

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

EASTER 2013

HABEMUS PAPAM FRANCISCUM!



"I am a great sinner. Trusting in the mercy and patience of God, in suffering, I accept."

Pope Francis' words to the Cardinals on accepting his election as Pope.

As we all know, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was recently elected Pope. And as we also have heard, he is bringing a new style and tone to the papacy. He is the first Pope from

outside the Western world and this will have a dramatic effect on the focus of the Church in the years ahead. The concerns of Catholics from Latin America, Africa, and Asia will now come to the fore. And it's only fitting as they make up about 70% of Catholics worldwide. While Cardinal, Pope Francis was a supporter of movements in the Church including the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He is also a strong supporter of ecumenism, particularly with Pentecostals and Non Denominational Charismatics. As Cardinal, the Archbishop of Buenos Aires was pastor to the CCR in Argentina and in 2010, he approved the Statutes for the Renewal in Argentina which state that the Renewal is a current of grace.

Here are some photos from a major Charismatic Renewal Conference in Buenos Aires several years ago.



Cardinal Bergoglio being prayed over by the leaders present. Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the Papal household is on the left in the Franciscan habit. Directly behind Cardinal Bergoglio is Charles Whitehead, former head of ICCRS and long time leader in the English Catholic Charismatic Renewal.



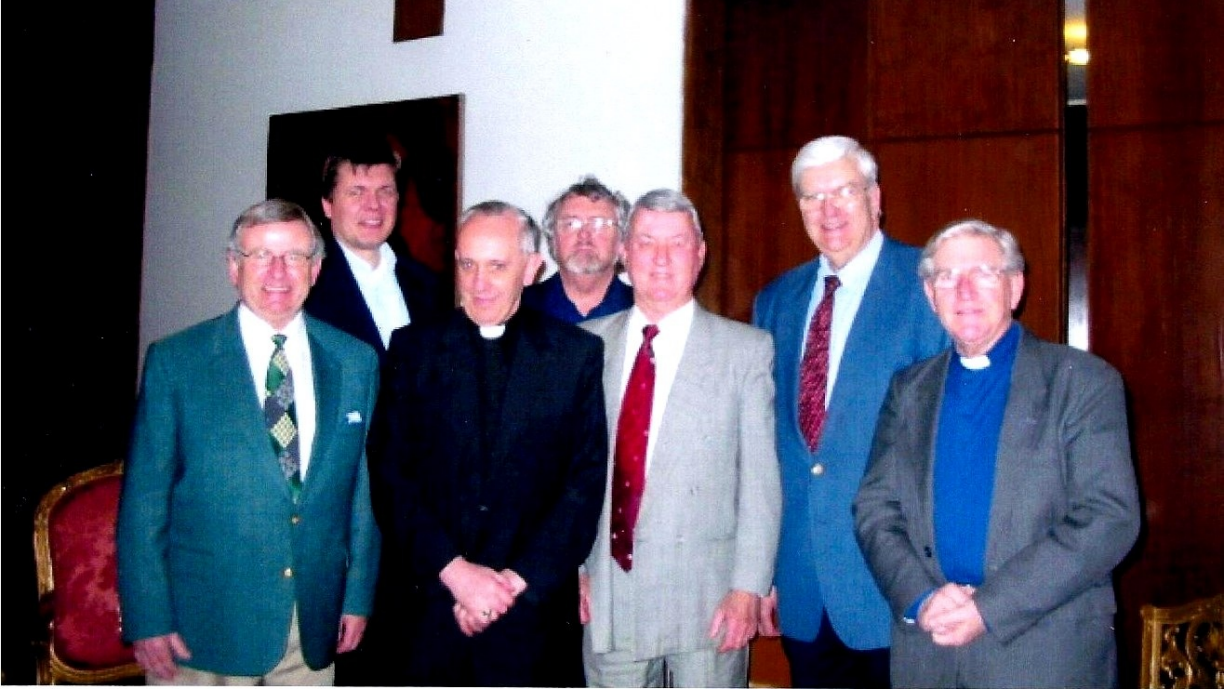
Cardinal Bergoglio preaching at the Conference. You can see his simple attire.



Bergoglio sitting in the stands with the regular folks during the conference. He looks like just another priest.



*Cardinal Bergoglio with some of the women leaders present at the conference.
On the right is Dorothy Ranaghan, and second from right is Sue Whitehead.*



Cardinal Bergoglio with leaders at the Conference. Charles Whitehead is on the left. Kevin Ranaghan, long time leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the USA, and also former head of ICCRS is second from right. Ranaghan and his wife Dorothy had the first formal Catholic charismatic prayer meeting in their apartment in South Bend, Indiana in 1967. He and his wife Dorothy were co authors of "Catholic Pentecostals", a seminal work for the Renewal in the early years.

POPE FRANCIS IN HIS OWN WORDS

"And this is the first word that I want to tell you: 'Joy!' Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy that comes from having many possessions, but it comes from having encountered a Person, Jesus, who is among us. It comes from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them! This is the moment when the enemy comes, when the devil, often times dressed as an angel, comes and insidiously tells us his word. Don't

listen to him! Follow Jesus! We accompany, we follow Jesus, but above all we know that he accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy, this is the hope that we must bring to this world of ours. Please don't let him steal our hope. Don't let him steal our hope, that hope that Jesus gives us."

"Our certainties can become a wall, a jail that imprisons the Holy Spirit. Those who isolate their conscience from the path of the people of God don't know the joy of the Holy Spirit that sustains hope. That is the risk run by the isolated conscience".

"The early theologians said: the soul is a kind of sailing boat, the Holy Spirit is the wind that blows in the sail, to send it on its way, the impulses and the force of the wind are the gifts of the Spirit. Without His drive, without His grace, we don't move forward. The Holy Spirit lets us enter the mystery of God and saves us from the danger of a gnostic Church and from the danger of a self-referential Church, leading us to mission".

"To me apostolic courage is disseminating. Disseminating the Word. Giving it to that man and to that woman for whom it was bestowed. Giving them the beauty of the Gospel, the amazement of the encounter with Jesus ... and leaving it to the Holy Spirit to do the rest. It is the Lord, says the Gospel, who makes the seed sprout and bear fruit".

"It is not a bad thing that reality itself forces us to "put out into the deep", where what we are by grace is clearly seen as pure grace, out into the deep of the contemporary world, where the only thing that counts is "unction" – not function – and the nets which overflow with fish are those cast solely in the name of the One in whom we have put our trust: Jesus."

"It is not in soul-searching or constant introspection that we encounter the Lord: self-help courses can be useful in life, but to live by going from one course to another, from one method to another, leads us to become pelagians and to minimize the power of grace, which comes alive and flourishes to the extent that we, in faith, go out and give ourselves and the Gospel to others, giving what little ointment we have to those who have nothing, nothing at all."

"So this is the invitation which I address to everyone: Let us accept the grace of Christ's Resurrection! Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish. And so we ask the risen Jesus, who turns death into life, to change hatred into love, vengeance into forgiveness, war into peace. Yes, Christ is our peace, and through him we implore peace for all the world."

"Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness which God brings us, the newness which God asks of us. We are like the Apostles in the Gospel: often we would prefer to hold on to our own security, to stand in front of a tomb, to think about someone who has died,

someone who ultimately lives on only as a memory, like the great historical figures from the past. We are afraid of God's surprises. Dear brothers and sisters, we are afraid of God's surprises! He always surprises us! The Lord is like that. ... Let us not be closed to the newness that God wants to bring into our lives! Are we often weary, disheartened and sad? Do we feel weighed down by our sins? Do we think that we won't be able to cope? Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up: there are no situations which God cannot change, there is no sin which he cannot forgive if only we open ourselves to him."

Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk: you won't be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don't be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do."

POPE FRANCIS AND THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

This is summarized from an interview about Pope Francis with George Weigel, the eminent Catholic writer and commentator, and biographer of Pope John Paul II.

Then Cardinal Bergoglio had a big hand in drafting a statement on the new evangelization. Here are the key points of that statement.

- The Church of the 21st Century cannot rely on the ambient public culture, or on folk memories of traditional Catholic culture, to transmit the Gospel in a way that transforms individual lives, cultures, and societies. Something more, something deeper, is needed.

- That "something" is radical personal conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ and an embrace of the friendship he offers every human being: a friendship in which we both see the face of the Father of Mercies (who calls us out of our sins into the full dignity of our humanity) and learn the deep truth about our humanity (that it is in making our lives into a gift for others, as life itself is to each of us, that we come into human fulfillment).

- This conversion of minds and hearts builds a community that is unlike any other: a "communion" of disciples in mission, who understand that faith is increased as it is offered and given away to others.

- That communion-community best embodies the truth of the human condition if each individual member of it, and the Church itself, fully embraces the entirety of Catholic truth, and

in doing so, lives the moral life as a life of growth in beatitude, in compassion for others, and in evangelical charity.

■ Finally, this communion-community lives “ahead of time,” because it knows, through Easter faith the truth about how the human adventure will end: God’s purposes in creation and redemption will be vindicated, as history and the cosmos are fulfilled in the New Jerusalem, in the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, where death will be no more and every tear will be wiped away (*Rev. 21:2–4*).

That is the message that Pope Francis will take to the world: Gospel-centered Catholicism.

VATICAN II AND THE YEAR OF FAITH

As we know this is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II. The Council had a big impact on how we experienced, understood, and lived as Catholics. The Council sought to make the light of the gospel shine forth with greater clarity and attractiveness for the people of our time. The Council presented the faith in a way that was new, yet in continuity with two thousand years of tradition. Some of these teachings laid the foundation for what we have experienced in the Renewal.

First, the Council recognized the essential role of charisms in the life of the Church and called for both pastors and the faithful to welcome and foster them in a discerning manner. As Pope John Paul II later said: Whenever the Spirit intervenes, he leaves people astonished. He brings about events of amazing newness; he radically changes persons and history. This was the unforgettable experience of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council during which, under the guidance of the same Spirit, the Church rediscovered the charismatic dimension as one of her constitutive elements”.

Second, the Council brought back to the Church’s awareness the baptismal dignity of the lay faithful. Not only priests and religious but every member of the faithful is called to holiness and has an indispensable role in the Church’s mission. This opened the way for more lay leadership and active involvement in evangelization and other ministries.

Third, the Council emphasized the unique status of Scripture, and urged that the Church provide easy access to the Bible for all the faithful. It also called for a revision of the Lectionary to provide a much greater selection of biblical passages at Mass. As a result, many Catholics eagerly began to study and become familiar with the Word of God.

Finally, the Council’s Decree on Ecumenism acknowledged the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in other Christian communions. This opened the way for Catholics to

meet with Protestant or Orthodox brothers or sisters, to discover how much we have in common and to share one another's gifts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Charismatic Men's Retreat



St Rita's Retreat Center

Gold Hill, Oregon.

May 31 to June 2, 2013

The weekend will kick off with a BBQ on Friday at 4:30 p.m. (The retreat officially starts at 7 pm). For more information on the retreat call Jim DeLong at 1 (541) 217-9630 or Bob Bartosz at 1 (541) 957-5312.

Unlock the Power of Pentecost

"Understanding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in light of Catholic Tradition and the Sacrament of Confirmation. There will time for prayer for those who want it."

Sr. Jimmie Sue Woelke BSSD

Immaculate Heart Catholic Church

Kelso, Washington

Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Sr. Jimmie Sue Is a member of the Franciscan community of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity. The community is centered in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and was established by John Michael Talbot. In recent years Sr. Jimmy Sue has ministered extensively in Alaska.

A Day of Renewal, Teaching, and Prayer

Colin Calmiano



Portland, Oregon

Saturday June 8, 2013

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

Lake Oswego, Oregon

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This event is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Over three decades ago, Colin committed his life to the Lord. He threw himself into the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, while he was working in a company. In 1992 he resigned his job and became a full time missionary with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Bangalore.

Further information will be forthcoming.