



The Spirit of the Cenacle

Volume 17, no. 2 September, 2008

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, 2008. Send materials to Smittie Bolner, 460 Bancroft Way, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4805. E-mail: sbolner@cox.net.

Guide for this issue...

Letter from the General
Custodian
MCA Report to the MCFC
MCA Treasurer's Report
Budget
Stewardship Report
News from the Regions
Incarnation
Trinity
San Juan Bautista
A Prayer by Linda Landin

From the General Custodian

August, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Missionary Cenacle
Apostolate:

“May the grace and peace of the Holy spirit be with us
forever.”

We are to call forth apostolic men and women from
everyday walks of life to become Associates in the
Missionary Cenacle Apostolate and to encourage those

who feel called to other branches of the Missionary Cenacle Family. We demonstrate a family spirit by having a loving regard for all the members of the family and, when possible, by collaboration in apostolic works. It is our particular responsibility as members of this family to spread the Cenacle spirit. Rule of Life # 8

During this year, I visited some of the regions and was able to enjoy the different landscapes of this wonderful world created by our God. Despite the diversity of culture, climate, vegetation, food, and language, we are all one—one same spirit, the Spirit of the Cenacle.

For the privilege of getting to know the members of the Cenacle Missionary in Jimenez Port, San Jose, Costa Rica; Trinita, Massachusetts; Elizabeth, New York; and Buena Vista, Santa Ana, Michoacán, and Temascalapa, Mexico, I can only give thanks. Blessed

be God for calling us to live this spirituality that reaffirms our baptismal vows and makes us children of God—one town, one family.

As I visited the regions, I reflected on the Rule of Life, number 8, and I want to share the words that touched my heart. In all the cenacles we convoke lay men and women with an apostolic spirit. And I asked myself: What differentiates an apostolic man and women in the providence of our every day life? Why do we summon these men and women to walk the walk of family?

This question causes me to recognize our contribution as laity in the church—you and I are called to live our baptism in the reality of our family, work, and community in our daily lives. We all have experienced how lonely and arduous is this journey. How solitary can the journey be for the spirit of the lay apostle?

I can feel, observe, and listen to the needs of the laity who desire to belong to an apostolic community. It is a joy to belong to such a “family.” It is through the family that we recognize that the call to summon apostolic men and women was a prophetic vision taken by our founder 100 years ago.

Our formation as members of the MCA should be one of becoming more and more an apostolic family integrated as God’s people in concrete and visible actions. How can we make this a reality? How can we bring other members into the different branches of the family, if we have no contact with them? It is important that we reflect in the spirit of prayer on this part of our *Rule of Life*. Father Judge recognized the importance of this family spirit and he challenged us by his example to maintain contact between laity and religious. He gave us this through his example of fidelity and commitment. He not only preserved the family spirit but committed himself until the end with the original process. He left both lay and religious trained to continue the process.

Are we ready for this commitment? When and where will it be possible? How can we collaborate in apostolic works? What does collaboration mean? I can affirm that in each visit, I felt the sense of collaboration. To collaborate is, by definition, working with others with the desire to help so that the goal is obtained—the results define the end. This requires sacrifice of everyone. The last statement in number 8 of the Rule of Life affirms that it is our responsibility to transmit this cenacle spirit. My brothers and sisters in the Holy Spirit, you and I have the task of transmitting this spirit to others so that we are united as a community as an Apostolic Family in the church. Is not enough that we feel comfortable because we are already members or candidates of the MCA; it is necessary to be open to the Holy Spirit with the same ardent love as in 1909 when devout lay people were being led and impelled by the Holy Spirit.

It is time to look around and respond. We are called to transmit, to communicate, to provoke a transformation and to transform ourselves. When was the last time you looked around your surroundings and invited your brother or sister to pray and to serve with you? When were you aware of the needs of the poor and abandoned? When were you aware of the injustice in this world? What was your response?

Father Judge declared that “if the right spirit is maintained, if the primitive spirit is passed down, this family idea will engender the most beautiful fruits for the honor and glory of God and for the edification of the Church,”

In love and service;

Alma Robles, MCA , General Custodian

MCA Report to MCFC

[The following reports were submitted by the MCA to the Missionary Family Council and reflect actions during the year 2007 and 2008.]

In April, 2007, we held the MCA Margaret Healy Leadership Assembly where we chose a slate of candidates for leadership. The delegates and leadership from each region recognized the good work and apostolic heart of Josie Morales, Joanne Jones, and Fr. John Seymour for eight years of dedication to all of us.

From this assembly, the MCA Council has a new challenge—to work out a process of transition and focus on its identity as the founding branch. As an International Family we have two languages and different cultures, and a team approach to the work of administration is necessary to be able to continue in our mission and call.

After the election process, the following officers were elected to serve on the current MCA Council: Alma Robles, General Custodian; Miguel Juarez, Assistant General Custodian; and the Regional Custodians, Diane Zine (Incarnation -- Northeast USA); Kay Knott* (Trinity -- Southern USA); Mark McGuthrie (Holy Spirit -- Western USA); Alma Rosa Hernandez (Guadalupe -- México); Ana Barquero (Los Angeles -- Costa Rica); and Ivette Gutierrez (San Juan -- Puerto Rico).

In response, to our growth in membership and also in leadership, we also have a General Secretary, Ana Lozada de Flecha, MCA, and a General Treasurer, Pat Regan, MCA.

Mark McGuthrie and Pat Regan will join me as Councilors on the Missionary Cenacle Family Council.

The first General MCA Council meeting will be held in Costa Rica September 19th –26th.

* Since this report was submitted, Sylvia Ramos replaced Kay Knott as Regional Custodian for the Trinity Region.

In September we held the MCA General Council Meeting in Costa Rica where we worked on and reflected about the issues presented in the April Leadership Assembly--identity, leadership and formation.

The General Council approved that the *Rule of Life* is ready for the final approval from the membership. The membership will vote for Yes or No.

As a General Council we have grown in membership and in leadership. The growth brings new challenges and needs. We have to be clear in our identity to focus on the future as the Missionary Cenacle Apostolate. The 2008 year will be a work in re-orientation and formation for the membership in the *Rule of Life* and *Norms and Policies* as working documents.

We welcomed new Regional Custodians, Assistant Regional Custodians and Regional Spiritual Guides to the MCA General Council. As a Council we had the opportunity to share meals with the seminarians in Costa Rica and to celebrate the Eucharist as a Family.

We confirm our new International Spiritual Guide, Fr. Domingo Rodriguez, ST.

We are concerned about the children and young people, and we seek to work with the Missionary Cenacle Family to address the needs of this group. If we look for the signs of the time, children and youth are the poor and abandoned work of the church.

MCA General Council meeting will be in Puerto Rico, October 15 -22, 2008

MCA General Council will meet in Incarnation Region during the Centennial 2009 celebration.

In 1998, Marvine Waite, General Custodian of the MCA, requested a revision of the "Rule of Life and Constitution," contained in the book, *Apostolic Life*. A revision was made by the MCA General Council committee and all members under the leadership of Josie Morales.

On March 30, 2008, the revision of our *Rule of Life and Constitution* was finally approved. Now that it has been approved, we hope to be able to initiate the process of printing again the *Apostolic Life* for its main purpose—formation and meditation of its members.

In April, 2008, Father Domingo Rodriguez, ST, International Spiritual Guide, met with the Spiritual Guides in Maryland. Following is the list of our Regional Spiritual Guides:

Debbie Wilson, MSBT	Incarnation	Northeast
Guy Wilson, ST	Trinity	South
Margarita Rivera, MSBT	San Juan Bautista	Puerto Rico
Orlando Bonilla, ST	Our Lady of the Angels	Costa Rica
Raymond Riding, ST	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Mexico
Luz de La Torre	Holy Spirit	West
Artemia Perez	Holy Spirit	West
Jose Castro	Holy Spirit	West

(The Incarnation Region celebrated its centennial that same weekend) The three Regional Spiritual Guides from Holy Spirit Region (West) were unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons:

Submitted by Alma Robles, MCA

Missionary Cenacle Apostolate Treasurer's Report

30 June 2008

Dear Members of the Missionary Cenacle Apostolate,

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

Following is a brief financial report showing income and expenditures for the past 12 months, compared to the annual budget approved by the MCA Council in October 2007. The bottom portion of the report shows the cash balances available in our various accounts as of 30 June 2008. At this time, the MCA has assets totaling \$51,410.76.

The following table provides a comparison versus the prior 12-month period ending June 30, 2007:

	<u>July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008</u>	<u>July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007</u>
Assets	\$51,410.76	\$52,157.45
Income		
Stewardship	\$15,927.00	\$31,935.00 *
Interest	\$972.63 **	\$94.59
Expenses	\$17,646.32	\$34,040.00 *

* Both Stewardship and Expenses in prior year reflect donations and expenditures for the 2007 Leadership Assembly. Additionally, \$10,000.00 in grants were received from the MSBT and the ST Congregations.

** A \$35,000.00 Certificate of Deposit was purchased with excess cash funds in August 2007; it matured in April 2008, providing \$873.92 in interest income. Another \$35,000.00 CD paying 1.5% annual interest was purchased; it will mature in October 2008.

Also following is a report showing stewardship donations by region for the period 1 October 2007 through 30 June 2008.

These reports have been approved by Alma Robles, General Custodian of the MCA. If you have any questions or comments about them, I hope you will address them either to Alma, your Regional Custodian or me. We are at your service!

In the Trinity,

Pat Regan, MCA

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pat Regan
8362 Tamar Drive
Columbia, MD 21045
Phone: 410-772-5799
Email: patregan3@verizon.net

Alma Robles
Calle Roble #516
Los Colobos Park
Carolina, PR 00987
Phone: 787-463-9411
Email: mcaalma@yahoo.com

Budget Report (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

US Dollars

Category Description	Actual to Date	Budget	% of Total
Expenses			
Charity	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0.0%
Committees	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.0%
Communications	\$ 685.00	\$ 1,500.00	45.7%
Equipment	\$ -	\$ 300.00	0.0%
Fees for Special Services	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,500.00	6.0%
Gifts and Goodwill	\$ 57.91	\$ 1,500.00	3.9%

Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%
Travel	\$ 2,960.28	\$ 5,000.00	59.2%
General Council Meetings	\$ 7,292.30	\$ 12,500.00	58.3%
MC Family Council	\$ 1,565.00	\$ 2,000.00	78.3%
Newsletter Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	0.0%
Spiritual Guides Meetings	\$ 1,562.10	\$ 1,500.00	104.1%
Support for MCA Missionaries	\$ -	\$ 300.00	0.0%
Support for Regions	\$ 2,664.50	\$ 750.00	355.3%
Bank Charges	269.23	\$ 50.00	538.5%
Inventory (books, pins etc. for resale) 500.0%	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
Total Expenses	\$ 17,646.32	\$ 28,700.00	61.5%
Income			
Interest Earned	\$ 972.63	\$ 100.00	972.6%
Stewardship	\$ 15,927.00	\$ 32,500.00	49.0%
Total Income	\$ 16,899.63	\$ 32,600.00	51.8%
Difference	\$ (746.69)	\$ 3,900.00	

Cash Balances as of 6/30/2008

U.S. Dollars

Account	Amount
Bank of America - Primary	\$ 8,007.73
Bank of America - Secondary	\$ 3,610.00
Bank of America - Savings	\$ 5,122.91
Citibank Checking (closed acct)	\$ (329.88)
Certificate of Deposit (matures 10/08)	\$ 35,000.00
	\$ 51,410.76

Missionary Cenacle Apostolate Stewardship Report

1 October – 30 June 2008

Region	Amount
Holy Spirit (U.S. – West)	\$ 6,198.00
Incarnation (U.S. – East)	\$ 3,450.00
Trinity (U.S. – South)	\$ 2,035.00
San Juan Bautista (Puerto Rico)	\$ 1,037.00
Total this period:	\$12,720.00
Total same period last year:	\$25,480.54
Difference:	\$(12,760.54)

Note: Prior to 10/1/07, stewardship donations were not recorded separately by region.

Submitted by:

Pat Regan, MCA

Treasurer and Stewardship Coordinator

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Incarnation Region: Northeast Area Gathering in Preparation for the 100th Celebration A Report by Margaret Flanagan, May, 2008

During the weekend of March 28-29, 2008, about 90 members of the Missionary Cenacle Family in the northeast region gathered in Philadelphia at the sisters' motherhouse to plan the celebration of 100 years of glorifying the Triune God. Those who gathered had been asked to bring ideas for the international gathering, April 17-19, 2009, in the Atlanta area. The generosity of those present was visible, as they shared their hopes, dreams, and visions for the future.

The weekend was coordinated by a planning committee consisting of Sr. Susanne Thibault, MSBT; Bonnie Hackett, BTMI; Br. Howard Pillar, ST; Pat Regan, MCA; George and Diane Zine, MCA; and Margaret Flanagan, MCA. At each prayer service we used the song "Standing on the Shoulders" by Joyce Johnson Rouse and Sr. Maria Lauren. We also used materials prepared by the planning committee, so each area will have unifying themes.

For those who arrived Friday, there was time to reflect on who in the Cenacle Family has been an important influence in their lives and what devotion or practice has been an important part of our Cenacle spirituality. This was followed by a brief social.

Saturday began with prayer at 9 a.m., which included a PowerPoint display of the Cenacle Family through the years. We then divided into groups of "Cenacles for the Day." We deliberated on the following questions: How did I get to know the Cenacle Family? In what ways have I felt on fire as a member of the MCF? Each group shared their ideas with all the participants.

The afternoon began with a prayer service and was followed by presentations by members of each of the branches. They focused on the following questions: What enhances my Cenacle spirit? What sustains my participation in the life and mission of the MCF? We then discussed these questions in our individual Cenacles.

Following this we were asked to share our dreams and hopes for the future of the MCF. Each Cenacle was asked to present common themes discussed in their group and make suggestions for future growth and development. Here is a brief summary of the high points as I recorded them.

- There is a need for common formation so that all in the family would meet one another and have a chance to work together and appreciate one another's gifts.
- Each of us needs to be responsible for the future of the MCF, to keep our eyes open for someone with our charism, and to invite them to be a part of the family.
- We should not be afraid to work with people we are drawn to, even if we feel we are too "old," "young," etc.
- It is a particular charism to be drawn to the Cenacle Family, and the clearer we are on what that is, the more we will be filled with fire.

- We are to use the Holy Spirit Novena and our gatherings at Pentecost and the feast of Christ the King to strengthen our Family and enrich ourselves as well.
- We should do our best to include all branches of the Family in our missionary works.
- We should also provide opportunities for those with whom we work to learn about who we are as the MCF.
- We are to be alert to the providence of our everyday lives and how the Holy Spirit uses us.
- We should make use of technology to publicize who we are and to invite people to get involved with us. Also, we should learn to use the technology within the Cenacle Family.

Throughout the weekend we were invited to get to know as many new people as possible and to ask how they came to be part of the Cenacle family. Eventually those persons who had met 12 or more people drew names. The winner was awarded a cross made of wood from Holy Trinity, AL, donated by Br. Steve Vesely.

After dinner we met with our individual branches to choose the delegates who will present our area's ideas at the April 17-19, 2009, gathering. There will be 12 delegates from each area, in addition to the core committee members and ex-officio members (current Council and former Custodians). Since the able members of the BTMI in our area are all ex-officio, they requested that their delegates be assigned to the other branches. As a result, each branch (MCA, ST and MSBT) was able to choose four delegates.

Each branch used its own methods to select its delegates. The MCA asked for volunteers who would be able to commit the time to take counsel and to represent our area. This person should be able to take the recommendations we created at this gathering and decide which ideas would be chosen to help the MCF move into the future. From among the volunteers we drew four names. Those whose names were not drawn will serve as alternates.

The following delegates will represent each of the branches from the Northeast Region:

MSBT: Srs. Sara Butler, Brenda Hermann, John Christopher, and Susanne Thibault;

ST: Brs. John Skrodinski, Richard McCann, Carlos Unquina, and Howard Pillar;

BTMI: Rosa Tirado, Helen Marshall; and Bonnie Hackett (who are ex-officio);

MCA: Mary Hennessy, Angela Papillo, Diane Zine and Margaret Flanagan (George Zine, Vivian LaTorre and Joan Stanton are ex-officio; Angel A. Garcia, Pat Regan and Margaret Ochsenfeld are alternates.)

We plan to do some fundraising to help our MCA delegates with expenses as we did not want to exclude anyone who wanted to serve but may have been reluctant to do so because of travel expenses.

The closing liturgy focused on our gratitude for a powerful time together. We thank everyone for their prayers and know that success will be due to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

RESURRECTION CENACLE, DOTHAN, AL

Resurrection Cenacle celebrated the pinning of Nancy Sabey at this year's Pentecost Retreat. We are delighted to announce that Celeste Kelly and Pat Roach have entered into formation for the next two years. Patti Harvey is our new Custodian and Barbara Camp is our Assistant Custodian. Betty Wittekind will serve as Spiritual Guide for the next two years. Sister Miriam Fiduccia attends our Cenacle meetings when she can. We try to have a Trinitarian priest celebrate Mass at Patti's home every three months. We then have a prayer meeting, followed with lunch. We have planned to study St. Paul's Epistles this year since the Our Holy Father has declared this the year of St. Paul.

--Betty Wittekind, MCA

PUERTO RICO, MCA

Recently the MCA in Puerto Rico honored Missionary Cenacle volunteers for their service in the area. Each was presented with a card which read as follows:

To: Maureen, Steve, Mary Jane, Steven, Leslie, and Lindsey, Missionary Cenacle Volunteers

People are missionaries and we are all here together as family, to serve and love, to strive for excellence in the providence of our daily lives.

“There is no greater strength than the heart of a volunteer.”

You all have proven this throughout the week in your actions, service and love. For this we thank you and God will always pour His graces and blessings on you. Father Judge, our Founder, said, “Everything is possible when you do it out of love.” You have all planted the seed of a new life and it will be fruitful as you journey in your new mission. You will leave us today and we will miss you and remember you in our prayers. We thank you for the gift of sharing your love and service. We thank you for your valuable time, your talents and virtues. We love you and have learned from you. When we learn to say goodbye, we truly learn to say to ourselves and others—

“Go, God be with you!”

We, the Missionary Cenacle Family, have entrusted you all to our Triune God. The God of love, the God who wipes away all our tears, and gives us the strength and fortitude to continue on. He is holding you now and will forever hold you in His loving arms. So let go and be free to move on. Remember, that “as we are, others will be.” Be good, do good, and be a power for good. Now we give you this pink flower as a symbol of our love. A flower that will begin to change to the color of red symbolizes the passion, the transformation that already has begun in your hearts. A heart aflame with an ardent love of the Holy Spirit. God bless you all! May the grace and blessing of the Holy Spirit be with us forever. Amen.

MCA Puerto Rico
Linda and Reynaldo,
Representing MCA and MCF

Alma Robles Perfecto, General Custodian

Yvette Gutierrez, Regional Custodian, Puerto Rico

Reinaldo Torres, Regional Assistant Custodian, Puerto Rico

A Prayer to My Soul

Dear Soul that God has given to me, to live with me, and to abide within me from the moment of my conception until the moment that God decides to take me.

There are so many times I forget about You in my selfish moods and/or in my human weaknesses, and I ask You now to help me remember the responsibility I have for You, to return You to God one day forever.

I cannot see You, I cannot feel You, but God's Love for me helps me to know that You exist within me. I have no doubt, because many times when I feel I want to be close to God, I want to change my weaknesses into strengths, it seems innate in me to know I have a Soul that will help me.

I pray on this night that You will never despair because of my actions in human life, and I ask You tonight to never feel that Sainthood for You is hopeless, for I promise You tonight I will strive to correct my ways, my errors, and return You to God as He wills it to be, a Saint who will bear my name for All Eternity.

Linda Landin, MCA, Puerto Rico