



Spirit Aglow

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL,
CHENNAI

[For Private Circulation only]



August – October
2013

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Editorial

It has been the job of the Madras Service Team, to keep trimming the lamp of the Renewal in Chennai so that the Spirit in the hearts all members will always keep burning brightly. The Pentecost Rally in the month of March was one such attempt. The intercession of the Madras Intercessory Network is another.

Let every member of the Renewal realise that a cinder taken out of the furnace will be extinguished in no time and thus keep attending their respective Prayer Meetings regularly, while the Prayer Groups keep in constant touch with the M.S.T. Editor

From the Desk of the Chairman



I'm rejoicing night and day.... For the Comforter abides in me! These are some of the words of a very meaningful and popular song used in the early days of the Charismatic Renewal. The title "Paraclete" which Jesus attributes to the Holy Spirit (John 14:16,26; John 15:26; John 16:7) is also translated as Comforter. Jesus revealed that the work of the Holy Spirit, is to be in us and to comfort us- John 14:16.

We all need to be comforted. The struggles and stress of the modern day world leaves us drained out and in need of a comforter. We turn to people,

entertainment and many other things for relaxation. But rarely do we realise that it is the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit to do this for us. Do we look at our time of prayer as a time of receiving comfort from the Lord? Comfort is not merely a pleasant relaxed feeling. It is a faith experience of believing that God loves us, cares for us and is in absolute control - that in everything(even our struggles) God works unto good for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose- Romans 8:28.

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Madras Service Team

Dr. Joseph Dominic
(Chairman)
Toby Gonzaga
Roy Anand
Carlton Rose
Ronald Doggett
Benedict
Preeti Cherian
Daphne

Smile awhile



Fr. George: Chennai Corporation? This is Fr. George. There is a dead donkey just outside my gate.

Corporation staff (Jokingly):

But Fr I thought you are good at burying the dead.

Fr. George: Sure I am. But I first inform the relatives of the deceased.

Our Regular Programmes

- 1) Intercession by Southern Region – Every 2nd Tuesday in Missionaries of Charity between 7.30 and 8.30
- 2) Intercession region by Northern Region – Every 2nd Monday at St. Aloysious Convent, Choolai between 6.30 to 8.00 pm.
- 3) Intercession every Saturday by YU4C at St. Teresa's Church, Nungambakkam, between 7.30 and 8.30
- 4) YU4C 14.6fm - A bi-monthly program of YU4C which helps in dealing and answering the questions and doubts of the Youth with the help of Catechism of the Catholic Church.

"God comforts us not for us to be comfortable but to be comforters" is a saying based on 2 Corinthians 1:3-6. Saint Paul speaks about comforting those in any trouble with the comfort he has received from God. We

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have been placed in a broken world not by accident but by God's design. May the work of the Comforter reach all those to who need be comforted through us!

God bless you!

Joseph Dominic

My Experience with the Lord

Coming from a family and community where church going & prayers were an integrated part of life, I cannot think of any situation in particular that brought me close to the Lord. For me, it was a relationship that nurtured gradually during my growing days – especially during the days at my convent boarding school. Every night during the recreation break, I preferred to help the sisters with Mass preparations for next morning at the chapel. I also remember looking forward to the weekly prayer meetings in our school campus - though not actively involved, I felt very comfortable being there every week. During college days I got myself acquainted with a group of students from different Christian denominations who met together for weekly prayer meetings. I always felt blest and secure in the company of a Prayer Group. It was after my studies, when I was on my own that I began to feel a sense of emptiness. Life went on its course, though I continued my daily prayers and Sunday masses, I felt

there was something missing. And then suddenly things started changing, and before I could realize I found myself in a series of unbelievable situations. Tragedies struck one after another, and I realized that I had actually stopped praying. I felt my life was meaningless and the only thought I had in mind was how to escape from it all. The Lord had put me to test and what a miserable failure I was! I had forgotten the one truth that I knew so well – that I had a Saviour who was holding out His hands to help me quite a long time to gather up the courage to call up to the Lord for help. And when I called, it was as though He was just waiting for me. I truly experienced being lifted up from sinking waters to the safety of His shore! Blessings just poured out one after another. He gave me much more than I. And above all, I found once again a prayer group to belong to! My life started feeling meaningful again. I got it all right when I let God show me the way!

Preeti Cherian

Frequently asked questions (F.A.Q.)

1. What is the difference between 'praise songs' and 'worship songs'?

While both are described in detail in the Bible, there are no specific definitions for 'praise' and 'worship'. Among contemporary worship leaders, there are three main schools of thought on differentiating the two:

- i. The fast songs are 'praise' songs while the slow songs are 'worship' songs.
- ii. Songs *about* God are praise songs while songs addressed directly to God are worship songs.
- iii. There is no difference!

While all three could be considered right or wrong depending on our theology and worship practices, putting them together leads me to believe that songs, which cause times of celebration, exultation, and exuberance, are praise songs while songs, which steer us to moments of intimacy with the Lord, are worship songs. I also believe that 'praise', 'thanksgiving', 'adoration' etc. are subsets of 'worship'.

Isn't praising and worshipping a way of flattering God?

Flattery means to praise excessively or to compliment more than what is deserved.

But, if we really know our God, we would know that His holiness, goodness, and greatness are immeasurably infinite. So, no amount of worship and praise will ever be good enough for Him. Even if the whole universe worshipped Him unceasingly for millions of years, it would only be a few drops in the ocean; our God would still be worthy of far more!

Hence, it is impossible to flatter God.

Why do we clap, lift hands etc. during praise and worship?

When we watch M S Dhoni hit a sixer during a cricket match, we don't sit still and silently think "nice shot" in our minds, do we? Of course not! We jump out of our chairs cheering and screaming, "What a shot!!!" What's happening here is our emotions, words and actions are uniting to "communicate our excitement outwardly. Do we require anyone to teach

this to us? Of course not, it comes naturally, right?! Clapping, lifting hands, shouting etc. should be equally natural to us when we gather to worship the God who created M S Dhoni, how about that?! Each action is a way of connecting the words that we sing with our emotions, to express worship to our God authentically.

To put it simply, if we really mean what we sing to the Lord, our bodies won't be able to stay still, they would get into the action... naturally!

1. The music used in the Charismatic Renewal is just like rock music. Isn't rock music evil?

No style of music is evil by itself. Any style whether it's Gregorian chant or rock can be used for good and for evil. Musical instruments and styles of music are but tools and vehicles to make music. Instead of completely writing off a musical style as intrinsically 'evil', the smarter option is to look at the lyrics, the spirit in which it is composed, and the effect it has on the listener to discern what is acceptable or not.

- Gangai Victor

The Hand of God in Ministries

The 19th Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Conference of Japan (NCCRS) was held in Hotel New Archaic from 24th August to 26th August 2013 at Amagasaki, Osaka. The speakers for the Conference were Cyril John and Mr. Benjamin Gonzaga. However due to certain unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Cyril John could not make it and Mr. Benjamin Gonzaga, accompanied by his wife Philo, became the sole animators for the Conference.

The conference witnessed over 400 participants including 12 priests and a few sisters. The conference was planned well in advance by Fr. Paul Hata and his team, with 100 days of Intercession to gain the out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

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The first day started with a talk on 'Return to your First Love' followed by a session of repentance leading to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The response for confession was overwhelming with 12 priests handling the session. The day ended with the Eucharist after which people moved around wishing each other peace and dancing in circles. The power of the Spirit seemed to have turned on their light on day one itself.

The second day began with an amazing Praise and Worship followed by three talks on Charisms. A Workshop on Tongues and Prophecy was conducted from the stage, and a large number of participants broke out into Tongues, while many others began to prophecy. This was a totally new experience for the 400 participants who could not believe that God could give Charisms for the asking. After dinner, a motivating talk on 'Faith required for Healing' was given. This was followed by a 'Healing Session' conducted by Mr. Benjamin and Ms. Philo, and many healing were called out.

The healings were confirmed by the participants, and many came forward to testify. Due to paucity of time only two persons were allowed to share their experience from the stage, while others went around sharing their testimony with their friends.

The third day commenced with yet another soul-stirring 'Praise and Worship' followed by a talk on the 'Word of Knowledge.' The workshop that followed startled many, as one after the other began to receive revelation regarding the persons they were praying for. A few were allowed to testify from the stage. To most participants, it was

an unforgettable experience.

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The next session was on 'Intercession' the topic being 'How God answers Prayers.' This was an eye-opener to many who had been praying for various intentions. The conference ended with a call to 'Return to the Upper Room' followed by Holy Mass and anointing.

The Japanese people were extremely friendly, open to the Spirit, and returned home leaping and praising God.

Benjamin Gonzaga

Programmes in the offing

National Day of Intercession on 02.10.2013

Musical Evening for year of Faith 26/10/2013 at Good Shepherd Convent Auditorium.

The Pentecost Rally

It was just appropriate that two of our members Ms. Preeti Cherian and Ms. Daphne Balu by reciting the Rosary began, the Pentecost Rally on the 26th May 2013 at 9.30 am, with invoking of the blessings of our blessed mother Mary who was filled by the Holy Spirit right from the time of Annunciation. This was followed by a powerful Praise and Worship by Ronald Doggett, accompanied by an inspirational Music by the Don Bosco Youth. After this was the talk by Mr. Thomas Manuel on 'Re-kindling the Holy Spirit. 'His analogy of kindling the fire in the earthen oven through the tubular blower is unforgettable. The Eucharistic Adoration that followed was motivated by Mr. Carlton Rose. One could feel the presence of our awesome God during the adoration. The pre lunch session ended with the release of the revived Spirit Aglow, the News Letter of the MST.

The post lunch session included the presentation of the YOUCAT (Catechism of the Youth) by Benedict. Mr. Keith D'Vaz then spoke about the Family Life in the Spirit Seminar. There after the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was led by Mr. Manual Thomas when everyone was filled by the Holy Spirit. This was followed by the Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Robin. Finally a Birthday Cake was cut by Sr. Loreto one of the senior members of the Renewal to mark the Birth Anniversary of the Church which was born on the day of the Pentecost.



Sorry Ronney, U were behind the camera (Yelagiri)

Planning Meet at Yelagiri Hills

The Planning Meet of the MST for the year 2013-14 took place on the 6th and 7th of July 2013 at the beautiful hills of Yelagiri. It was indeed a wonderful idea as the members felt that they were away from the cares and worries of the world. It was a great opportunity to know one another better as each person was asked to speak freely about his own life. The idea of drawing a caricature of each person in terms of his or her Spiritual, Social and other activities, represented by Head Body and Legs was a meaningful comedy as persons drew freaks and persons with filariasis.

The innovative idea of each person kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament, while others interceded for them using charisms was impressive. The planning that took place on the hills with Bro. Dominic facing the members was a replica of the 'Sermon on the Mount.' The two days were not only filled with spirituality and planning, but also fun and frolic.

Our thanks go out to Mr. Narayanaswamy who arranged for the stay and those in-charges of the Don Bosco Camping Centre for making our trip pleasant.



Wake up Ronney! Br. Dominic is going to lead us out of the woods. (Yelagiri Hills)

News in brief



- 1) A fellowship Dinner preceded by a powerful Praise and Worship was organised by the Velachery Prayer Group on 15th June 2013, to foster a feeling of oneness among the members.
- 2) A Life in the Spirit Seminar was conducted by the Little Mount Prayer Group on 23rd and 24th of June 2013. It concluded with Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) One day recollection was organised by the Little Mount Prayer group for the North Eastern people staying in Chennai on 21st July 2013. The Talks were given by Dr. Dominic and Bro. Benji.
- 4) The members of the MST led by Bro. Dominic met Rev. Fr. Periyannayagam, who has been put in charge of Lay preachers and Prayer Groups, on the 8th August 2013. He promised to give all cooperation and help.
- 5) Bro. Dominic and the members of the MST met his Grace George Antonyswamy, Archbishop Madras-Mylapore on 9th August 2013. His Grace stated that he was glad to see the members of the Renewal. He wanted the members to be vigilant and proactive and to see that nothing is done that is not in keeping with the teachings of the Church.
- 6) The Prayer Group of ST. Thomas Mount organised a healing and Adoration Service conducted by Fr. Dominic of Madhavaram on the 5th September.

Re constitution of the Madras Intercessory Network

On the 22nd July 2013, the re constitution of the Min took place. It was formed not by discernment but by volunteering. Some of the members of the previous Core Team opted out, while new members joined in. Some preferred to join the Intercessory Network as non Core group members. The leader, Ms. Mary Forest was chosen through secret ballot.

The new Core Team consists of the following persons:- Ms. Mary Forest(Leader), Ms. Margaret Rosair, Trinity Quadros, Marie Surrao ,Mr. Ronald Dogget, Sharmila, and Col. James. The non Core Group members are Ms. Celine Satur, Robby Pushparaj, and Renny D'Souza.



The MIN The old and the New

YUCAT Presents,

**'Respecting
dignity of others'**

**Venue: St. Teresa
Church,
Nungambakkam,**

Date 22.09.2013

Time: 10.30 am