



Life in the Spirit Seminars and Silence

help open traditional parishioners to the Charisms of the Holy Spirit

"No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub, they put it on the lampstand where it shines for everyone in the house.
Mt. 5: 5



Derek Williams, a Catholic evangelist and bible teacher says that he has been asked to do several Life in the Spirit seminars over the past year and he has used the call of Pope Benedict to encourage people in the Year of Faith "to have a personal encounter with Christ" as a way to promote the seminars.

An innovation he has introduced into the seminars which he has done, is to incorporate times of silence instead of praise and worship at the beginning and the end of each session, which he has found is very effective. He comments, "This came about for two reasons. First I was finding myself drawn to contemplation and greater silence in my own prayer life and second I had been asked to give the seminars in very traditional parishes, where the parish priests had specifically asked me not to have praise and worship, as they thought their parishioners would find it off putting."

"I wasn't sure how it would go initially, but I simply began with a bit of guided silent meditation, encouraging people to meditate on a bit of scripture or the Our Father for about 10 minutes. Then I did the talk (30 mins to 1 hour depending on the topic), followed by 30 minutes discussion, and finally another short time of silence." It took a few weeks to get feedback. The testimonies were amazing. People were saying things like "It is like heaven opens up". The Holy Spirit was speaking to them before they had even been prayed with for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. At the seminars I did in Nottingham last autumn, about 90% of the people who participated had never done the Life in the Spirit seminars before.

"When we did the night for the praying over for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, I didn't touch anybody and simply called down the Holy Spirit. It was hard to stand back and do nothing because you want to get involved and you have to die to self, and leave it to God to do what he wants with the people. It was amazing for about 20 minutes people didn't move and just sat with their eyes shut and their hands open. They told me afterwards that they couldn't move and felt this incredible peace come down and they felt fire in their hearts."

"I prayed to the Lord a while ago for new ground and that I would be able to reach people who were not already aware of the power of the Holy Spirit. Through my contacts with the home schooling network the Lord opened the way for this to happen. These people need a different approach and it seems silence is the way to get through to them. The irony is that now some of them who were very anti charismatic in the past have become open to the charisms and praise and worship too, and they have even started a weekly charismatic prayer group at Holy Spirit parish in Bridgeford.

The parish priest, who is a good friend of mine, and who would be into the Latin Mass himself has become so open that he even came to New Dawn last year. Another man, who is very involved in the promotion of the message of Fatima, after doing the Life in the Spirit seminars now hopes to go to the next charism school organized by Cor et Lumen Christi. Others who have done the seminars now want to be involved in evangelisation themselves. The priests are delighted at the way the Holy Spirit through the Life in the Spirit seminars has woken up their parishioners spiritually and made them more open to the catechesis they have been wanting to offer them. They have also realized that Charismatic Renewal is not the superficial emotional thing they thought it was and have realized that it is at the heart of the Church.

Derek, as well as offering his own bible teaching seminars, offers the Life in the Spirit Seminar programme for parishes, in which he presents all the talks. He comments, "Although it can be good to have a variety of speakers, it can also be helpful to have just one person, because it means if people have unanswered questions, you can cover them in the next talk or you can go over problem areas. Also as I tend to spend the day at the parish, giving the seminars at two different times in the day – in the morning and in the evening – it means I am available to chat to, if individuals have any personal difficulties with things and need a one to one."

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YEAR OF FAITH²⁰¹²₂₀₁₃

Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization



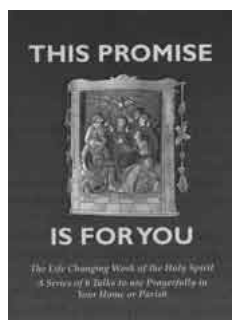
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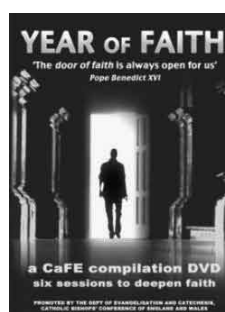
Over 20 years ago the Catholic Church called for a decade of Evangelisation in the 1990s leading up to the millennium. Certain groups, particularly those in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and other movements in the Church got fired up and tried things, but for most of the Church the decade passed by unnoticed. Perhaps now, however, with the Year of Faith, there is a new openness once again to the idea of evangelisation and there is a desire by the grass roots in general to learn more about it. Because of this, many of the resources produced by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from a decade ago, such as “This Promise is for You” – which is basically the Life in the Spirit seminars on DVD and “Pass it On”, Michelle Moran’s teaching series to help equip people practically to evangelise, are perhaps even more appropriate today than when they were first produced, and would be ideal for those looking to run a programme in their parish in the Year of Faith.

So why not invite a few neighbours or friends from the parish to your home, or to the church hall and show them “This Promise is for You”, with excellent talks by Charles Whitehead, Michelle Moran and inspiring testimonies. The talks are specially geared to Roman Catholics with references to the Catholic Catechism as well as the Scriptures. Then follow this up with “Pass it On” and train them to how to evangelise their friends and family. I recently watched this DVD again, and was amazed how relevant it was to the Year of Faith. *(Kristina Cooper)*

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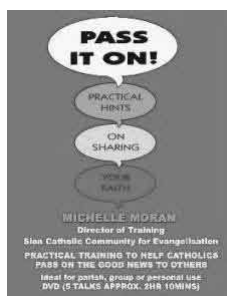
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New Dawn Slovakia

(Nove Svitanie Slovakia)

NEW DAWN Walsingham, which has been going for twenty five years, has inspired others to take the same concept of taking an open air Catholic charismatic event to a traditional Catholic shrine and integrating both traditional and charismatic aspects of the Catholic faith. **GOODNEWS** talks to **ANDREJ BABULIK**, who was part of the organizing team for the first New Dawn conference in Slovakia, which took place at the shrine of Skalka, the oldest pilgrimage site in the country.

GOODNEWS: When did New Dawn Slovakia take place ?

ANDREJ: It took place at the end of June (29th June-2nd July 2012) and lasted for four days. We had prayed a long time for the weather and we got unbelievably hot days and nights all through the conference. This date was chosen because in Slovakia it is the end of the school year and most of our members are students

G: Can you tell me a little about it?

A: When we felt it was the right time to organize a New Dawn event in Slovakia this summer, we started looking for an appropriate place. Until then we had held praying meetings in the town of Trenčin every month. There is a place called Skalka nearby, a place of rich religious history and spiritual atmosphere. This is the oldest pilgrimage site in our country. In the last few years, the tradition of pilgrimage to Skalka has been restored and more than 15,000 pilgrims come here every year, not only from Slovakia, but also from neighbouring countries. The site consists of a Benedictine monastery, a church and a cave where St. Benedict and St. Andrew Svorad lived and prayed at the turn of the 10th and the 11th centuries.

When the summer came, we asked the people who take care of the site whether it would be possible for us to hold our prayer meeting there and we were astonished to feel the power of the place where people have been praying for over eleven centuries. We felt it was the right place for our conference and were very much supported by the Skalka wardens. They gave us their trust and they organized so many details for us that we could not do anything but praise God for this confirmation that Skalka was definitely the place the Holy Spirit had chosen for us to have the New Dawn event.

G: How many people came?

A: This year we felt that we should organize New Dawn as we had experienced and appreciated it in England, but we felt also that there were many things that we needed to learn before opening up the conference to others. So we decided to hold it only for our community this first time, to gain experience so that we could do it better next year. So, there were just about 50 people from our community. Some brought their parents and their children. It was



a beautiful event for families and friends who feel they need to seek God with more enthusiasm.

G: How was the accommodation and catering organized?

A: Most of us camped a few minutes from the site. The weather was just splendid so we were really blessed. We were near by the river, so during the day we had a chance to have some fun in the water too. Some people also stayed in a pilgrim hostel built by the Church nearby. The people who run the site have done a lot of work improving the site for the pilgrims. As well as restoring the Way of the Cross they also have opened this pilgrim hostel, which many people use during the year.

For the catering, we pooled our money and bought food for breakfasts and dinners. At the hostel place there was a possibility to do some cooking, so we had hot tea every morning, which was lovely. And the lunch was cooked every day by some nice ladies from a nearby parish. We met dozens of good and willing people before and during the conference who helped us for nothing, just because they found it beautiful having so many young people praying together at such special place.

G: Who did the input?

A: The speakers were two priests, Fr Jan Bittsanský and Fr Igor Škrabák, who are members of our community and who had experienced the New Dawn conference in England and who feel Charismatic Renewal might be their way of spreading the Word. There was also a Greek Catholic priest, Mgr Igor Chingel', who sometimes celebrates the liturgy with us. There are Greek Catholics among us and so we think it is important to understand this way of worshipping God even though most of us are Roman Catholic and our Masses are different to theirs. Then there was also a young man, called Peter Broz, who is involved in the Charismatic movement in Slovakia, who gives talks at various events and is very gifted by the Holy Spirit. We, as members of our community, gave a number of testimonies but not talks. Since September 2012, however, we have started giving talks at our monthly meeting and are slowly learning how to speak publicly about God and our faith.

G: Do you have plans for 2013?

A: Yes, we do and we hope they are God's plans, too. The theme of last year's conference was "FREELY YOU RECEIVED, FREELY YOU GIVE". We prayed together for the theme to be shown to us and finally decided these words should be it. We understand that we are called to evangelisation in a broader sense now. We hope that New Dawn 2013 will be at the same time of the year and the same place. This time, however, we hope that about 200 people might come and experience what we have experienced so many times – the power of the Spirit in its fullness.

G: What were the fruits of New Dawn Slovakia 2012?

A: The programme of the conference, although we organized it just for ourselves, was very rich. There were holy Masses and a Greek Catholic liturgy, Eucharistic adorations all through the night, prayers of the Rosary, talks, praises etc. When we spoke of the fruits later on, we discovered that each one of us was touched in a different but special way. Most people said that the most powerful moment of the conference for them was in prayer before

the Blessed Sacrament, but we were also enriched also by the talks, the times of praise and just those special moments when God spoke to each one of us personally. It was a very blessed time to be with God and with friends who share the same hunger for God as we do. The conference also gave us valuable experience in organizing such events and this encouraged us in our plans for the future of New Dawn in Slovakia.

G: What was your experience of New Dawn in Walsingham?

A: I have been to the New Dawn Conference five times so far. My first conference seemed like pure coincidence. My wife was asked to attend as an interpreter and I simply went along with her for the ride. I thought it might be a good opportunity to travel to Britain where I had not been before. I did not feel that religious at the time and I thought I would spend the time in nearby towns or by the sea. What actually happened was God spoke to me and made me feel His presence so strongly that I fell in love with Him and decided to change my life completely. I would say God is present at the conference in such a mighty way that you feel Him breathe on you. I feel so thankful for that!

I love coming to New Dawn at Walsingham and hope to attend many more in years to come. The atmosphere of love and the power of the Holy Spirit have been so influential in the lives of my family (I am a father of three, our smallest daughter being just three weeks old) and the lives of our community members, that there could not be any other ending than wanting to organize such a conference in Slovakia too. Please, do hold us in your prayers.



Parish Cells the key to Parish Renewal



Fr Michael Hurley, a priest from the Dublin archdiocese, who has been involved in parish evangelisation cells for over twenty years, shares his experiences.

Twenty-three years ago, I first heard of the Parish Cell System of Evangelisation, which is popularly called 'Parish Cells'. As I write this sentence I shiver at the thought of the passage of time. It also makes me aware how profoundly God has touched my life through the parish cells and how deeply they have shaped my ministry since. In 1989, during a retreat in Rome, I heard Don Pigi Pierini, of San Eustorgio, speak about them as the basis for an exciting parish vision. He spoke for less than 10 minutes. His words, however, came to me as a new grace. I heard them as a call to give evangelisation a central place in my life and in my ministry and to invite people to a deeper relationship with Christ and a conversion of heart and life. What he said, also provided a practical method of evangelising. This was through stimulating an increasing number of home based centres as places of hospitality, prayer and sharing faith where participants could grow in the spirit of evangelisation.

The cell vision so impacted me that within seven months I attended the First European Seminar in Milan in May 1990 with three parishioners from the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Ballinteer, Dublin, where I served. The experience of being with people who were eager to reach out to serve and share faith with others, deeply challenged us. It challenged in particular our natural reserve to live our faith in a private way. We were tempted to dismiss what we saw as a cultural expression of faith but the depth of sincerity, genuine service and conviction about evangelisation and joy-filled worship could not be ignored. We knew that something genuine was opening up for us.

Inspired to look beyond "private faith"

When we returned home, the four of us met many times to discern how our experience might apply within an Irish parish. We gave much time to personal and communal prayer and reflection.

Scripture, as God's word, became a guiding influence in a way that we had not previously experienced. A number of Church documents, most notably, Pope Paul VI's *Evangelii, Nuntiandi*, and John Paul II's *Redemptoris Missio* and *Christifideles Laici* became our text books. These inspired us to look beyond the 'private' faith we knew to an eagerness to share God's saving love with all whom we met.

Mgr. Michael Eivers, with whom we spent much time during our visit to Milan in 1990, was a major influence. He had pioneered parish cells in the Catholic Church. During the early 1980s Eivers observed a decreasing number in attendance for Sunday worship in Catholic churches in the USA, while at the same time an increasing number of people attended Pentecostal meetings. He made contact with a local Pentecostal church and witnessed at first hand the importance of scripture, a living faith in Christ, joyful worship, small group meetings in homes and the pastor, and each member having a sense of mission.

As a result, in 1983, he launched parish cells in the parish of St. Boniface, in the diocese of Miami, where he ministered. Within a few years the parish was transformed to the extent that a local newspaper wrote about it and called it 'a parish on fire where everyone evangelises'.

First experiment in parish cells

We proposed our thinking to the parishioners in Ballinteer who were completing a course on spiritual renewal. Twenty eight participants expressed a wish to be part of a cell group. Hence, four cells immediately came into existence, with agreement that two weeks later seven people would attend their first cell meeting in each of four homes. The cell pattern in St. John's grew rapidly until we eventually had 31 parish groups. These included eight which had older teenagers and three made up of children. The rest had adults with a good male/female balance. Twenty years later, even though I am no longer in Ballinteer, it is notable that four of us, who went to Milan for that first visit, are still involved in promoting evangelisation through the parish cells, which is a testimony to the impact of our initial experience.

What we initially considered simply as something for St. John's

parish, very soon attracted national interest. The result is that today, parish cells exist in more than forty parishes around Ireland. In six or seven parishes, they have greatly contributed to a revival of faith and community. One of these is the parish of St Nicholas of Myra, in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland where this year's annual national cells seminar took place. During his presentation, Fr. Anthony Curran, the parish priest of St Nicholas of Myra, spoke about the renewing influence of parish cells in the life of the parish.

Benefits in Cell Participation

My involvement in parish cells, and over the years hearing the stories of participants, has deepened in me a number of insights and conclusions about evangelisation and ministry.

Parish cells have shown me a method of undertaking evangelisation in response to a growing distancing from the practice of faith on the part of vast numbers of people. For members of the cells evangelisation is not simply a theological principle but rather love in action for members of their families, neighbours, and work and leisure colleagues. It helps with an awareness and acceptance of those whom they meet each day who might have a diversity of belief, value systems, and cultural and economic backgrounds. Evangelisation then is seen as relational. It doesn't impose but rather builds friendship with and accompanies people as individuals in their particular life's path and journey. It helps people to think about the needs of others and what is best for them: with respect as an authentic guide to sharing faith.

Evangelisation is not to be reserved for specialists. Rather it is to have a central place in every Christian's life. I continue to be inspired when I hear people, who may have little theological formation, speak unselfconsciously about their living relationship with Christ and their efforts to lead another to Him. Others speak of enduring a challenge or difficulty with Christ's help. Such faith stories urge me to greater trust in God and to engage in evangelisation with greater courage.

Parish cells help participants to recognise God's providence in their lives

I have seen how personal transformation in Christ must precede authentic witness. Parish cells help participants to recognise God's providence and intervention in their own histories and daily encounters. This, in turn helps them to share with other people their stories of faith in Christ. This faith awakened to God's loving providence and goodness, leads them to tell stories of what, or more properly who, they have found to be so life giving.

Parish cells provide a forum, which enables participants to reflect on current issues in the light of God's Word. I have often witnessed this in Ireland during the past 20 years, when participants were able to reflect on emotions and thoughts that arose from disillusionment caused by issues of child abuse by religious and clergy; or as they sought to respond to a family member who had turned away from faith.

A model for renewal

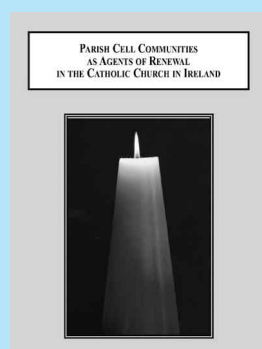
Parish cells provide a model for renewal where an increasing number of centres throughout the parish are committed to evangelisation, people are welcomed and faith is shared. Within parish cells bonds form between people, which they live out in emotional, prayer and financial support. I have heard people, who are not participants, say that this makes Christianity visible, attractive and credible. To appreciate the significance of parish cells, it is necessary to hear the stories of participants, visit a number of their meetings, and/or attend their annual International seminar in Milan. Inspired by their vision I believe they can become a transforming gift for the individual participant and for the parish that takes it on as their mission. Thousands of people throughout the world can testify to the ways God's Spirit has touched their lives in this way.

Further information: www.parishcellsireland.net/;

Milan international seminar: 20th-23rd May 2013;

www.santeustorgio.it/

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by Fr Michael Hurley

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The Contemplative Stance

Fr Chris Thomas reflects on what it means to be a contemplative in the world

I have just spent a couple of weeks in the Holy Land. Our guide there is a wonderful man who lives in Jerusalem with all its conflicting tensions. As a Coptic Christian he is a part of a minority and so he sees daily the injustice and the intolerance that is all around him. Yet he lives there with a deep sense of the presence of God in people of all faiths and of no faith at all and in his heart is a desire for peace within and between people. He tells me that he is becoming more and more aware of the presence of God in everything so that everything has become gift.

It's becoming more and more obvious to me that the inner experience of grace is what sets human beings free. It's the spirit's work in bringing an experience of unconditional love that really liberates us and brings deep inner healing so that we can live in the midst of conflict and tension and still be at peace and even love those who create the conflict. That always means that we live in a world of endless possibility in which the goodness of God is experienced and known. Without that experience of grace we are imprisoned in our own darkness and we become narrow judgemental people who blame and scapegoat. Sadly that's where most of us live, even those of us who are religious people open to the spirit, instead of in that free place of love poured out and received.

Metanoia is seeing differently

In the Gospels the word "metanoia" is all about seeing differently, living differently. We have translated that word as repent, a word that is laden with overtones of sin and the need for forgiveness. I wouldn't want to deny those realities but "metanoia" is much richer and in a sense much more radical than a simple sorry for my sins. It implies an alternative way of living that becomes a dance of love with God where we live with eyes and hearts that are open and in which we see the presence of God everywhere. We live with a sense of gratitude at the gift of this world and of life itself. It means that we know judging, blaming and separating are venomous enemies of the Kingdom and that justice, love, mercy and compassion are at the core of our being and the antidote that brings life.

When we enter into that dance of love we live in what we call the kingdom of God and that's what brings us life. Anything else is less than God has in mind for us and stops us living life to the full and we die within. But that seeing with new eyes means that we have

to learn to let go. There's a sense in which we have to let go of what we thought Faith was about and allow God to teach us what Faith is really about. The Scribes and the Pharisees were constantly being challenged to let go of their image of God and see again. The disciples were also moved beyond their old understanding to begin to see something different.

There is so much letting go in order to see

We have to let go of the way in which we see people and the world. Most of us have a very jaundiced view of others. We're suspicious of people of different religious practices and who come from traditions other than our own. Many of us have an inability to look for goodness in those who seem to have no understanding of faith or who live in ways that are different than ours. We treat the world as though it were a terrible place rather than the gift that it is. There is so much letting go in order to "see". That's why we have to constantly immerse ourselves in the God who is creator, redeemer and enlivener so that God can reveal Godself to us again and again. Because if God is constantly revealing Godself to us it will mean that we see everything with new eyes. It's a scary place to be because it means we have to let go of a lot of our certainties and securities as we let God recreate us.

When all of this starts to happen then contemplation becomes a way of life. Richard Rohr says 'I don't like to think of it so much as something you do but something you are, so I often use the phrase—the contemplative stance. It's a way of living, moving, and being in this world.'

So do you want to live and move and be in this world with eyes that are open, half shut or closed? If you want to live knowing that God is everywhere and in everything then spend a little bit of time in silence every day and it will transform you. You will find that life will have a vibrancy and a deep joy that can never be taken away.



Fr. Chris Thomas heads up the Irenaeus Project. He is a member of the Emmaus Family of Prayer.

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I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL

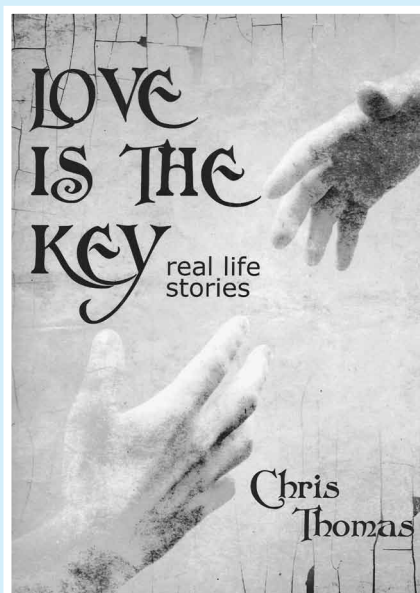
In his article this month Father Chris talks about "The Contemplative Stance" as a way of being in the world today. This is a wonderful invitation to a new way to experience your everyday life.

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by Chris Thomas



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St Albans & St Stephen

Young Adult Group

by Mary Darby

Our Catholic young adult group in St Albans started over four years ago as a season of talks for those in their twenties and thirties. A number of us felt we wanted to build up a sense of community and identity amongst Catholic young adults in our parish and beyond and also address a gap as, at the time, there was nothing in our parish of Ss Alban & Stephen specifically for young adults. Our first series of talks was called 'Café Catholicism' and was 'Café' style with tea, coffee and a good selection of pastries and cakes. Father Alan, who was in our parish, is very gifted and invited different speakers to talk about contemporary issues. Whilst our first season of talks was successful, despite good intentions, nothing happened for a while.

How could we build on what had already been started? Early the following year, on a very cold mid-Winter evening, a few of us met in a local pub to talk about this and share our ideas. Whilst agreeing the 'Café Catholicism' format had worked well we felt we needed a way of reviving the initial enthusiasm. We did this by giving the group its own name which was 'Divinity & Doughnuts'. We used our new name to help us spread the word. The format for the 'Divinity and Doughnuts' group generally worked well. About two to three times a year we organised a season of weekly talks on a Divinity related theme followed by doughnuts, tea and coffee and time to chat.



A constant challenge was building up a regular committed group as a number of those who initially came then moved out of the area; for instance, to return home, change jobs or get married. I think the challenge was added to by the fact the talks generally took place on different weekday evenings and the length of time between talks. Father Alan, who was very good at inviting others, is now Vocations Director for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart for Ireland and his moving on was also a loss to the group.

One of the tougher moments for me was accepting that, as the group evolved and some of our committed members moved on, we couldn't guarantee we'd have enough numbers to justify a speaker. I had set up a 'Faith Formation Program' and planned this as a retreat and a small number of talks from invited speakers. With hindsight I think one

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of the mistakes I made was to have a long period of time between each talk. Rather than cancel the programme part way through I decided the best thing to do was to step up and run a session myself. It also made me think about how, rather than having external speakers for future events, this could be an opportunity to invite others in the group to use their gifts and talents.

One way we have built up a core group and a sense of community is through having a regular monthly social after Sunday evening Mass. This was suggested a couple of years after the group started and has worked well. However, our more recent members didn't really understand why a group called 'Divinity & Doughnuts' could generally be found meeting in a pub! To ensure our name reflected our ministry we re-named the group 'St Albans & Stephens Young Adults' or 'SSASYA'. The group was established and is supported by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, who serve our parish, so it made sense to adopt our parish Church's name. We continue to welcome other Catholic young adults in their twenties and thirties who live beyond our own parish community.

At each stage of our journey we've done all we can to spread the word – we've contacted our Diocesan Youth Office to ensure our group is listed on their web pages, used social media such as Facebook, contacted other parishes in the Deanery, put up posters, created small 'business' cards and personally invited others. Whilst I think we'll always be a smaller group, one advantage is this has enabled people to quickly make new friends and good friendships have been formed through the group. My hope is that the group has also helped people grow in their faith. I'm conscious there is more we can do however, achieving this is a challenge as we are a small group with busy lives. There is a very active young adult community in London, which is reasonably nearby, with lots of great events organised. We promote these to the group where we can to help people to also link into this community.

THE LORD IS COMING IN POWER

Compiled with reports from Fran Graham,
Margaret Thomas and Tony Fodor

Back in the 1980s, there was a powerful prophetic word about Wales that there was a black cloud hanging over the country, causing a sense of oppression over the land. This led some years later to the Welsh NSC asking Fr Rufus Pereira, the famous Indian exorcist, who died last year, to lead a prayer of deliverance over the nation when he visited Cardiff in 2009. Frances Graham comments, "We have become more and more aware recently, especially in 2012, that the prophetic words we are receiving now have been very positive and that God has heard our cry. He has been telling us that He is coming in power soon, and we must wait and listen and then be obedient to what He tells us to do."

PORTHCAWL NSC-DST WEEKEND, June 2012



In June 2012 about 40 people, mainly members of the Welsh National Service Committee and representatives from the Diocesan Service Teams, from all over Wales met at St Clare's Convent in Porthcawl for a weekend of intercession for revival. This was led by two Catholic lay evangelists, Andy Stayne and Derek Williams. On the Sunday a map of Wales was marked out on the ground and the participants interceded for the land and its people as they walked symbolically over it, and replaced the Welsh red dragon with the crucifix and an icon of Mary, Mother of Wales (Mair Mam Cymru) in the centre. Many prophetic words were received – in particular Ezekiel 36 about receiving a "new heart" and Ezekiel 37 about "the dry bones" living again.

WELSH NSC/DST FORMATION DAY, July 2012

As they felt they had been very blessed by the teaching ministry of Derek Williams, who is a great student of the Word of God, the Welsh NSC decided to invite him back to run some formation days for them, open to both the DST and other individuals who might be interested. The first of these took place at Our Lady of Margam church, where the former spiritual director of the NSC, now retired, Mgr Bottrill lives. Once again about 40 people attended the day. Derek spoke about the heritage of the great saints of Wales – St David, St Teilo and St Illtud, who had



attracted people by their holiness and teaching. He underlined the importance of this call to intimacy with God and holiness as they are key to being effective for God and he spoke of the wisdom of mystics like Teresa of Avila.

ST NON'S WEEKEND 10th-12th AUGUST 2012

In 2005 at the Newman Consultation (where leaders from the CCR from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales met together), Fr Pat Collins CM suggested that a pilgrimage of reconciliation between the nations might take place in Assisi. These prophetic words were taken up by Margaret Thomas from Wales, and a small ecumenical group of people from all four countries walked to Assisi the following summer in 2006. Here they received the message to "Rebuild the walls of the Church". Since then this group have been meeting more or less annually and exploring the meaning of this word and what the Lord has wanted them to do. One of the fruits of this has been several pilgrimages within Wales where the group has walked ancient Pilgrim paths through West Wales, carrying a cross to St David's. The group has stayed in youth hostels and church halls and also at the famous Ffald-y-Brenin Christian centre.

In August this group met again at St Non's, West Wales for a time of prayer and listening to the Lord. As at the day at Margam there was a call to look to the ancient path of the Founding Fathers – the call to holiness and spiritual warfare prayer. The same words "Rebuild My Church" and the reading from Nehemiah 4 about rebuilding the walls came up again and the importance of people being steeped in the word of God was emphasized. A sense of restoration was also underlined by the scripture from Jeremiah 29.10-11 *"This is what the Lord says: When 70 years allowed to Babylon have been completed I will come to you and fulfill my promise of restoring you back to this place. For I know what the plans I have for you are, plans to save you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and to give your hope."* St Non's was booked up in 2013 but it was decided that the group would meet again next year at St David's to continue their prayer.

Those who would like all the prophetic words received at these meetings should send an email to frangraham@ntlworld.com

**or write (including a SAE) to:
WELSH PROPHECIES, 44 Lon Penfro. Morriston
Swansea SA6 6RA**



Unique opportunity for mission experience with the Shalom Community in the lead up to World Youth Day in Brazil 16th-31st July 2013

One of the wonderful things with being part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is that you have a network of people world wide, whom are part of your spiritual family. These international links have opened up a unique opportunity this summer at World Youth Day, which will take place in Rio de Janeiro 23rd-28th July. The Shalom Community, a Brazilian Catholic Charismatic Community, which has a base in London, are organising a group of young people from the UK (aged 18-35) to go to there this summer.

Instead of "Days in the Diocese", which have been part of other World Youth Days in the past, this year the young people will be encouraged to take part in missionary weeks in different parts of the country. Here they will be given a chance to participate in spiritual activities, works of solidarity with local communities, as well as missionary and cultural events.

Because of Shalom's connections, those from England going with Shalom will spend their missionary week in Fortealeza, where the community was originally founded. Here they will have the opportunity to stay with local families, and be able to really experience something of the Brazilian culture in a Catholic Charismatic context and see at first hand poverty in the slums

and how God has transformed many lives. They will also be able to take part in "The Halleluya International Festival" which is organized by Shalom. This is reported to be the largest arts festival in the whole of Latin America and last year (2012) 1.17 million participants attended it.

Afterwards participants will go on to Rio for World Youth Day itself and its various liturgies and activities. During their time in Fortealeza, participants will have beds with families but at World Youth Day itself, accommodation will be very basic – normally sleeping in class rooms and church halls. This is why all pilgrims have to bring sleeping bags and mats with them, so they can be flexible whatever the situation.

To help participants prepare properly Shalom will be running special monthly catechetical sessions 4-6pm on 1st Sundays of the month (3rd Feb, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June and 7th July) in conjunction with Ealing Abbey in West London. The two hour sessions, which are compulsory for participants, will include a time of prayer, formation and a lesson in Brazilian Portuguese. Participants are also encouraged to take part in some form of service or witness in the six months before World Youth Day, so they can prepare themselves for what they will be experiencing. These include outreach to the homeless, and evangelistic witnessing such as participating in Night Fever and Spirit in the City.

Michelle Moran *writes:*

At the request of the Brazilian Bishop's conference the CCR in Brazil are providing 3,000 missionaries to serve during WYD. There will be a programme of mission opportunities that groups can join in with during the days leading up to WYD. These include beach missions and a special project in the Amazon.

Then from 19th-22nd July the CCR are holding a mini conference near San Paulo where they can welcome up to 10,000 youth. The CCR will be involved in the opening Mass of WYD and they have been given 30mins on the main stage during the official programme of activities.

Further details about how to join in with the CCR events or to book into the mini conference will soon be put on the ICCRS website WWW.ICCRS.ORG/

The cost for the Shalom trip is about £2000 per person, and those interested are encouraged to fund raise to help raise the money for their trip. Those interested in knowing more should contact Emmanuela Cardoso, the leader of Shalom in London (London.shalom@gmail.com). The closing date is supposed to be the end of December, but if you get your skates on they will probably be able to squeeze you in if you send your application in immediately.

Other details from:

Claz Gomez (parish youth co-ordinator)
St Benedicts, Ealing Abbey, 2 Marchwood Crescent,
Ealing W5 2DZ. Tel 07849 379 439
E: parishyouthworker@ealingabbey.org.uk
Web: www.ealingabbey.org.uk/
Also on Facebook

CHILD 31

Grassroots Films, the production company which made the award winning documentary "The Human Experience" has just made a 30 minute film about the Scottish based charity "Mary's Meals", whose vision it is to give every child one meal a day at school so they can carry on their education and escape the poverty trap.



The film has already won awards at various Film Festivals and has been entered for the Oscars in the "Best Documentary Shorts" category. And Child 31 is both a moving and lyrical film. Beautiful evocative images from India, Africa and Scotland show how ordinary people are working together across the world to alleviate poverty at the grassroots through this simple idea of helping children to get a meal at school. We see African women singing as they bring the firewood, and stir the pots of nutritious porridge for school children in Malawi, while women in colourful saris thousands of miles away prepare rice and curry for pupils in India.

Mary's Meals began ten years ago when Magnus MacFarlane Barrow, who ran a small charity, Scottish International Relief, was inspired to help a school in Malawi to provide a daily meal for their pupils, who were often so hungry they either didn't turn up to school because they were working or were too tired and hungry to benefit fully from their lessons. He called the project Mary's Meals, a name and an idea suggested by Tom Smith, who was also working in Malawi, and who had received this inspiration from Our Lady. The seemingly simple idea took off, as more and more schools in Malawi approached Magnus to help them in this way as not only were children fed but examination results improved too. No one could have foreseen the phenomenal growth that would happen as the idea went global. Key to its effectiveness in whatever country, however, is the volunteering spirit and local co-operation which is fostered by the charity and which is the reason why, despite

its growth over the last decade, only 7% of its income goes on overheads. Magnus comments, "People make big sacrifices so the children can go to school and eat." As much as possible too, all food is bought locally, so the charity indirectly also stimulates the local economy, rather than having aid shipped in bulk from overseas. Despite its growing profile, however, Magnus's office remains a shabby Nissan hut in the garden of Craig Lodge, the Catholic community in the Highlands, where he grew up.

Today an estimated sixty five thousand volunteers are involved in Mary's Meals in Malawi, where the idea was first launched. These women enable the charity to feed half a million children every day for an annual cost of £10.70 per child per year. Worldwide the numbers of children fed through Mary's Meals is 702,465 and still rising as Magnus is always thinking not of how many children are fed but how many are still hungry. In the film we learn a little about some of these children. One of them is Lette, who at 12 is head of her family. We see her lovingly wash her baby brother, with a mother's care and learn of her courage and struggle to survive and get an education. The film also visits the slums of Nairobi where street children sniff glue and are lost and abandoned and have no future.

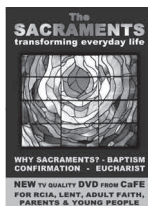
Just as challenging too is the interview with 12 year old Charlie Doherty, from Crawley, a child of a single parent, who is a committed supporter of the charity. He says simply, "I was seven when I heard how little it cost to feed a child for a year." Since then he has refused all birthday presents and given the money to feed children through Mary's Meals. He comments, "It is horrible to think they are suffering. It could be one of us. Even a 12 year old like me can make a difference." And he has. Through sponsored swims and cycle rides and other activities he has personally raised £20,000 and has had a school kitchen named after him in Malawi, by way of thank you. The ultimate aim of Child 31, however, is not to win an Oscar, but to get people to support Mary's Meals and its vision financially or by volunteering in some way. Thus as well as entering the film in various festivals, following the official premier of the film on 4th November 2012, supporters are being encouraged to arrange showings of the film in parishes, school halls and local cinemas, and wherever they can. Already 300 screenings of the film have happened all over the UK, Ireland, America, Canada and other parts of the world. **It is also possible to buy a DVD of the film for £10.70 (the price to feed a child for a year) for private use. For further details contact Mary's Meals on 0800 698 1212 or email: info@marysmeals.org or www.child31film.com or write to Mary's Meals, Craig Lodge, Dalmally, Argyll, Scotland UK PA33 1AR.**

In the face of so much suffering regularly beamed into our homes we can become immobilized and it is easy to think there is nothing we can do. But the story of Mary's Meals shows what can happen when someone decides to step out in faith and make a difference.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

A SPECIAL MASS HAS BEEN OFFERED FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ALL OUR DONORS AND BENEFACTORS FOR THEIR KIND SUPPORT OF GOODNEWS AND THE NEW CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CENTRE. MANY THANKS!

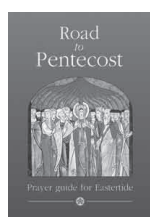
THE SACRAMENTS Transforming Every Day Life



Following their very popular series on the Saints, CaFÉ have produced a wonderful new resource for parishes and groups on the Sacraments (see the flier in this issue). Each session includes a short film featuring lay people living out the sacrament in their daily lives, plus in depth explanations from experts on the theology of the sacrament with examples of practical application. This DVD has four 30 minute presentations looking at "Why Sacraments?", Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Contributors include Fr Timothy Ratcliffe and Fr Stephen Wang and the series is presented by Pascale Uche and Pippa Baker. **Price £69.95 plus p&p (special discount of 10% is purchased before Easter 2013. tel 0845 050 9428 or online www.faithcafe.org**

PREPARE FOR PENTECOST

The Pope has called on us to Promote the Culture of Pentecost in the Church, which we can do in many ways. One is to encourage friends and family or fellow parishioners to prepare for Pentecost by following one of the Easter to Pentecost prayer guides produced by the English NSC.



We still have a few copies of "Road to Pentecost" published by CTS special price £2 (including p&p) and the new guide we produced last year called "50 Days of Freedom" price £2 plus 75pence p&p. Cheques payable to "CREW Trust". Special discounts are available for bulk orders for parishes over 100 copies. Contact the new

CCR Centre 020 7352 52298 or write CCR Centre, The Crypt, Our Lady of Dolours Church, 264 Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL.

Another way to prepare for Pentecost is put on the series "This Promise is for You", which prepares people for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Talks are by Charles Whitehead and Michelle Moran (£69.95 plus £3 p&p) and available from Good News Books 01582 571011 or toni@goodnewsbooks.net



NEW ADDRESS FOR GOODNEWS

Goodnews is now be based in the new Charismatic Renewal Centre in the crypt of the Servite Church in Chelsea!

The new address is

**Goodnews CCR Centre,
The Crypt, Our Lady of Dolours
264 Fulham Road, London SW10 9EZ**

We continue to have the same telephone number 020 7352 5298 and email ccruk@onetel.com

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN MILAN FOR PARISH EVANGELISATION CELLS

Those who would like to know more about the Parish Evangelisation Cells System, which we have mentioned a few times in Goodnews recently and fancy a few days in Italy, should note that the next International Workshop hosted by St Eustorgio's in Milan is 20th – 23rd May 2013. It is highly recommended, very inspirational and helpful for those looking for a new dynamic for parish renewal. **For further details contact: Fr Victor Vella, Holy Innocents', Strickland Way, Orpington, Kent BR6 9UE. Tel: 01689 817537/ Email: parish@holynnocents.org.uk**

The parish of Holy Innocents is organising a group from the UK to attend **19th-24th May 2013**. If you would like to go with them you need to **let them know by the end of February**. More details will be found on the parish website: www.holynnocents.org.uk



PENTECOST WITH THE POPE?

The Pope has invited the lay Movements to come to Rome to celebrate Pentecost vespers with him at St Peter's on Saturday 18th May 2013. ICCRS, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office in Rome, is organizing with the local Italian CCR, a worship event to tie up with this, the evening before in one of the great Rome basilicas and on Pentecost Sunday (19th May) a parade of the nations of those in the CCR who might be coming for the event. Those wishing to go should book accommodation early because of the numbers expected in Rome at the time. ICCRS although not providing accommodation is happy to advise those wishing to come and give details of suitable hotels and convents in Rome. They will also have details nearer the time of timings and locations of the various events. **Contact them on 0039 06 698 87126 or www.iccrs.org / email: info@iccrs.org or write to ICCRS, Palazzo San Calisto, 00120 Vatican City, Europe.**

ADVERTISING RATES

Goodnews, as you know, is subsidized by CREW Trust and it is only because of this that we can continue. Recently we have been looking at ways in which we can raise money to help cover the costs of the Goodnews, so it can continue to serve the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. One of the ways open to us to raise some money is by advertising in Goodnews. We have already been doing this in a limited way by making the back page available for advertising and have been able to raise some funds through this.

At our recent Goodnews editorial meeting we decided to also make the inside back page of Goodnews now available for advertisements either in single colour or full colour.

The prices are as follows:

- FULL OUTSIDE BACK PAGE (FULL COLOUR).....£580 plus VAT
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- FULL INSIDE BACK PAGE (FULL COLOUR)..... £580 plus VAT
- FULL INSIDE BACK PAGE (SINGLE COLOUR).....£400 plus VAT
- HALF INSIDE BACK PAGE (FULL COLOUR).....£300 plus VAT
- HALF INSIDE BACK PAGE (SINGLE COLOUR).....£220 plus VAT
- BOXES ON THE NOTICE BOARD OR INSIDE BACK PAGE (92mm x64mm).....£ 100
- HALF PAGES (SINGLE COLOUR IN MAGAZINE) when available £200 plus VAT

Please ring our office on 0207 352 5298 for further enquiries and
for a quote if you want to have an INSERTS

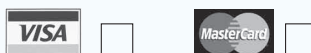
God bless, Yours in the Lord,
Kristina, Editor Goodnews

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CCR Centre

Up and running!

Michelle Moran, the English NSC chairperson, brings us up to date with news of the new CCR Centre in London



We are pleased to be able to announce that after delays of almost a year, the Goodnews office has finally re-located to the crypt of Our Lady of Dolours Church at 264 Fulham Road, Kensington, London SW10 9EL.

The new premises have also opened up a further possibility for us as an NSC. We will therefore, not just have new office premises for Goodnews, we will also have the capacity for a Catholic Charismatic Renewal Centre.

The Centre will be a place where we can welcome visitors and hold meetings. Eventually we hope to have times when we can offer prayer ministry and spiritual direction. We will also have a small stock of CCR resources. The premises consist of a meeting room for 25 people and a number of smaller rooms. There is a kitchen and walled garden which bring additional benefits. Whilst access to the Centre is restricted by a flight of stairs, it is hoped this location might still provide some much-needed space for prayer and CCR business meetings, research and learning or simply a space for hospitality and welcome. If you would be interested in making use of the Centre for a meeting etc please get in contact with us by calling 0207 352 5298.



Tim,
Development
Manager

The new Centre will be 'officially opened' and blessed by Abp Emeritus Kevin McDonald on 4th March 2013. In the meantime we are busy getting things set up. We are delighted that Gabriele Sedda, the Goodnews Support Manager, is also able to be the day to day Co-coordinator of the Centre. He will be joined by Tim Stevens our newly appointed Development Manager. Tim works for CaFE and is married with 2 children. Many will know him from St Alban's Celebrate and the Upper Room Prayer group. Tim is looking to make the CCR centre a warm and welcoming place for visitors. We hope to run the Centre with the help of volunteers and we are sure that as the project gets underway the Lord will send us the people that we need.

At this initial set up stage we are in need of some items to create that environment and we would be grateful if any of you were able to help in funding or providing:

- A medium and a small sized folding tables and 6 folding chairs
- A wall mountable flat-screen television with integrated DVD player
- 2 beech effect bookcases (5' tall)
- A glass fronted display cabinet, free standing or wall mounted
- A prayer garden with a number of prayer stations

We also need some suitable artwork or iconography to decorate our Centre. If any artists want to donate a piece of artwork to the Centre we will gladly display your work and share your contact details with visitors.

***If you feel that you or your group may be willing to fund or provide any one of these items to help set up the Renewal Centre please contact Tim Stevens, the Centre Development Manager on 07875 848138
email: Tim @ faithcafe.org***



Kristina, Goodnews Editor



Tim and Maureen, a regular volunteer



Gabriele, CCR Centre Coordinator