



The Spirit of the Cenacle

Volume 14, No. 2

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The Spirit of the Cenacle is the official Newsletter of the Missionary Cenacle Apostolate. It is published three times during the year in conjunction with the liturgical seasons of Advent, Lent/Easter, and Ordinary Time. The deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2005. To Smittie Bolner, 460 Bancroft Way, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.-4805. E-mail: sbolner@cox.net.

From the General Custodian

Dear Family,

"May the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit be with us forever!"

As I face the end of my term of office as General Custodian of the MCA, I am prompted to reflect on Jesus' sending the apostles to "the other side," while he dismissed the crowds and went up on the mountain to pray (Mt 14:22-33). I cannot help wondering about the content of Jesus' prayer. I am certain that he prayed for those he had sent off and especially for the apostles, and his prayer was surely that they would make it safely to "the other side." I know that Jesus thanked his Father, and this reflection leads me to offer up my own prayer of gratitude.

Yes, I am most grateful for all the blessings I have received as I have attempted to serve God in the MCA, but my prayer is also filled with petitions. My prayer of gratitude merges with my prayer of petition. For what am I grateful? For what do I ask? I must confess that this is not an easy reflection; yet, I know in my heart that it is an important one.

I am grateful that Jesus has called me to "go to the other side" on this boat called the "MCA." From this boat of the MCA Jesus continues to call me, as he did to St. Peter, to walk on water, to deepen my faith, and to rely on his strength. I hear Jesus' challenging call often, and I am always grateful that the call comes to me while I am securely in the boat named the "MCA." I am grateful for all of you who have ventured with me on the "MCA." At times the boat has experienced rough seas and some storms, but we have never doubted that Jesus was there—calling us and nourishing us.

I am grateful for the grace that continues to push those of us in the MCA to go against our most basic inclinations, which are often to deny that Jesus is calling us and challenging us. We would want to stay in our "comfort zone," tending to our busy schedules, and wanting to put off thinking of Jesus' call. After all, it is not easy to embark upon the water when the weather is threatening—and the weather seems to be constantly threatening.

My reflection has led me to conclude that it is not possible to get to the "other side" without enduring the trial of the waves, the opposing winds, and the tribulations of the sea. If you, as I often do, find yourself weighed down by many tiresome matters and tired by the very long crossing, do not give up. Giving up leads to shipwreck. Only with Jesus could the disciples make it to "the other side." I pray that we bring many others on board and that we all make it "to the other side." Thank you, Jesus!

I am most grateful to be your servant,
In the Most holy Trinity,
Josie Morales, General Custodian

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL GUIDE

Father John Seymore, ST

Ana and Her Boss

Ana and her husband, Juan, both Cenacle members from California, work in different departments of the same factory. Ana's boss, a professed Christian of a Protestant denomination, was anything but Christian in the way he treated the workers under him. He was all criticism and no compliments. Worst of all, his quick anger led him to belittle and insult the workers under him. Ana was one of his favorite targets. No matter how hard she tried she could not please him. Time and time again Ana, and many other workers, would leave work upset at the way they had been treated. Juan did his best to console and comfort her, but felt helpless to change things. They were newly married and needed the jobs to meet their expenses.

In factories like Ana's, the salaries are low, the benefits few. Without unions there is little recourse for protection from abusive supervisors and managers. The general attitude is: "If you don't like it here, you know where the door is." Ana, being a natural leader, decided to speak to him on behalf of herself and the others. But her words made little impression on him. Not much changed.

Ana and Juan then decided to pray for him. They also invited their Cenacle to join them in prayer. They persevered in prayer, month after month. It took a long while, but gradually Ana's boss began to change his attitude toward her and toward the other workers. The insults and hurtful remarks stopped. The atmosphere in the factory brightened up. Production improved. Ana and Juan believe it was prayer that made the difference.

There is power in persevering prayer, especially when it is accompanied by the steadfast witness of a committed Christian life. Jesus transformed the power of our

prayer on the night before he died. He said to those gathered in the cenacle: "*Amen, amen I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I go to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.*" (John 14:12-14)

Here is Jesus' solemn promise. It was given not only to the Twelve Apostles, but to you and me, and all who follow in their footsteps. It is meant for the work of continuing the mission of Jesus to extend the Kingdom of God. Personally, I have not had much luck with it when it comes to picking the winner of the Kentucky Derby or in influencing the outcome of a presidential election. Yet, as I look back I must admit that prayer has gained countless blessings for me and for those for whom I have prayed. It is amazing how many times my prayers have been answered. I am beginning to appreciate more this quote from Father Judge:

My dear children, the longer I live the more I am impressed with this truth: it is only prayer which effects the conversion of sinners. This conversion must begin in prayer. Any agency used, no matter how brilliant or resourceful or powerful, no matter with what prestige it is launched, unless it be accompanied by prayer, it will fail. (Meditations, p.271)

In the providence of our everyday life, persevering prayer together with steadfast witness can bring about positive change. It did where Ana worked. Interestingly, her boss now praises her as "the best worker in the factory."

Holy Spirit Region - Western United States

Honoring Missionaries in the World

The Magnificat Cenacle of the Northwest honors individuals, couples, and even lay groups who are outstanding examples of followers of Jesus. We do this as a way of encouraging lay Catholics to become apostles, to fully live and share their faith within the providence of every day life. These are people who are not content with just going to Mass on Sunday and simply being good people. They live as missionaries and move beyond the safety of the pew to take their faith to their families, their neighborhoods, their work, and the larger community. We call these honorees “Missionary Servants in the World.”

The 2005 honorees as “Missionary Servants in the World” are Pat and Laura Escure who are members of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Quincy, WA. Pat and Laura fully live and share their faith as missionaries. They are modern examples of how our Blessed Mother, Mary, the first missionary, carried Christ within her womb and gave birth to him in a world desperately in need of a Savior. They, too, carry Christ to others.

Pat and Laura will be presented with a letter of commendation and an icon of Mary at the 50th anniversary celebration of the parish on September 11, 2005.

—Robert Fontana, MCA, Magnificat Cenacle

San Juan Bautista Region - Puerto Rico

The Colors of Our Cenacles: A Meditation

We all live in God’s garden of life—the universe—filled with many-colored creatures and objects.. In this garden, gardeners plant seeds and cultivate the flowers, the trees, and, indeed, all living things that blossom into a beautiful array of colors. Our Cenacles are part of that garden of life and our missionaries are the gardeners.

From east to west, from south of Ponce to the north of San Juan, in Puerto Rico our Cenacles contribute to the beauty of life through service, action, and love. These contributions find meaning in the colors that are the fruits of our labors.

Yellow is the color of the sun. We find it in the laughter of the children of Pueblo Indio.

Green is the color of trees. It is the color of hope we see when we make God the center of our universe, when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bring the word of God to the sick and the imprisoned.

Blue is the color of peace. We see it in the comfort we offer to those who suffer and the drying of the tears of the old; we see it in the happiness of a young pregnant girl who, after prayer and counseling, decides to have her baby.

White is the color of purity and friendship we see when we give support to a mother who has lost her son in war.

Pink is the color of love. We see it in **The School of Love** in Pueblo Indio where, on Saturday mornings, the Cenacle working with Sister Gloria Merced, MSBT, teaches the children that Jesus is their friend who loves them.

Brown is the color of strength. It is the color of our youth from Loiza Valley, La Central, Pueblo Indio, who show strength as they search for hope, respect, dignity, and a better way of life. We see strength in Micol Perfecto and Ninoshka Diaz, two young girls sent out as volunteers to serve in Trinita, Connecticut.

Red is the color of love aflame with the spirit of the Cenacle. It is the love we see in Father Cristóbal Reilly, ST, from Coamo, celebrating 50 golden years of priesthood; Father Vicente Pascualetto, ST, of Loiza Valley in his 35 years of service; Father Pedro Escalante, ST, in his first year as a priest; Brother Jener Valencia, ST, renewing his vows in La Central; Brother Allen, son of Carmen of Puerto Rico, making his final vows in Mexico; Father Domingo Rodriguez, ST, elected honorable son of Coamo for his leadership in all things spiritual; and in our Regional Custodian, Alma Robles.

—Linda Landin

San Juan Bautista - Puerto Rico - Regional Report

The report from the San Juan Bautista Region gives great promise for the growth of the MCA on the island. Currently there are fourteen established Cenacles, one Candidate Cenacle, two Angel Cenacles, two Cenacles in formation, and two Apostolic groups. Communication is in a healthy state, using both telephone and e-mail to communicate to members. A trimester bulletin keeps members informed of activities. Letters are mailed out to members before each regional meeting.

Numerous retreats and workshops are planned for the year, including workshops for lay and religious spiritual guides, and a youth retreat. The Dios Familia Retreat will be given twice this year with Father John Seymour, ST (February) and Father Edgar Solano, ST (October). The Pentecost Retreat now includes children and youth of family members. The Regional Custodian participated in the Contemplative in Mission retreat in Alabama. Two youths from our area assisted at the Summer Mission Institute and Trinita in Connecticut.

The report of Apostolic works gives great evidence of faith in action. Members are engaged in ministering to the incarcerated, visiting the sick, counseling the homeless and the abandoned, visiting the poor in family homes in Pueblo Indio, and guiding unmarried young mothers-to-be. Many members have responded to the call to serve in the Pueblo Indio Community.

The leadership team of the region consists of

Alma Robles : Regional Custodian

Ivette Gutierrez' : Regional Assistant

Linda Landin : North Area Custodian

Lissette Ortiz : South Area Custodian

Sarai Melendez: Regional Spiritual Guide

—Alma Robles, Regional Custodian

OTHER NEWS FROM PUERTO RICO

During the Pentecost retreat, members of La Resurrección Cenacle of Loiza received their pins as they made their promise to keep the spirit of the Trinity alive. This Cenacle was begun by Brother Orlando Bonilla, ST, during his year of mission in Puerto Rico. In three years it has blossomed under the care and guidance of Sarai Melendez; Father Harold Stone, ST; Alma Robles; and Linda Landin.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Roberto Aponte, beloved son of our Regional Spiritual Guide, Sarai Melendez. He died of a sudden stroke on August 15, at 40 years of age. Our prayers go out to Sarai, that she will be consoled in this moment of great pain at the loss of her beloved son, secure in the knowledge that he has returned home and has been embraced by his eternal father in heaven.

—Linda Landin

50th Anniversary of Fr. Christopher Reilly, S.T.

On May 19, the city of Coamo in Puerto Rico began four days of festivities in honor of the 50th anniversary of Father Chris Reilly, ST. The Missionary Cenacle Family in the island had a mass where they gathered to celebrate the pastoral life and Trinitarian presence and fidelity of Father Chris. Father Chris was an MCA member before he entered religious life and has been a magnificent support to the Cenacle in Coamo. We pray in thanksgiving for his generosity and example of service to God.

—Alma Robles

Trinity Region - Southeast U.S. - Regional Report

There are 24 established Cenacles in Trinity region, two candidate Cenacles, and ten current candidates. Four new Associates were pinned during the recent Pentecost retreats. Kay Knott is Regional Custodian and Betty McGowan is Assistant Regional Custodian. Fr. Guy Wilson, ST, is the Regional Spiritual Guide and is missioned in Bainbridge, GA.

While there have been lapses in communication between the Cenacles and the leadership, particularly among some of the older Cenacles, a concerted effort is being made to be in touch with all of the Cenacles, either through e-mail or regular mail. There has also been some concern that some individual members are no longer active and some Cenacles have become inactive. Much of this is due to aging among Cenacle members. However, among the Cenacles that are active, apostolic ministries are numerous and spirit-filled. Works include hospital ministry to the sick, bereavement ministry to families, hospice volunteers, St. Vincent DePaul volunteers, prison ministry, and ministry to shut-ins. Many MCA members are actively involved in parishes as Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, music ministers, Renew leaders, children and adult catechists, etc. While there is some lessening of engagement among some of the older Cenacles in the Region, there is also some growth and signs of encouragement. Tallahassee/Quincy, FL, is a good example. The English and Spanish speaking Cenacles cooperate to serve the Hispanic community in the area. The Cenacles in Atlanta, GA, and Decatur, AL, are quite active in their communities and in the life of their respective church parishes.

The annual Pentecostal retreats were held at Holy Trinity, AL, over three weekends in May 2005. Many of our Cenacle members attended the Missiology Institute held at Holy Trinity in July, 2005.

While there is a lot of good going on in our region, there is a lot that needs attention. Through good leadership, formation, and spirituality we will be able to regain the vibrancy that has been historically evident in our region. We must remember to keep focused on our original commitment to the MCA and to our ministries. We should keep in mind that the MCA serves as a conduit of common spiritual energy and direction as we live out our lives in service to God.

—Kay Knott, Regional Custodian

90 years and still kicking up her heels!

Grace Samson celebrated her 90th birthday July 5, 2005. Her family gave her a wonderful birthday party with her favorite Italian foods at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Atlanta, GA. Many OLA parishioners attended along with her family, including several of her siblings, three children, twelve grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren, as well as her New Life in the Spirit Cenacle family.

Grace is an active member of MCA, being first and foremost a missionary in the providence of her everyday life, which includes serving as a volunteer at Saint Vincent de Paul Society by helping people who are in need of clothing, furniture and other necessities and at St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta. She walks five miles a day and can dance like a 20-year old. We all celebrate her life!

—New Life in the Spirit Cenacle--Atlanta, GA

Our Lady of Angels Region - Costa Rica - Regional Report

Regional Custodian: Ana Isabel Barquero Bolaños

Assistant Regional Custodian: Maurilio Mora

Spiritual Guide: Pending

The Costa Rica Region has seven established Cenacles and four youth Cenacles in formation. The Cenacles have shown some growth since the Leadership Assembly held in January, 2005. We have come to realize that all in the region are called to work harder to develop a sound formation process. We are also working to promote a family spirit and to get to know each other better. Formation is proceeding along two lines: we use the documents of the MCA and, secondly, we use a complementary process involving working toward the specific goals set forth by the Leadership Assembly.

We are moving toward a pattern of meeting every month, or every other month if that is appropriate. At our meetings we take counsel with each other about our missionary work. Although there are challenges in this area, we are working toward developing communication using the telephone and e-mail.

The region has developed several retreat and formation programs. In addition to our annual Pentecost retreat, on the first Sunday of each month some of the Cenacles deepen their formation by using Fr. Dennis Berry's book, God's Valiant Warrior. We also have a program of retreats for the youth which involves using the work, The Treasure Hidden.

Our apostolic work in the region is varied and intense. We minister to the poor in a number of ways, including working at the Vista del Mar Orphanage. Those of us working at the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Elderly Asylum minister to AIDS victims as well as the elderly. We visit the missions in San Miguel de Sarapiquí, Buenos Aires de Osa. We work with the Infancia Misionera in San Miguel de Sarapiquí. We do much work in catechesis, working with those preparing for baptism and confirmation. We also support the Holy Week activities in the Peninsula de Osa. We are planning to meet with the pastor of Santo Domingo to undertake work with Infancia and Adolescencia Misionera.

In an effort to get to know one another we are planning a social activity on October 9, 2005, for all MCA members and their families.

—Ana Isabel Barquero Bolaños, Regional Custodian

Our Lady of Guadalupe Region - Mexico - Regional Report

Regional Custodian: Miguel Evaristo Juarez Mendoza
 Regional Custodian Assistant: Alma Rosa Hernandez Miranda
 Regional Spiritual Guide: Sr. Margarita Fay, MSBT
 Regional Spiritual Guide Assistant: To be announced

This Region has two areas: Temascalapa, Mexico, and Buenavista, Michoacán

In **Temascalapa** there are two active Cenacles. We have three enthusiastic candidates in formation. We are working at creating a formation team to examine the existing formation material and adapt it to our culture so that it can be better understood. At the same time we want to make sure that we maintain the original goals of the MCA.

All the Associates participated in leadership development, and the result is that we have committed leaders who are not necessarily Custodians, Assistants, or Spiritual Guides. We have new Custodians and Assistant Custodians who are the product of the leadership development efforts. Our Cenacles meet twice a month. One meeting is devoted to our apostolic work and the other one to prayer. The prayer meeting places the emphasis on our spirituality. The Associates share their experiences of spiritual and personal growth.

At Pentecost, we had a retreat in the ST House of Formation in Huitzila led by Fr. Edgar Solano, ST, and Brother Andres, ST. We participated in the arrival of the new novices who came from Colombia to the House of Formation in Huitzila. We also attended the celebration of the final vows at the House of Formation in Xotepingo, D.F., of Victor, Allen and Antonio. Fr. John Seymour, visited the Region of Mexico in the month of July. The central point of his visit was to share with us the topic of "Taking Counsel." The retreat was followed by a potluck with the Associates.

—From the Regional Report submitted by Miguel Evaristo Juarez Mendoza, Regional Custodian

The area of **Michoacán** has six Cenacles. We continued formation through the study of the spirituality of our founder, Fr. Thomas Augustine Judge, and with the guidance of Fr. John Seymour, who visited us in August. We have had a leadership workshop for Spiritual Guides, Custodians, Assistants, and other interested members. I meet with the spiritual guides, custodians and assistants every third Sunday of the month to discuss the area's needs. The Cenacles meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, where we reflect on how we are working in our apostolate.

During Pentecost we had a novena which was held in different public areas of the town. Several talks were given on different themes, some on the life of Fr. Judge. The novena ended with the visit of Fr. Edgar Solano, ST, and Sr. Lorena, MSBT. A retreat was held where all the MCA members participated and shared a meal at the end.

The apostolic works in which all the members participate are: Bible study, Eucharistic Ministers, ministers of the Word, and choir. Some members work in the Rehabilitation Center and in the distribution of food for the most needy, visiting the sick and spiritually abandoned. Some groups are actively looking for people who can serve as apostles. Our work is among the neediest. All of this work takes place between Santa Ana and Buenavista.

Fr. John Seymour visited us on August 1st to 3rd, 2005. On the first day he led a retreat where he talked about "taking counsel." On the following day, the MCA members gathered, and all enjoyed a potluck where we said good-bye to Sr. Lorena who has been our spiritual guide and is now assigned to another mission.

—Alma Rosa Hernandez, Assistant Regional Custodian

Missionary Cenacle Apostolate Leadership at the General and Regional levels and Regional Spiritual Guides

General Custodian: Josie Morales, MCA 2003 - 2007

Assistant General Custodian: Joanne Jones, MCA 2003 - 2007

International Spiritual Guide: John Seymour, S.T. – 2007

Incarnation Region: Northeastern United States

Regional Custodian: Diane and George Zine 2005-2007

Regional Spiritual Guide: Pat Regan, MCA 2007
MCA Fund Development Coordinator

Trinity Region: Southeastern United States

Regional Custodian: Kay F. Knott, MCA 2005-2009

Asst. Regional Custodian: Betty McGowan, MCA 2005-2009

Regional Spiritual Guide: Fr. Guy Wilson, ST 2005-2009

Holy Spirit Region: Western United States

Regional Custodian: Mark McGuthrie, MCA 2005-2009

Asst. Regional Custodian: Martin Zavala, MCA 2005-2009

Regional Spiritual Guides: 2009

- 1) Luz de la Torre, MCA
- 2) Artemia (Tema) Perez, MCA
- 3) Victor & Ana Gutierrez, MCA

San Juan Bautista Region: Puerto Rico

Regional Custodian: Alma Robles Perfecto 2005 - 2009

Asst. Regional Custodian: Ivette Gutierrez 2005 - 2009

Regional Spiritual Guide: Sarai Melendez, MCA

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: México

Regional Custodian: Miguel Juarez, MCA 2005 - 2009

Asst. Regional Custodian

Alma Rosa Hernandez Miranda, MCA 2005-2009

Regional Spiritual Guide: Sr. Margaret Fay, MSBT

Regional Spiritual Guide Asst: To be announced

Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles: Costa Rica

Regional Custodian: Ana Barquero 2005-2009

Assistant Regional Custodian: Maurilio Mora Sequeiro 2005 - 2009

Regional Spiritual Guide: To be Announced (Previous:Fr. Kevin Nugent, ST)

Director of Communications: Jim Bolner, MCA

Updated 8/5/05

THE MCA ON THE INTERNET

We remind our readers that the MCA's new website's address is:

<http://catholicmissionary.org/home.html> (English) and

<http://www.misionerocatico.com/home-spanish.html> (Spanish).

For the present, MCA materials are also available on the Missionary Cenacle Family website:

<http://mcenacle.org/mca/mca.htm>.

MCA-related **prayer requests and announcements** are sent regularly to approximately 200 recipients who have access to e-mail. If you wish to be added (or removed!) from the list, please write to Jim Bolner at jimbolnersr@cox.net. Penny Krautter and Joanne Jones are now also handling prayer requests and announcements. When sending in items to be sent to the persons on the list, please send to ALL THREE at the following e-mail addresses:

jimbolnersr@cox.net, misspenny22@yahoo.com, and h1434j@bellsouth.net.

Also, please remember that *The Missionary Cenacle Meditations* and *The Missionary Cenacle Ordo* are now online on the Missionary Cenacle Family website. In addition, the MCF website features the monthly reflections prepared by the ST community as well as special devotions for the liturgical seasons. To access these materials go to <http://mcenacle.org> and click on the links indicated. If you encounter any problems, please contact Jim Bolner, Sr., at jimbolnersr@cox.net.