
In this issue: *A report of the Prophetic Consultation, Assisi March 2018. By Christof Hemberger*

From 22nd till 25th of March 2018 more than 130 leaders representing the European Catholic Charismatic Renewal (nations/regions, major communities and networks) gathered in Assisi for a very special and unique meeting: The European CCR Prophetic Consultation.



Christof Hemberger, Assisi 2018

They have been invited by the European Subcommittee of ICCRS (ESCI), who's chairman Christof Hemberger shared on the first evening: "We have gathered in order to ask the Lord for his guidance for us, for the CCR in Europe. Last year we have been celebrating the 50th anniversary of Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church, and we have had programmes leading us towards the jubilee. But: what's next? What is coming now, after the jubilee? We invited all of you to come to Assisi in order to be together as one body to ask the Lord: Lead us! Show us! Help us to understand your will for the time that is ahead of us..."

The programme of the Prophetic Consultation was a mixture of guided prayer times, times of silent prayer in the presence of the Holy Sacrament, times of listening as one body – but also times of listening to the Lord's voice in small groups and as individuals. Afterwards there was always the possibility to share impressions, pictures and words of knowledge and prophecy.

Just a few little impulses were given by Charles Whitehead (*Prophecy as an inspiration*), ICCRS-president Jim Murphy (*Characteristic fruit of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit – do we see them in the CCR today, have we been faithful to our calling?*) and Michelle Moran (*What did the Lord say in the last years?*).

Most of the words that have been received during this times of listening were simple – but meaningful:

Do not block the Holy Spirit by human decisions.

Do not hinder the Holy Spirit to flow where he wants to flow.

Surrender under the Lordship of God – do not pretend being the lords.

Lay down your crowns, your pride!

Resurrection will come through sacrifice. Give up what is important to you.

Live unity! Build bridges, even if it is difficult. If you do not die to yourself you will not experience to rise again!

To the cross



Those words have not just been shared after they have been received – the participants have been encouraged to do straight away what was said by the Lord: They came to the cross, laying down their “crowns”, they prayed for each other in small groups and took the chance to ask for forgiveness etc. where needed. All in all it was a very deep, powerful and direction-giving time!

Assisi was chosen as it is a prophetic place in the heart of the Church: St. Francis lived here his vision to build up and renew the Church. The leaders of the European CCR also met in the same intention: Lord, help us to understand your will – and to renew the CCR and the Church! In this way all felt to be in the footprints of St. Francis – seeking the Lord’s will.

One of the highlights of the conference was a pilgrimage to the heart of Assisi: The Basilica of St. Francis. There we had time to visit the place as pilgrims, to celebrate Eucharist and to receive inspiration during a time of personal prayer and reflection.

CCR will get new statutes

Michelle Moran, appointed by Pope Francis to prepare for the CCR to get a “one single service” on international level, took the opportunity to inform all present leaders about the changes that will come during the next couple of months (we will inform about all this in a further EUCCRIL that will be sent out shortly). Of course this means that there will be a need of change for all of us. The CCR will get new statutes and this will have an effect on how we live and work in the regions, nations and continents.

Christof Hemberger summarized the output of the Prophetic Consultation during his final talk on Sunday morning by encouraging the present leaders to continue to live what they have experienced during this time in Assisi: “We will only renew the church if we are obedient to the Lord. Let us lay down our crowns again and again. Let us seek and live unity – and in this way let us BE a prophecy to the CCR, to the Church and to the world!”

Final Talk, Assisi, 25th of March 2018 by Christof Hemberger

Words that I recall from the last days (my own summary):

- “Surrender under the Lordship of God!” (Thursday)
- “Picture of river that tears down a wall” (Thursday)
- “Lay down your crowns!” (Thursday)
- Picture of wall in a river. God says: my Spirit will flow – the wall must go down.

Please make the right decisions to take down the brick stones that build this wall!

If you do not do this – my river will find it’s way. (Thursday)

- 3 giants (pride, independence, ownership) that needs to be given up. (Friday)
- Ezekiel 34: dry bones that come to life again. (Friday & Saturday)
- Picture of broken body of Christ. (Friday)
- “Resurrection comes through sacrifices!” (Friday)
- “Not whoever says ‘Jesus is Lord’ – but those who do my will!” (Friday)
- Call from Pope Francis to the CCR to get united. (Saturday)

- Call to unity. (Friday)
- Sacrifice is needed to “earn” unity. (Friday)
- “If we do not die, if we do not experience death, if we do not experience the sacrifice, there will not be a resurrection!”

What is the message of this event?

What is the prophetic sign of this event?

Where does the Lord lead us now?!

On Saturday we have been told about the changes in the CCR. We are in the midst of great changes! Things will not remain as they have been before. This means there is fear, insecurity and anxiety. This is normal! A change usually is not pleasant, as we like things as we are used to them.

But besides the challenges there is also a blessing!

The Lord is at work in us!

The task might have been given by Pope Francis, but the vision that is behind is from the Lord!

Do not forget: When the Lord speaks, where the Lord is involved – it will become a success!

God is not interested in a good functioning and good-looking CCR!

It is his desire to get his divided body healed and united again!



(see: picture of cross as a divided body at the wall in this room / words during prayer time Saturday night etc.)

What God actually calling us to is – and will be – the prophetic sign to the church and all the world!

To live unity

Yesterday I spoke about Assisi as the right place for this prophetic consultation.

The church needs renewal. The church needs THE renewal!

But we will only be able to be a prophetic sign in and to the church, if we are living in unity.

And we will only be in unity if we are obedient and follow Gods instructions – that have been quite clear during the last prayer times: *surrender under his Lordship, be obedient and do his will, be open to sacrifices and build unity!*

It is so easy to say: “Unity is important!” – but it is quite difficult to really live it!

I think what happened during this last few days among us was very needed, so that God can prepare his CCR to get united and healed. And he needs us to get united and healed as CCR in all it’s dimensions - in order to get his body united and healed!

Assisi, prophetic location

I think the location (Assisi) was very prophetic for our meeting!

As God used St. Francis of Assisi to renew his church a long time ago, he is using the CCR to renew his church today!

It is not about getting some more people into empty churches and chapels.

It is not about getting some more people into seminars and prayergroups that we are running. It is much more!

The Lord needs us to be an example to his Church! A living example. A prophetic sign!
We need to become people who have experienced and who live what unity is all about!
We need to be obedient to what he has told us during these days (see above!) in order to be prophets to the church of today!

This are the keys

I am coming back to the journey we did during the last few days:

All this will not happen without a sacrifice! We need to

- Surrender (laying down our crowns)
- Be obedient (= the will to really change)

This two points are the keys!!!

If we are not able to live this – in our lives and among us – how shall the others do?

Unity starts in the heart. It is a matter of the heart. It is born in a heart-attitude.

If we do our homework and if we live as the Lord told us during the last few days (and he told us quite clearly, I think!) we will see the fruit of all this!

And now?

Let us not go home and say: “The conference in Assisi was great!” and then get all the papers into the archives!

Let us share what happened here among us!

Let us share the vision of unity!

Let us continue to live at home what has started here!

Then we will be able to make – and to be – a difference. Then we will be able to make a change

- To the CCR
- To the church
- To the world!

Do not wait for the one and only prophecy – BE THE PROPHECY!!!