



Kiely's Comments

Words/pix: Pat Kiely, Lismore

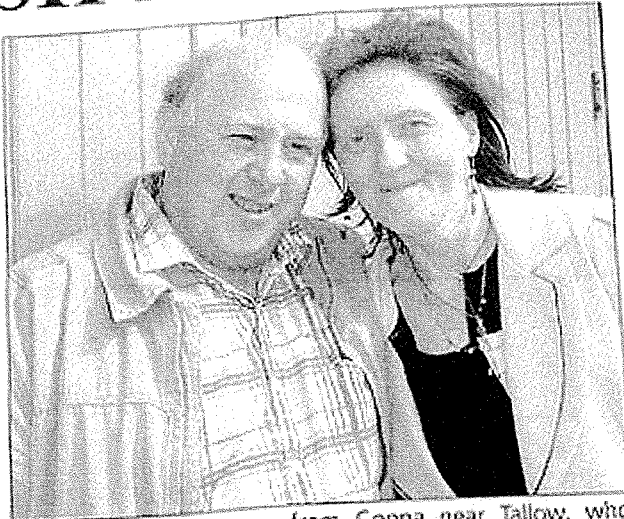
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'FRESH FIRE' in Ireland!

JUST over a week ago, more than a thousand, (mainly catholic) charismatics from all over Ireland, including Lismore, Tallow and other parts of Co. Waterford and Waterford City, descended on Athlone, to attend a three day Charismatic Renewal conference weekend, held in the Athlone Institute of Technology and two days later, many of these same people returned to Athlone to attend a three night, healing revival event called 'Fresh Fire,' which was held in the nearby Athlone Springs Hotel.

Some of those Catholics who attended the hotel gathering the following week, were no doubt influenced by the comments of Fr. Pat Collins, one of the main speakers at the charismatic renewal weekend and author of several books, who has just returned from Florida, where he attended several meetings of the Lakeland Florida Fresh Fire Revival, who said that in his opinion, this new



John & Sheila Corcoran from Conna near Tallow, who attended the charismatic renewal conference in the Athlone Institute. [Pat Kiely]

Pentecostal style movement in the USA was from the Holy Spirit.

The 'Fresh Fire,' healing revival started in Lakeland, Florida, about three months ago, led by a heavily tattooed Canadian preacher from Canada called Todd Bentley, and through the work of his

associate revivalists, is now spreading like wild fire all over the world, due to extensive nightly live coverage on the God TV channel which broadcasts to over 230 countries.

Many medically proven miraculous healings are being claimed and many non believers attending these meetings are accepting Jesus into their lives for the first time and being burned up with the FIRE and power of the Holy Spirit.

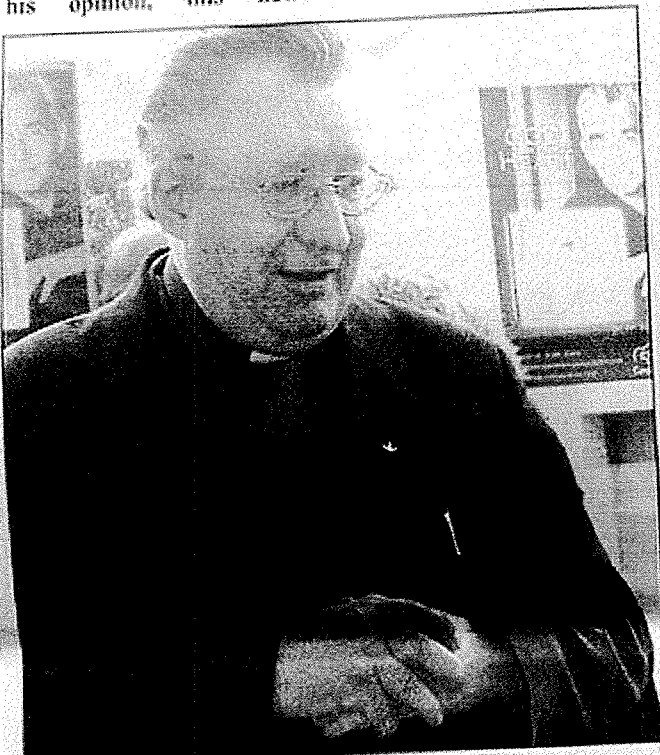
The catholic charismatic renewal conference mentioned earlier, was attended by several well known speakers including Marie Beirne, CCR National chairperson, Joe Dalton, a well known lay healer from Limerick, Fr. Pat Collins who appeared on RTE programme about exorcism a couple of years back and Ms. Patti Gallagher-Mansfield, who was present at the original weekend gathering of prayer held at a college in Pittsburg, USA in 1967, from where the charismatic movement, which broke out in the USA in 1904, first spread into the Catholic church.

There certainly were some powerful praise and worship

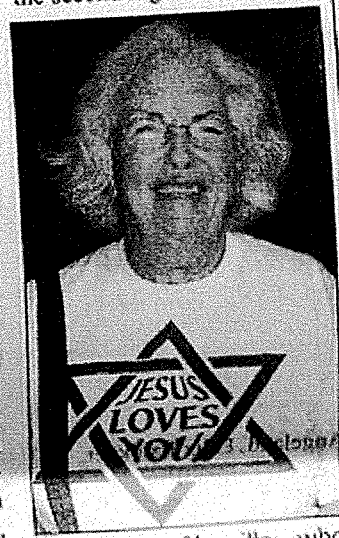
sessions at both events, which were led by Fr. Pat and Ms. Gallagher-Mansfield at the charismatic renewal weekend and by a Canadian preacher called Bobby Sullivan at the 'Fresh Fire' meetings a few days later in the Athlone Springs Hotel which had a strong effect on those present.

The main difference between the two events however was the general age of the participants: i.e. the Catholic conference attracted mostly those aged over forty, while the 'Fresh Fire' service seemed to appeal to many more in their twenties, thirties and early forties age group and focused more on healing and on the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

"I certainly felt the Holy Spirit was very busy at the 'Fresh Fire' healing service, which reminded me of some of the charismatic meetings I attended as a student in the late 1970s, in the early days of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement in Ireland and would welcome this outpouring of the Spirit in the Catholic church again asap," remarked a man from the Lismore area, who had attended the hotel meeting on the second night.



Fr. Pat Collins, the main speaker at the Charismatic renewal conference. [Pat Kiely]



Ms. Ann Glanville who attended the 'Fresh Fire' meeting in the Athlone Springs Hotel. [Pat Kiely]

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