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## Coordinator's Message

Greetings of joy to one and all! "Spirit Aglow" a tri monthly magazine to "Fan into flame" the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within us.

The heart's desire of every Christian should be to please the Lord by doing His will and fulfilling His call. My sincere prayer to all in the CCR is to whisper John 17:17 (Jesus' prayer for His apostles) "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth". Jesus prays that the Father will sanctify His people with the Truth and this is my prayer for each one of you too.

As you read the "Spirit Aglow" I want to thank you all especially the members of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in Chennai for your zeal in your Prayer Groups and rekindling the Spirit of the Renewal.

Let your life be energized and enriched with the Holy Spirit as you continue to stay ALIVE, ALERT, AWAKE AND AGLOW in your daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

Our Triune God is pleased and has inspired me to share these Blessings reiterating Romans 15:13 "May the God of Hope Fill you with all Joy and Peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the Power of the Holy Spirit."

**Romeo Lobo**  
Coordinator,  
Madrass Service of Communion  
2022 - 2025

## An Inspiring Workshop for Couples by CU4C – May 01, 2023

For the past four years the CU4C Chennai ministry led earlier by Leslie Martin has been conducting online sessions and also participating in the online sessions animated by CU4C India.

Finally, the first physical meeting of the Couples United for Christ (CU4C) Chennai was held on May 1, 2023. We had thirteen couples participating in the workshop. The workshop was held at the Archbishop Louis Matthias Hall at Santhome Basilica. It began as a sweltering day, hot and humid, but as we began to praise and worship led by Jeremiah and his wife Albina, the skies opened up and there was a downpour bringing a cool breeze and lowering the temperature.



D. Britto, who participated in the workshop along with his wife said, "Very useful session, more such sessions would be good. My expectation is that counselling sessions can be included and more young couples should be encouraged to participate in this program. Kindly do publicize this program, so that more people can join in."

Kathryn Philip, who participated in the workshop with her husband, said, "Wonderful initiative, felt anointed. I really meant something to us personally and spiritually."



The meeting ended with Eucharistic Adoration and Eucharistic Mass celebrated by Fr. Arulraj, the spiritual director of the CCR, Chennai. The participants of the workshop were very keen on meeting subsequently. The CU4C led by Selvarajan. Y will be meeting once in three months for spiritual formation and growth.

- Report by Regina Nathan



Leslie Martin hosted an ice breaker game that truly broke the ice and had the couples bonding together and discovering the virtues of unity and cooperation from within them. Dr. Joseph Dominic along with his wife Candice spoke about "Leaving, Cleaving and Becoming One Flesh", in his talk brought out the essence of love, intimacy and loyalty that is required in a Catholic marriage and couple. Following his talk, the couples had fun discovering their love languages taking the assessment.

## ST. LUKE'S LSS – A REPORT

As we were leaving the venue at the end of the first day of the retreat, Xavier Vinod requested us to maintain a silent heart contemplating on God's Word fed to us today. Prompted by the Holy Spirit I thought that I should thank God Almighty through all the wonderful sharing we received.

I am sure that all those who participated in the "Life in the Spirit Seminar" got a taste of heaven. Indeed it was an enjoyable banquet of love. Beginning with the Praise and Worship by Tony Grealy and team which opened the first window of love, 'Singing and Praising Jesus'. The first sharing of God's Word, 'God's Unconditional Love', preached by brother Manuel Thomas who clearly explained the Father's enormous love in a nutshell, but so full of goodness as we greatly relished the contents. This starter at the banquet, was so Spirit-filled that we couldn't wait for the next course.

The next talk 'Sin and its Consequences' preached by Malar helped remind us that Jesus paid the price and brought us to a better understanding of sin and the short exercise of letting God's grace be poured on us as we started listing our sins against ourselves and seeking forgiveness. Our appetite grew as S.A.M. Paul spoke about Repentance. Our thought pattern began to slowly change as we need to try hard with the help of the Holy Spirit to change our life pattern.

The main course arrived with the preaching by Regina Nathan on Forgiveness. This area where we struggle although we are fed with God's WORD. His Mercy and Compassion with no boundaries; made us so interested with the exercise that we wanted more and more. Dessert was the awesome inner healing session animated by Catherine. The best part of the meal was the Eucharistic Adoration - Inner Healing by Rosy.

We have to thank Noel for his music ministry that helped us to glorify and praise the King of Kings. The first day of LSS empowered us with the Holy Spirit that took control of our entire being - mind, heart and soul! We could not wait to participate in the second day of this BANQUET OF LOVE.

Day two began with Praise and Worship led by Nirmal Ephraim, who took us into a deeper level of worship, listening to God's voice. The talk on the Lordship of Jesus, for many of us was like the "toppings on the cake" nourishing us with the word of God. This connected us into a deeper relationship with God, who is in control when we hand him the keys to our lives. God opens every area and cleanses it with His love. Otherwise, it will become a MESS and not a MESSAGE! Jesus needs to be the King and Centre of your life! S.A.M. Paul preached on the FINGER OF GOD! The Holy Spirit blends the Nature and substance of God and His Son. They are inseparable - showing Father God as "the Lover", God the Son "the Beloved" and the combination of their love: "God the Holy Spirit" - Working in this Love.

Manuel Babu enlightened us further on the Holy Spirit and His anointing. He began with the declaration that the Greatest Gift of the New Covenant is the Gift of the Holy Spirit! From the time of our baptism until now, we are being transformed. Our Life of chaos starts transforming when the power of God's Holy Spirit dwells in us.

Our sluggish minds slowly but surely start to "Live from inside out! We realized the wonderful concept - to let go and Let God (in) - God chooses to move into our Spirits; into the very core centre of our lives! When God's Holy Spirit moves into our hearts, our spirits become a dwelling place for HIM and we become children of God Most High.

The climax of the gathering for LSS on Day Two was the summary of the "FIVE CONSTANTS" – Personal Prayer, Word of God, Sacraments, Fellowship and Service, succinctly preached by Regina. We were filled with the Main Course; but more so, when we were prayed over and anointed by the Holy Spirit through the laying of hands!

Don't you see my brothers and sisters that we could never have enjoyed this foretaste of Heaven, but for us gathering for this awesome Banquet of Love on the 13th and 14th May, 2023 at Divine Mercy Church, Annanagar!

- Report by Cheryl Thomas

## National Conference – A Report



National Conference 2023 was held at Christeen Retreat Center, Kottayam from May 12 to 14. The theme was 'Unity in the Diversity'. Isaiah 54:2 "Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes." The conference featured 100+ participants from different states of India and 11 participants from Tamilnadu speakers including Chevalier Cyril John, Msgr. Jose Newaz, Bro. Savio Mascarenhas, Bro. Sylvan Miranda, Sr. Paulina and Team.

We had powerful teaching sessions on leadership, Unity among the CCR, obstacles to Unity, importance of Intercession/praise and worship in prayer meeting, need for Life in the spirit seminars with panel discussions and group sharing. We had very anointed Praise and worship from different regions and adoration and Daily Mass. Bro. Mahima from intercession ministry explained the mission "Prayer Rally-2023" and how we are going to pray chain rosary from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in all diocese in India and praying for our nation and 2024 Elections.

Prof. Constantine explained the need to promote CHARIS India Magazine and requested each prayer group to subscribe to the magazine and promote it. Sis. Pauline presented the Gospel of Life (Stand for pro-life as Charismatics) and need for awareness among CCR prayer groups on the same. She also spoke of the need of TU4C (Teens United for Christ) ministry to reach out more children and encouraged all DSCs to focus on this ministry. TU4C is only possible when all Catechism teachers in schools and parishes are charismatic. - Report by Wilson and Victorjoans

## DINE WITH DIVINE

### A Social Outreach Programme of MSC

We read in Mathew 25:34, "Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

In obedience to our Lord and in line with scripture, James 2:26, "As a body without a spirit is dead, so is faith without deeds.", we in MSC with divine providence started this outreach program 'DINE with Divine'. We had identified a home for the men, women and children rehabilitated from the street, the **Parisutha Narkarunai Illam Charitable Trust** and in February 2023 we served lunch to the 225 inmates and children who are drawn from different parts of the city who are total strangers and do not know about themselves as some of them are mentally challenged and in various age groups the youngest been a week-old baby one such baby was abandoned in the dustbin. Currently, Brother Deepak, the husband of Sharon MSC member visits the home every month and assists the home with their needs.



The outreach program is planned for reaching out to the needy and share God's love in words and deeds. If you have the desire to serve and are burdened in your heart you can support the ministry with your service and contribution. Please contact Nelson C Anto at 9444991256 or email us at [info@ccrchenai.in](mailto:info@ccrchenai.in). - Report by Nelson C Anto

## Online Pentecost Novena

With many prayer groups unable to meet physically, the Madras Service of Communion decided to host the novena online to help those without access to physically praying the novena, to come together online to pray the novena together. We had an average of 24 people from prayer groups across the city join daily between 6.45 p.m. and 7.15 p.m. to pray the novena online.

Marie Surrao, Martin Louis Prabhakar, Rachael Verma, and Joseph Rozario from St. Andrew's Prayer Group, Choolai; Regina Nathan and Darryl Collins from Perambur Prayer Group, Margie Rosair from Peravallur Prayer Group, Anita Soans from Francis Xavier Church, Prayer Group, and Anuba Raphael from St. Louis, Adyar Prayer Group helped animate each day of the novena. - Report by Joseph Rozario

## Eight-Watch – A Call to Intercede

It has now been three years since the intercession watches began. Wilson Irudayaraj, Member, National Service of Communion and former Chairperson, Madras Service of Communion, recounting how the eight-watch began said, "We found a lot of troubles coming in the life of leaders. We felt intercession was not enough and this was a reason for a lot of the troubles. It was right at this moment that COVID-19 pandemic struck and lockdown was imposed. We requested MIN to start prayers. And they began intercession where 6 to 7 intercessors connected over voice conference on phone to pray together."

As the intensity of Covid grew, the MSC felt the need to pray for our nation, and for healing from this pandemic.

"One day when I was praying, the verse from Lamentations 2:19 came to mind. 'Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord.' I felt the Lord's inspiration and shared this idea with the MSC and MIN and we all felt the Lord was calling us to this and we started the eight-watches," recounted Wilson.

This call to prayer came even before the pandemic when the MSC team visited Mumbai for the Golden Jubilee celebration inauguration where the Mission 2022 was launched. The NSC at that time shared their vision that every region should have a prayer tower. Even as the MSC contemplated the kind of prayer tower that we could launch, the team felt the eight-watch was part of the answer to the NSC vision of the prayer tower.

"In the beginning it felt a bit odd as we were not used to looking at the mobile and praying but gradually, we became used to it. In May 2020, we started the chaplet. As everyone was at home during this period, initially the eight watch was well attended and they were many who attended more than one watch in a day.", said Leonard D'souza one of the regular members of the eight-watch.

### The Challenge Ahead

"Gradually as all school, colleges and offices opened, the attendance reduced in these watches and the burden was put on a few people and it was a struggle to carry on as before. The eight-watches have now been reduced to just 4 watches.", said Leonard.

Do you want to join the eight-watch? Let us know. Reach us at [info@ccrchenai.in](mailto:info@ccrchenai.in)

- Report by Joseph Rozario

### Testimony of an Eight-Hour Watch Intercessor

I have been actively participating in the eight-hour watch and reciting the Divine Mercy Chaplet with my brothers and sisters on the watch. WE PRAISE and THANK GOD for the graces we have received. After the pandemic, my husband and I were able to come and stay with our children in Dubai because of the power of intercession.

**Grace Joseph**, Homemaker and member, Perambur Prayer Group

**The Madras Service of Communion**

The MSC is a body of servant leaders serving the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Chennai representing various prayer groups.

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**Lenten Retreat at Holy Cross Church, T. Nagar**

The Madras Service of Communion (MSC) conducted a Lenten Retreat with the theme as "Be Healed" at Holy Cross Church, T. Nagar during the month of March.

The one-day retreat was attended by the parishioners, who were led into the process of healing their relationship with God through Repentance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

They were led to heal their relationship with their fellow men and heal their psychological hurts and memories through the Inner Healing Session. The day ended with the Eucharistic Adoration and Mass which helped the participants to experience wholistic healing of Body, Mind and Soul. - Report by Regina Nathan

**Pentecost Night Vigil at Lourdes Shrine, Perambur**

Our Lady of Lourdes Charismatic Prayer group conducted a Night Vigil on 27th May 2023, Saturday from 10 p.m. to midnight at Lourdes Shrine (Lower Church) in preparation for the Feast of Pentecost. In honour of the birthday of the Church the vigil helped the parishioners including prayer group members to welcome this beautiful feast of Pentecost. All participants felt empowered by the Holy Spirit who rekindled the Gifts, Fruit and Charisms within them. - By Romeo Lobo

I am Rachael Varma, a member of St. Andrew's Parish Prayer Group, Choolai. I want to testify that we have a prayer answering God indeed!

1. I had problems with sleep after my son went to Australia for higher studies. I used to sleep for only 2 to 3 hrs at night for 3 yrs. During the pandemic I joined the online intercession group to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The MIN and the 12 AM watch members prayed for me very sincerely and God blessed me with good sleep for the past two and half years.
2. I also had kidney stones and the doctor said 2 of them are quite big and if doesn't come out I need to get admitted for further treatment. By God's grace and prayers from all my friends in our prayer group and many other prayer warriors from other prayer groups in Chennai, all 4 stones came out. I give all glory and honour to our gracious God who answers all our prayers in Jesus' name.

TESTIMONY

**LSS for Students of Rosary Matric**

The Youth United for Christ (YU4C) led a retreat at Rosary Matriculation School on March 3rd and 4th for standards 6, 7, 8 and 9. More than 200 students participated in the retreat and had a wonderful experience of the Lord through the 2-day Life in the Spirit Seminar. The retreat team included Malar, Kevin, Shiny, Ambuja, Judith, Shobita, Gangai, Jeremiah, Chrome Charisma music ministry and Victorjoans. - Report by

**St. Michael's School Retreat**

During the month of March 2023, the MSC and the YU4C conducted one day retreats at St Michael's School, Adyar. A young vibrant team consisting of youth from Peravallur joined hands with the MSC and conducted a one-day program from classes 6-8 and 9th and 11th. - Report by Regina Nathan

**YU4C National Planning Meet for KAIROS**

The YU4C National Core Team met at Pondicherry in May. It was decided to hold YU4C KAIROS-2024 on Oct 31, Nov 1, 2 and 3, 2024 at Pondicherry. The theme was discerned as "Step up with Jesus" with the scripture verse, "Our Salvation is nearer now, than when we first believed!" Romans 13:11.

**Praying 10 Million Apostles Creed for YU4C KAIROS-2024 for Conversion of Youth**

You can be a prayer warrior too. Scan this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group

