



Catholic Charismatic Renewal Brisbane

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 – 2020

Vision Statement

To be a vibrant Holy Spirit-guided ministry serving the Church through evangelisation and healing prayer

Mission Statement

To foster a personal conversion and relationship with Jesus Christ through the release of the Holy Spirit

Dear Members and Friends of CCR Brisbane,

The second half of 2019 and the first couple of months of 2020 progressed as planned with many Spirit-filled, fruitful events and ministry activities...and then we hit March 2020!! Need I say more?? But Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brisbane was not going to allow a Worldwide Pandemic to stop us from continuing our plans and ministries.

Our focus for 2020 has been and continues to be to support and strengthen our prayer groups. So interestingly enough, the aim was to support individual Prayer Group's activities/initiatives, hence there were no planned events, apart from the Opening Event, AGM and End of Year event.

We learned to navigate our way through the use of technology to remain connected as individual prayer groups as well as regionally and archdiocese wide. Our Service Committee, Executive Team, Strategic Planning Sub-Committee and Prophetic Discernment Team have continued to meet via Zoom.

A number of prayer groups have continued to meet regularly either via Zoom, Messenger, FaceBook and phone, to support one another and to continue praising, worshipping and interceding together. Some groups have discovered that attendance at online meetings have been larger than at pre COVID19 face to face meetings with new people joining in from far flung suburbs.

VISITS TO PRAYER GROUPS AND REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Light of Jesus Family Queensland was officially and warmly welcomed to our CCR Brisbane family, and commissioned by Fr Leonard Uzuegbu at our Opening Event on 22 February 2020. Their weekly gatherings are called Feasts and there are 3 feasts in Queensland located at Aspley, Sunnybank and Ashmore .

One of our plans for 2020 had been to have regular Regional Leaders Meetings. This was carried out via Zoom and a majority of the leadership of the prayer groups were able to connect which would probably not have been as successful had we met face to face. It was wonderful for the various leaders to meet each other, many for the first time, and to share their news, challenges, struggles, plans and ideas with each other. The Regional Reps and Mission Coordinator, Len Airey, had the opportunity to hear about the needs of the prayer groups and were able to share ideas of how the Service Committee and Mission Team could be of support to them. It was agreed that these Regional meetings would continue on a regular basis via Zoom as it was more convenient than having to drive to an agreed upon venue for face to face meetings. This is especially beneficial for the Northern and South Coast Regions where the Prayer Groups are located hundreds of kilometres apart.

Our hope of visiting every single prayer group had been curtailed by the COVID 19 restrictions. As of March this year, we had visited 20 of our 35 prayer groups and ministries.

Thank you to our many affiliated members and leaders for your continuing dedication to Catholic Charismatic Renewal even during this challenging time. God-willing we will be able to have Face to Face visits with the remaining 15 prayer groups in the not too distant future.



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EVENTS AND MINISTRY ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 – 2020

- ❖ *23 – 25 August 2019* **Women of the Way Retreat** presented by Ann Brereton and Ann Marie Gatenby with Fr Nev Yun was described as “the best one ever” with over 100 participants experiencing healing, transformation and deep friendship.
- ❖ *31 August 2019* **“He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds” Retreat** presented by Fr Ray Sanchez and hosted by Sunnybank Prayer Group
- ❖ *14 September 2019* **Healing Retreat** at Bardon
- ❖ *September – November 2019* **Prayer Training Level 2**
- ❖ *September and November 2019* **Leadership Days and Grace of Baptism** in Toowoomba presented by the Mission Team
- ❖ *30 November 2019* **End of Year Event** was a time of thanksgiving with sharing of various personal testimonies of God’s love, mercy and healing and Mass celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Joseph Oudeman
- ❖ *22 February 2020* **Opening Event / National Day of Prayer and Fasting Rally** when we gathered **“TOGETHER FOR THE GLORY OF GOD”** to pray for our Nation and the World in unity with various other church groups throughout Australia. Mass was celebrated by Fr Leonard Uzuegbu. There was also a time of gathering in small groups according to the regions of our prayer groups for discussion, discernment and prayer.
- ❖ *22 – 24 February 2020* **Bible Reading Marathon** - members of CCR Brisbane participated in this wonderful initiative of proclaiming the entire Scripture over the City of Brisbane, non-stop, during a 72-hour period.
- ❖ *29 February 2020* **Prayer Training Level 1 Session 1**
- ❖ *May – June 2020* **Regional Meetings via Zoom**
- ❖ *May – August 2020* **Prayer Training Level 3 via Zoom**
- ❖ *25 July 2020* **Spanish Retreat** presented by Fr Ray Sanchez and hosted by Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group, Sunnybank

HEALING PRAYER CENTRES

Face to face healing prayer ministry could not continue due to the COVID 19 restrictions, however, we have had online healing prayer appointments via Zoom and Whatsapp.

Prayer Training Level 3 has resumed via Zoom for those who wished to proceed in this way. For the rest of Level 3 and Level 1 trainees, we are still waiting for the appropriate time to resume face to face training.

Thank you to Jenny McCormack (Prayer Centre Coordinator), the Healing Prayer Centre Team and Intercessors, and the Prayer Training Team for their ongoing commitment.

PENTECOST 2020

COVID 19 restrictions prevented the Golden Anniversary year of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brisbane to be celebrated at Bardon at Pentecost, but we look forward to celebrating this at a later date. We were, however, all able to participate in the international online global celebration from Rome on Pentecost Sunday organised by CHARIS. The worldwide charismatic renewal family came together for 1.5 hours of prayer, praise and worship. Our very own Len Airey (CCR Brisbane Mission Coordinator and Coordinator of CCR Bardon) and EJ Polotan (CCR Brisbane Service Committee and Core Team member of Hosanna Prayer and Praise Group at Victoria Point) were part of the 1,000 strong voices from around the globe praying in tongues.

Following the Rome celebration, leaders from local charismatic realities – CCR Brisbane, Emmanuel, Couples for Christ Australia, Awaken and MGL Spiritual Association came together via Zoom to pray for our city and our respective groups. This time of united prayer was a COVID19 blessing, and it was unanimously agreed that the Zoom meeting would be a regular way of gathering together in unity.



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FAREWELL

Frances Ninnes entered into Eternal Life in May. She had been actively involved in Renewal for many years leading the Fire of the Holy Spirit Ministry presenting in excess of 20 Life in the Spirit Seminars. “Well done, Good and Faithful Servant”.

THANK YOU

Archbishop Mark, Bishop Joseph and Fr Leonard who continue to provide much needed wisdom and guidance.

Gail Creswell, our creative Editor of Face-to-Face, who is ever so patient with us even as we miss the deadlines for articles.

Our Anointed CCR Brisbane Band who may have to continue to harmonise via Zoom in this new normal.

Superb Service Committee – Rosa Montegrando, Paul Vukim, Maria Monro, Helena Montegrando, EJ Polotan, Dorothy Kay, Helena Healey, Kathy Nix, Juliana Tan, Margaret Kerwick, Miriam Holmes, LP Seow, Jenny McCormack, Len Airey. Each one of you is integral to the functioning of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brisbane and I thank God that He has gifted us with such an amazing, committed, gifted, generous team of saints.

A NEW REALITY...

This was part of Pope Francis’ exhortation to us at the CHARIS Pentecost Event: “Today more than ever, we need the Father to send the Holy Spirit. We have before us the duty to build a new reality. The Lord will do it; we can collaborate: ‘I make all things new’, He says (*Rev 21: 5*). When we come out of this pandemic, we will no longer be able to do what we have been doing, how we have been doing it. No, everything will be different.”

These unprecedented times have revealed to us that there are certainly new ways of doing.

The core of our mission for 2020 is to get back to the basics :

- ❖ Baptism in the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- ❖ Charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit

One of the new ways of reaching out to more people (especially those who are unable to get to a prayer meeting locally) is to hold a monthly CCR Brisbane Prayer Meeting via Zoom. Our first such prayer meeting is planned for 13 August.

Other new strategies in the planning are:

- ❖ Presentation of Life in the Spirit Seminars and Gift Workshops in fresh and attractive ways; possibly online
- ❖ Pre-recorded talks by the Mission Team that will help equip the prayer groups for ministry
- ❖ A library of resources that will be available to prayer groups

May we continue to listen to and cooperate with the Holy Spirit and journey into the new normal...into the new reality with great anticipation.

AUDREY CHAN-SEOW

PRESIDENT