



SPIRIT AGLOW



Newsletter from Catholic Charismatic Renewal—Madras Service Team
(For private circulation only)

Issue Date: April '16

Editor's note

Even as our Lord Jesus rose from the dead on Easter day, the Spirit Aglow has risen once again. With the new Service Team taking over from the 10th of April 2016, we believe that the Spirit Aglow will glow all the more.

Further, for the success of this News Letter we need the co-operation of all the Prayer Groups, MIN and YU4C who are required to feed us with the information of what is taking place at their respective groups.

As you are aware this is a Year of Mercy as declared by our Holy Father. Hence apart from faith and Prayers, let us excel in acts of mercy. Remember James 2:26 says 'Faith without good works is dead'

May God bless us all !

– Editor

Editorial Board

- Toby Gonzaga
- Preethi Cherian



Chairman

Dr. Joseph Dominic

Inside this Issue:

- From the desk of the Chairman
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Holy Year : Jubilee of Mercy

The Jubilee of Mercy, given to us by Pope Francis, invites us to contemplate the mercy of God revealed to us in the face of Jesus, his Son. The Year runs from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016 and offers us the opportunity to reflect on how we might better radiate and reflect the tender love of God in our world and to seek to draw others into experiencing that love and mercy.

Why a Jubilee of Mercy now? Pope himself explains....



"Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favourable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation. May the Mother of God open our eyes, so that we may comprehend the task to which we have been called; and may she obtain for us the grace to experience this Jubilee of Mercy as faithful and fruitful witnesses of Christ."

From the desk of the Chairman



Why don't you give them something to eat? " The smile disappeared from the face of the apostles hearing these words of Jesus. " But Lord the core committee of our finance minister, food minister and service minister has just had a meeting and has unanimously decided that the most practical solution in the present context is to send them home. Buying food is not part of the budgetary allocation and cooking is out of question."

At the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand the apostles had decided the best possible course of action that Jesus should take. They brought their need before Him but had prefixed ideas about how that need should be met. But God's ways of meeting people's needs is very different – the apostles were soon to find out!

Often our prayer resembles that of the apostles. We place our needs before God and with it solutions we think are possible. But the Lord wants us to believe that He can meet our needs and the needs of those we love in ways very different from what we have thought or imagined. He wants us to seek him with all our hearts that He may reveal His ways to us. He does not want us to be ignorant of His great plans for His people. And when we do this we begin to pray the mind of God.

Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we ask or imagine to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever Amen! (Ephesians 3: 20,21 NRSV)

Dr. Joseph Dominic

New MST Core Team Discernment

10 April 2016

Outgoing MST Team (Members who served during the period of Apr'13 to Apr'16)



Chairman: Dr. Joseph Dominic

Toby Gonzaga



Wilson Irudayaraj



Benedict Jaiwanth



Roy Anand



Eric Noronha



Carlton Rose

Preethi Cherian



Peter Achari



Ronnie



Daphney Balu

Nigel Sequeira



Prayer Group in Focus - Santhome

The Charismatic prayer group in the Santhome parish has been meeting every week for the past several years. Though it cannot boast of big numbers, it can certainly boast of the powerful life renewing action of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the small group of participants.

One of the things that make the Santhome Parish Prayer group unique is that it is made up of families. The whole family attends the weekly prayer – leading to the renewal of the ‘people of God’ as a whole, beginning with the smallest unit of the church, namely, the family. It is not centred around a single leader or core group. Everything, including the leadership, is shared and the prayer group draws its vitality from God the Holy Spirit.

The essential elements of Charismatic Renewal spirituality are all structured into the weekly meeting. The praise is vibrant and the shared prayer is often prophetic. We have young and talented musicians backing the singing and praise. The gifts of tongues and prophecy are exercised. The sharing of the Word is done by almost all the members in turn. No one in the prayer groups is considered too young or inexperienced to lead prayer or share the Word. This has fostered greater participation and nurtured the gifts bestowed by the Spirit. Members share testimonies of the life transforming action of the Holy Spirit in their lives and pray for the needs of the Church and the world. The fellowship among the families has always been strong and continues to grow.

The prayer group also plays its part in animating prayer at Parish level activity. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is usually experienced by all who step in for the weekly meeting – during the praise and worship, in the prophecy, in the teaching and in the post meeting fellowship.

Every week, we experience the rekindling of the gift of God, which is ours through the laying on of hands. We rediscover that God did not give us a Spirit of timidity, but a Spirit of power, love and self control. (2 Tim 1: 6f).

- Santhome Prayer Group

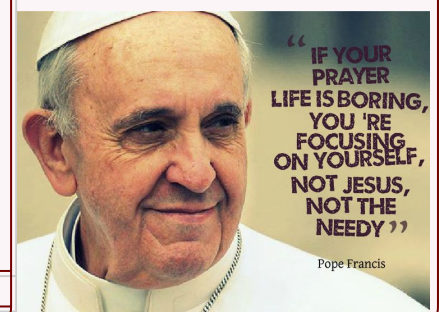
Strengthen your Prayer Life



"Just as you wouldn't leave the house without taking a shower, you shouldn't start the day without at least 10 minutes of sacred practice: prayer, meditation, inspirational reading".

WHEN WE
PRAY WE
SPEAK TO
GOD; BUT
WHEN WE
READ, GOD
SPEAKS TO US.

- ST. JEROME -



YU4C — *Youth Corner*

Youth United For Christ is the nationwide youth ministry of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in India. YU4C – Chennai works among youth in and around the city of Chennai, Tamil Nadu. While carrying out the mission of the national level ministry networked countrywide and working within its framework.

YU4C-Chennai brings some distinctive characteristics in the service of the youth of Chennai – inherited from its past form as the Youth Service Team (YST). YU4C works to renew the youth in Chennai through a personal encounter of Christ, ongoing discipleship, the use of charisms, fellowship, social action and a Christian response through prayer groups, youth communities.

The activities we do are retreats and one day programmes for schools, colleges and youth groups in parishes of Chennai, these comprise of the YU4C's larger and on-going VISION & MISSION, which is successfully fulfilled through initiatives like weekly intercession. YU4C – Chennai is guided by the Madras Service Team (MST) – the regional wing of the CCR in Chennai

Some of the activities YU4C engages in are:

School Retreats : 2 day retreats in Catholic Schools in the city.

Visiting Prayer Group: Conducting Prayer meets at different Parishes

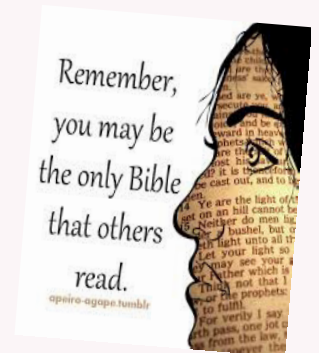
Organizing Conventions co-ordinated a National Wide convention for the Youth.

Music & Fun activities:

The Good news that we spread is "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life" And Life in Abundance.. full of the Spirit of GOD.



What you SEE or HEAR, leads to what you THINK. What you think leads to what you DO. What you keep doing leads to a HABIT. Your habits leads you to ADDICTIONS and what addicts you is your CHAR-ACTER.



Yu4C Core Team members taking oath after their reconstitution



Blessings from the elders in the Renewal

Events in the Recent Months....

As it was in the beginning – an evening of praise and worship, fellowship and a time to

remember the founding member of the renewal activities in Chennai. Amidst a lot of speculation of the impending rains, the Madras Service Team in faith went ahead with the program on the 14th of Nov 2015.

The team of musicians and singers Nirmal Ephraim, Manuel Thomas, David Dogget, George, and Rohit Na-



than led the gathering into an elated joy-filled experience of true worship. Rev Fr Thamburaj began with his customary message and blessings. Manuel Thomas who led the team of musicians, exhorted us to feel the presence of the Lord and worship God from within. Dr. Dominic, chairman of the MST, proposed the vote of thanks. It was truly 'as it was in the beginning'.

Charisms Seminar

In order to strengthen the Charisms in the Prayer Groups, The Madras Service Team organized a Charism Seminar on the 31st Oct & 1st Nov 15.

Br. Benjamin Gonzaga started with an 'Introduction to Charisms' as part of the regular Friday prayer meeting of Little Mount Prayer Group, which



preceded the 2-day seminar. Br. Benjamin, Dr. Dominic and Fr.A.J. Thamburaj led the talks and workshop sessions that covered 'Discipleship and Charisms', 'Gift of Tongues', 'Gift of Prophecy', 'Gift of Faith', 'Gift of Knowledge and Wisdom' and 'Discernment of Spirits'. Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola was recommended by Fr. Thambu as a means of discernment. The workshop ended with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.. (PS: Reference material used in this program is available on the MST website: www.ccrchennai.in)



Recharge!!!

With the formation of the new YU4C core team, the youth group has once again revived in strength and faith. The team meet together every first Sunday of the month for a fruitful time of



prayer, praise & worship, breaking of the Word and Fellowship. Roy Anand has taken up the role of "shepherding the youth" and has been an active guide and mentor to them. We pray that the group may continue to grow both in numbers and in strength of their bondage with the Lord....