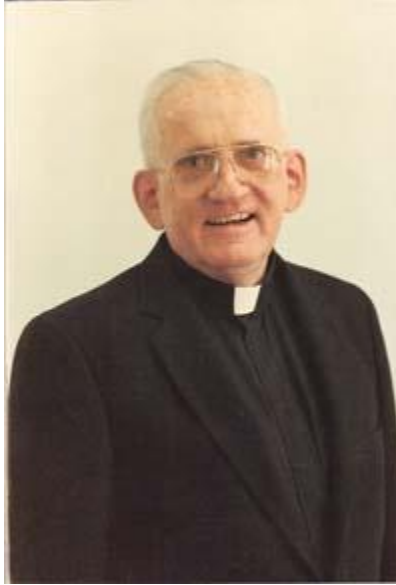
**And now?**

**I would like to encourage you all—individuals, groups and communities—to reflect occasionally about our roots and our identity. Are we faithful to what the Lord has called us? Are we still discerning His mission or have we grown complacent? Do we pray regularly for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our groups? Do we teach about and use the charisms, or do we only know about them? Do we live according to the call God gave to the CCR, make a difference in our society, and renew the Church? We will shine like a city on a hill when we live according to our calling! Let us to focus again on what the Lord entrusted to us.**

**If we don't, who will?**

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## Fr Tom Forrest



Many of us remember Fr. Tom Forrest who was very active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and later in promoting world evangelism wherever he could. Fr. Tom is retired and living with his Redemptorist community. However, he does still go to conferences where he preaches the gospel and prays with people. Here are some videoclips of him.

The first is entitled “My Personal Pentecost”. You can access the clip here:

<http://vimeo.com/5546509>

The second is a talk on evangelism he gave at a conference in Boston in 2010. You can access it here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwejFiHynus&feature=related>

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## Upcoming Events

To keep current with the events planned ahead please check out the link at the website. Here it is:

<http://www.archdpdx.org/ccr/events.html>

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