

## POPE FRANCIS AT THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL FROM THE WHOLE WORLD TO ROME FOR 5 DAYS OF MEETINGS AND CELEBRATIONS

Pope Francis will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Services ) and the Catholic Fraternity are in fact organizing this great event, after 50 years since the birth of this current of grace in 1967. This event will take place in Rome from the 31st of May to the 4th of June, in preparation for the next Pentecost, with the participation of Charismatics from all over the world. For an explicit desire of the Pope, other than the members of the various Charismatic expressions of the Catholic Renewal, representatives from the Evangelical and Pentecostal world too will be attending and intervening. It will therefore be a great Ecumenical Event." The Charismatic Renewal was born Ecumenical and so it will be an Ecumenical Celebration in this sense," said Pope Francis himself, answering a question regarding the Golden Jubilee during his flight back from Sweden last January." In Buenos Aires we had a Mass of the Charismatic Renewal in the Cathedral once a year, to which everyone came. Therefore, I too experienced a process of recognition of the good that the Renewal has given to the Church".

The Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal will open on Wednesday 31st May, in the morning, with the General audience with the Pope in St. Peter's Square. An articulate program will then follow with Meetings, Symposiums, Workshops and Celebrations, that will take place in various Basilicas, Churches and locations in the centre of Rome. The witnesses of the first years of the Renewal and the big world leaders will be intervening. The event will conclude on Saturday, 3rd June, in the evening, with a great Vigil with the Pope at the Circo Massimo and on Sunday, 4th June, with the solemn Celebration of the Feast of Pentecost in St. Peter's Square. The official program of the Golden Jubilee will be presented by Michelle Moran, President of ICCRS, and Gilberto Gomes Barbosa, President of the Catholic Fraternity, on Monday, 24th April, at the Fiera in Rimini, during the 40th National Convocation of the Renewal in the Holy Spirit (RnS).

The Catholic Renewal was born in February 1967, during a Students' Retreat at the Duquesne University in Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania - USA). During that weekend, the students prayed for a long while, asking God to be able to experience in a new way, the grace of Baptism and Confirmation. And they had a powerful experience of God, that changed their hearts and became known as " Baptism in the Spirit". This Charismatic experience got out of the Duquesne University pretty soon and started spreading in the Parishes and other Catholic structures in the whole world. 50 years later, we estimate that the Renewal is present today in over 200 countries, and has reached over 120 million Catholics. The Renewal is not a single, unified world-wide Movement, it hasn't got a single founder or a group of founders, like other Ecclesiastical Movements. Nevertheless, the various expressions of the Renewal in the world share the same fundamental experience in common: the " Baptism in the Holy Spirit ".

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**Giubileo d'Oro del Rinnovamento Carismatico Cattolico**  
**Ufficio Stampa**

tel: +39 06 69887147

mail: [communications@ccrgoldenjubilee2017.org](mailto:communications@ccrgoldenjubilee2017.org)