



CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL BRISBANE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Dear members of CCR Brisbane,

It is my pleasure and privilege that I present the Annual Report for 2016-17 on behalf of CCR Brisbane.

This report comes at a time when the world acknowledges the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Catholic Church in 1967, which became known as Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This outpouring was underscored by Pope Francis through his invitation to people of faith to gather in Rome for Pentecost celebrations. We look forward to hearing from those who travelled to Rome for this event.

At the last AGM, the impact of the 2016 National Conference was still being felt. Subsequent CCR Committee minutes record that the spiritual impact continued in the following months. We began to digest more of the Word that emerged from the Conference and to focus on the new direction of the Lord. We were taken deeper and higher into Christ Jesus as a result of the conference ministry and I am pleased to say that the focus on the “new thing” the Lord wants to do in and through His people, continues.

Prayer Groups

CCR Brisbane continues to support 37 prayer groups and ministries in the Archdiocese. While many are small in numbers, we need to be reminded that each person is a soldier in the Lord’s worldwide army—the remnant of the faithful that have gone before us as well as those who continue as His ambassadors in not only carrying the King’s message to those we meet, but being the King’s message itself.

Future Vision

The emergence of Is 54/2-3 from the Conference through Mary Healy, is the key Scripture that has been taken to heart—so much so, that for the first time, the State Service Committee of CCR adopted it as its vision for all Service Committees in every diocese in the State. This Scripture has also been confirmed through other sources outside the Catholic Church. The Lord’s army is on the march and things are going to change. *Is 43/18-19—“No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new thing, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?”*

You will recall the vision of CCR comfortably camped outside the City Gates. This vision has now changed and the camp has been deserted. People have streamed into the City of God and taken on the desire in their hearts to move more deeply into relationship with God. From within this deeper relationship, a new desire for the Lord will blossom in each person. This change is an indication of preparation for what is to come.

As we move into this new era of the Lord, we can expect disruption—disruption necessary to herald the new ways of the Lord and disruption in attempts to stop that happening. So, prayer and discernment are going to be critical to the way we move forward.

Ministry Teams and Events

The fundamental mission of CCR Brisbane is to evangelise, which is the mission of the Church. CCR members and the Service Committee look for opportunities for CCR to meet its mission obligation to foster a personal relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is an ongoing responsibility.

Intercessors ministry weekend

We were pleased to have Anne Marie Gatenby deliver a ministry weekend on intercession on 29th and 30th October 2016. The four areas of intercessory focus for this ministry and CCR included: protection, expanding the CCR tent, seeking direction and praying that people will step up to what they are being called to do.

As expected, this was a beautiful weekend of ministry and much insight was provided by Anne Marie into the world of this ministry. For those who attended, it is worth re-visiting your notes. *“We need to stop praying like a persistent widow (Luke 18/1-8) and start praying like a bride”,* says Anne Marie.

Cathedral Prayer Meeting

CCR Brisbane accepted responsibility for the prayer meeting being conducted at the Cathedral during the year. Maureen Allison, leader of the Beside Restful Waters Prayer Group and Mission Team member, answered the call to take on the co-ordinating role for this ministry.

The ministry was initially started by CCR Bardon. In recent years, two members of CCR Bardon, Marie Kann and Kathleen Cosgrove, carried the responsibility for the prayer meeting. We thank them for their commitment to maintaining the presence of CCR at the physical heart of the Church, which has complimented and will continue to enhance the spiritual heart.

CCR Brisbane is very grateful to Maureen taking on the responsibility of co-ordinating this ministry. Thank you so much, Maureen.

Prophetic Ministry

CCR intends to develop a new prophetic ministry. This is a new emerging ministry for CCR Australia-wide but first a little background.

Messengers of the Word was a group of people interested in evangelisation and grew out of a supporting role to the ministry of Fr Jack Soulsby and Jan Heath in the early to mid-90s. The ministry subsequently worked closely with the CCR Committee offering workshops and seminars on behalf of CCR. With the opening up of ministries to all CCR members, the initial role of Messengers was absorbed into the Mission Team of CCR and former Messengers members are part of that ministry.

The new role suggested for Messengers was to discern the prophecies on behalf of CCR. However, that was a role that the majority of members discerned did not suit their giftedness. The result is that Messengers of the Word ceased to function as a separate ministry and the discernment of prophecies has also been absorbed into CCR.

On behalf of CCR Brisbane, I thank Roger L'Huillier as Co-ordinator and the dedicated members of Messengers for their work of evangelisation over a couple of decades and for their continuing participation in CCR ministries.

A new expanded prophetic ministry will be developed within CCR retaining the "Messengers of the Word" name. Margaret Kerwick, member of the Service Committee and leader of the Maranatha Prayer Group at Kenmore has taken on the role of Co-ordinator and will attend a National Prophetic Weekend held in Adelaide on 28th to 30th July 2017.

There will be an opportunity later in the year for CCR members to attend training in prophetic ministry conducted by National President, Ann Brereton, and Anne Marie Gatenby. This is proposed for the 4th and 5th November, 2017. Following training, this ministry will be open to those CCR members who feel called to this ministry. Until then, a number of Service Committee members have volunteered to assist Margaret with the discernment of prophecies.

Continuous Life in the Spirit Seminars

Late last year, it was proposed that CCR members conduct continuous LISS within regions. While this has not yet been formally organised due to other commitments and Rome celebrations, a weekend on The Grace of Baptism was presented at St Matthews, Cornubia, on 29th and 30th April 2017. We are extremely grateful to Fr Rodrigo Tomala, Parish Priest, for his hospitality, support, openness and for being present for the entire Seminar. What a blessing!

I express the appreciation of CCR to members of the Mission and Creative Ministries for making themselves available and for their participation in the weekend. It was a wonderful experience.

Another request for such a weekend also came from St Maximilian Kolbe Parish at Marsden. This seminar will be held on 4th and 5th August.

I am also aware that some prayer groups are planning seminars or have completed spiritual renewal programs. Congratulations to all those prayer groups who have conducted seminars during the year.

End of Year Celebration

The end-of-year celebration focused on Is 54/2-3 with the theme 'Expand your tents'. The talk presented at that event on this subject was published in Face to Face earlier this year.

We thank Fr Nev Yun for celebrating Mass for us on that day.

The Ipswich Prayer Group was seeking to hold a LISS at Booval. A meeting with the Parish Priest, Fr Jojimon Thomas, resulted in him advising that because of his aged congregation, few people would be in a position to

attend. However, he would be pleased to participate in a joint celebration with St Mary's at Ipswich. Correspondence to St Mary's was not acknowledged and subsequently, the then parish priest was transferred. New connections need to be made.

Retreat Day

On Saturday, 25th February 2017, the CCR Committee, Mission and Creative Teams spent the day in prayer and listening to the Lord. Participants spent the morning in praise, worship and prayer and then went away to listen to what the Lord is saying. Groups were formed and feedback was secured. The feedback has been further summarised and is subject to further discernment by the executive team.

The approach was to Listen, Hear and Record. We had less structure and more ministry that day which was very beneficial. There are three more steps to take to complete this exercise and they are to Discern, Plan and Act.

Elements incorporated under these headings will be made available to participants. One of the most common words to appear is 'humility'.

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer was conducted on 8th April 2017 under the theme 'Prepare the Way of the Lord'. We established a loose agenda but spent more time in praise and worship. Three talks were presented the themes for which were: 'Disassemble' presented by Audrey Chan-Seow; 'Throw off your cloak' by Jenny McCormack and 'Be a donkey for Christ' by Margaret Kerwick. Music ministry was provided by Agape and CCR music ministry. Creative input was provided by Doreen Cormack.

The day ran from 10am to 5pm finishing up with intercessory prayer.

We express our appreciation to those who used their God-given gifts and made this a memorable day of prayer. Thank you all so much.

Jubilee Celebrations with the Archbishop

Once again, we were blessed to have the Archbishop celebrate Mass for us to acknowledge the Jubilee of CCR. He spoke so well about CCR and indicated after the Mass and lunch how he enjoys celebrating with us.

Healing Ministry in Parishes

We were blessed once again to be invited by Fr Paul Chackanikunnel, PP Hendra Parish, to provide healing prayer ministry at the parish after the 5.00pm Mass on 3rd December 2016. Fr Rodrigo Tomala, PP at St Matthews, Cornubia, also accepted the offer to pray for people after the 6pm Mass as part of the Grace of Baptism weekend, which was well received.

Further opportunities are being sought with other parishes.

International Ministry with Aneel Aranha

In September we will have a visit from International Evangelist, Aneel Aranha, who, at this stage, will be ministering in eleven parishes. Planning is well advanced and I thank Audrey for the work she has done in securing approvals from the archdiocese, organising security checks and a blue card as well as preparing the program for this event.

Pentecost at Bardon

CCR Brisbane joined with CCR Bardon to celebrate Pentecost again this year with guest speaker Fr Adam Crouch MGL. The added motivation of the Jubilee celebration provided the opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Fr Vince Hobbs to CCR in the State over the past 47 years.

As usual, it was a memorable night of celebration. Thank you to CCR Bardon for hosting the celebration. I also thank those members of the CCR music ministry who were in Australia, for providing the music and Kathleen Cosgrove for leading the praise and worship. It was quite extraordinary and beautiful!

State Service Committee

The State Service Committee meeting was held on 4th and 5th November 2016 in Brisbane. It was from this meeting that the decision was made to adopt Is 54/2-3 as the vision for the State. There is a sense of great unity within CCR across the State and some have said that the spiritual dimension associated with the meeting was one of the best ever held at a State level.

We thank Jenny McCormack for the manner in which she fulfils her role as President and for her representation of the State on the National Service Committee. Her very open communication on what is happening within Renewal more broadly is greatly appreciated.

Healing Prayer Centres

Healing prayer continues to be in demand but has eased somewhat during the year. Nevertheless, the quality of ministry seems to have deepened as the prayer ministers spend more time with the Lord and work with their individual spiritual directors.

Thank you to Jenny McCormack, Co-ordinator, and Audrey Chan-Seow, Prayer Centre Administrator, for their work in facilitating this ministry. I also thank all prayer ministers and intercessors who have provided ministry over the past 12 months and congratulations to those who completed their training and were commissioned by the Archbishop at the Jubilee Mass in March.

Proposed 'Ecumenical Festival of Praise and Worship'

At the present time, the Service Committee is working on a proposal for an Ecumenical Festival of Praise and Worship. The proposal will be presented to the Archbishop for consideration.

Face-to-Face

I express our gratitude to our Editor of Face-to-Face, Gail Creswell, for the magnificent job Gail is doing as editor. Gail's writing and presentation skills always makes one feel like one wants to read the newsletter. Thank you, Gail. Thank you too to those who contribute to the newsletter on a regular basis. Sr Carmel Boyle has been a regular contributor for decades and we have all benefited from her wisdom.

CCR Chaplain

Fr Francis Onwunali, CCR Brisbane Chaplain, returned to his home country of Nigeria towards the end of September. Those who travelled to Rome for Pentecost celebrations caught up with him there and we look forward to hearing about what the Lord is doing in his life.

At this stage, the Archbishop has not appointed another priest to be Chaplain.

Thank you

The work done by the Executive Team during the year behind the scenes is substantial. Audrey Chan-Seow, in her role as Vice President and Ministry Co-ordinator, is an extraordinary talent. Audrey has multi-faceted gifts and skills from which we all benefit. Her organising ability is second to none. Thank you, Audrey.

I express deep gratitude for work performed by Miriam Holmes in the roles of Secretary and Liturgy Co-ordinator. Miriam is very much on-the-ball, a good thinker and is very organised. Miriam is a fantastic Secretary. Her skills as Liturgy Co-ordinator also contributes to the flow and spiritual experience of the Masses she organises. Everything is always in place. Thank you, Miriam.

I thank LP Seow for his continuing role as Treasurer for CCR Brisbane, the State and National Committees. I also thank him for co-ordinating the Prayer Warriors intercessory prayer ministry which is an ongoing ministry in itself. LP is always working behind the scenes and does a great job in looking after our technology. He takes great pride in securing the best deal on everything CCR purchases and has great skills with budgeting. Audrey, LP and Miriam along with Jenny as our State President, operate like a well-oiled machine.

Thank you, too, to all those generous people who have taken up responsibility for hospitality. This ministry underpins the spiritual by meeting the physical and social needs of the people of God.

I thank each member of the CCR Service Committee for their commitment, work and support during the last 12 months. The level of teamwork and unity within the Committee has been outstanding.

I thank the various members of affiliated prayer groups and ministries for their ministry, prayer support, participation in events and for their dedication and commitment to the Lord's work. We look forward to deepening our relationship with Jesus and moving into new ministry areas in 2017-18.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Len Airey
President