



The Spirit of the Cenacle

Volume 17, No. 1, March 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 August 1, 2008. Send materials to Smittie Bolner, 460 Bancroft Way, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4805. E-mail: sbolner@cox.net.

From the General Custodian

February 6, 2008 , Ash Wednesday

Dear Associates and Candidates in the MCA,

May the Grace and the Peace in the Holy Spirit be with all us forever!

By the way we live our lives, we seek first to glorify the Triune God. We follow in the footsteps of the apostles who, filled with the Holy Spirit, went forth from that first Cenacle to spread everywhere the knowledge and love of Jesus. We live and work that God's name may be hallowed, that his kingdom come, that his holy will be done (Matt. 6:9-10. Rule of life # 3).

The time of Lent invites us to ask ourselves: How am I living my life? Am I following in the footsteps of the Apostles? Do I work and do I live so that the Lord will be glorified? Am I following the will of God? Looking for a good model for an apostolic story, I shall speak to you of Juanita Montalvo, may she rest in peace. Juanita was 90 years old as she lay dying. For the last five years, after suffering several heart attacks., she had been living with her daughter, Gloria. During the first three years Juanita walked with difficulty, but she could stay in the house alone while Gloria worked. A Eucharist Minister took her communion every week. In the last two years Juanita became bedridden and was totally dependant on Gloria, who had to leave her employment to care for her. After almost five years the Eucharist Minister asked someone else to take communion to her. This is how I met Juanita Montalvo and her daughter, Gloria, in November, 2007.

One of my first questions to Gloria, who was there with her mother, was if she also wanted to receive communion. Her answer was, "I can't." "Why can't you?" I asked. It was Juanita who answered, "My daughter is not able to. She is not baptized—the only one of my three children."

That very day we began her first formation class for baptism. I agreed with them that every week, after receiving communion, we would take time for formation. On my next visit I took along some catechism booklets for adults. Gloria explained to me that she had tried to begin classes, but always the many tasks of her daily life prevented it. The day that I asked her, "Gloria, when receiving baptism, who will you be to God the Father?" She responded, "I will be his daughter." I asked, "Who will you be to God the Son, Jesus?" She answered, "He is my

friend, my brother...my everything.” “What will the Holy Spirit be to you?” I asked, looking at the small room with two beds, one where Juanita lay and her own bed. Then she sighed and said, “He is always here with me, filling all this, so that I may continue to be here with her.”

One month later Juanita was hospitalized, and Gloria called and asked me to bring a priest. During the intercessory prayers while receiving the Sacrament of the Sick, Juanita expressed her petition. “Baptize her,” was all she said. That same week while she was in the hospital taking care of her mom, Gloria suffered convulsions and was also admitted to the hospital.

On Sunday, January 27, 2008, Gloria was baptized in the hospital by Fr. Harold Stone, ST. I took First Communion to Gloria on February 3rd. Juanita also received the Eucharist. Juanita died on February 5th. “Mommy had a mission. She waited so that I might be baptized and receive Christ. She left peacefully as in a dream and happy.”

Juanita inspired me to reflect and to think of her as an Apostle who, by her example, invites you to preserve the faith, and with her perseverance in the Eucharist instills in her daughter a respect for the Eucharist and a desire to receive it.

Gloria is, in giving herself to a life of service and care, that good person, that self-denying daughter who awaits the invitation to be called daughter of God. How many Juanitas and how many Glorias will we find in our path, in the providence of our daily life?

During this Lent, let us live our lives in such a way that we aspire to glorify the Triune God, with each one of our acts of service. I pray that we can follow the footsteps of the Apostles, with ardor and passion. I pray that when living our baptismal consecration as members of the Missionary Cenacle Apostolate we do not lose the opportunity to serve in the providence of the daily lives. May these be our words: “Use me, Lord, to do your will.”

In love and service,
Alma Robles, MCA

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL GUIDE

Dear Members of the Missionary Cenacle:

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

As I read the minutes of the MCA General Council's meeting in Costa Rica last September, I was impressed with the declaration made which says: "...we are invited to be attentive to our personal spiritual growth as members of the MCA, as well as to the spiritual growth of the MCA as a whole...it is necessary to examine our needs in the spiritual, human and social area..." Surely, this is precisely what all of us have been doing during the salutary days of Lent. The motives and proper incentives to do penance and self-sacrifice abound during these holy days.

As we joyfully enter the Paschal Season, and as the glorious Alleluia continues to ring loudly in our hearts and minds, we do well to question how that "personal spiritual growth," mentioned above will prevail as a constant concern for each of us. Our many commitments and busy apostolate tend to absorb and drain us from our vital energy. Though we continue to grow physically and age without planning on it, no spiritual growth is possible without an ardent and consistent effort. Our Rule of Life is very explicit in offering us the tools and means for sanctification. Reflect on it, pray with it, act on it! Question yourself, "What is

going on in my life at this particular moment? Am I more intently drawing closer to God, because of my generosity in the apostolate? Have I fallen into the heresy of saying 'my work is my prayer'?" Let us all acknowledge how we risk intimacy with the Beloved (as the great Saint Teresa used to refer to Jesus!), simply because we find "our self-giving" more gratifying than our quiet time with the Lord. How to become contemplative in action? That, I believe is the key question for the busy lay apostle!

The words of our Founder are strong and persuasive. He tells us, "There is something which God absolutely wants you to do. Depend upon it. He wants you to do more than keep the commandments. I am sure that God wants you to save your soul and save somebody else's soul if you can. That does not satisfy you either. There is no ending to the next thing God says. It is contained in the words of the Holy Spirit: 'This is the will of God, your sanctification.'" (I Thes.4/3) " (MCM p.96).

My friends, truly, "there is no ending to the next thing God says"! If only we remain alert and attentive to what the Beloved speaks to our hearts.

A blessed and joy filled Easter to all! I will continue to hold you up in prayer before the Beloved. Do please, remember me also in yours.

+++++

Padre Domingo Rodriguez Zambrana, S.T.
2717 Curry Dr
Adelphi, Maryland 20783-1725
301-422-6197 (Home)
301-356-8035 (Cell)
301-434-6761 (Mission Office)
Fax: 301-422-6199

Missionary Cenacle Apostolate Treasurer's Report

31 December 2007

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 expenditures from 1 July through 31 December 2007, 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 31 December 2007.

Halfway through the fiscal year, we have spent just 31% of our budgeted expenses. This is good! However, please note that we have received only 20% of the budgeted income. This is due to a serious decline in stewardship donations from the members. If this keeps up, we will likely be running a deficit budget this year. We began the year with a solid cash balance, so a deficit budget for one year would not necessarily be a problem. However, it is not a trend we want to continue.

Also following is a report showing stewardship donations by region for the period 1 October through 31 December, 2007.

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
Treasurer and Stewardship Coordinator

Contact Information:

Pat Regan
8362 Tamar Dr.
Columbia, MD 21045
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 (1 July – 31 December 2007)

US Dollars

Category Description	Actual to Date	Budget	% of Total Budget
Expenses			
Charity	\$ -	100.00	0.0%
Committees	\$ -	1,000.00	0.0%
Communications	\$ 85.00	1,500.00	5.7%
Equipment	\$ -	300.00	0.0%
Fees for Special Services	\$ 55.00	1,500.00	3.7%
Gifts and Goodwill	\$ 57.91	1,500.00	3.9%
Office Supplies	\$ -	500.00	0.0%
Travel	\$ 560.49	5,000.00	11.2%
General Council Meetings	\$ 6,292.30	12,500.00	50.3%
MC Family Council	\$ 1,165.00	2,000.00	58.3%
Newsletter Expenses	\$ -	200.00	0.0%
Spiritual Guides Meetings	\$ -	1,500.00	0.0%
Support for MCA Missionaries	\$ -	300.00	0.0%
Support for Regions	\$ -	750.00	0.0%
Bank Charges	\$ 216.28	50.00	432.6%
Inventory (books, pins etc. for resale)	\$ 500.00	-	500.0%
Total Expense	\$ 8,931.98	28,700	31.1%
Income			
Interest Earned	\$ 207.42	100.00	207.4%
Stewardship	\$6,275.00	32,500	19.3%
Total Income	\$6,482.42	32,600	19.9%

Difference	(2,449.56)	3,900.00
-------------------	-------------------	-----------------

Cash Balances as of 31 December 2007

U.S. Dollars	
Bank of America - Primary	13,502.23
Bank of America - Secondary	931.00
Bank of America - Savings	90.04
Citibank Checking (closed acct)	(329.88)
Certificate of Deposit	35,514.50
	49,707.89

Missionary Cenacle Apostolate—Stewardship Report
1 October – 31 December 2007

Region	Amount
Holy Spirit (U.S. – West)	\$1,503.00
Incarnation (U.S. – East)	\$1,145.00
Trinity (U.S. – South)	\$270.00
San Juan Bautista (Puerto Rico)	\$150.00
<hr/>	
Total this period 2007:	\$3,068.00
Total same period 2006:	\$7,889.00
Difference:	\$4,821.00

Pledge Form Missionary Cenacle Apostolate

After prayerful consideration, I am pledging the following amount in support of the MCA:

\$____ each month (or other schedule _____)

\$____ as my stewardship gift for the year _____

Make Checks Payable to: Missionary Cenacle Apostolate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Cenacle: _____

Send your donations for the MCA to the appropriate person for your region:

Holy Spirit

Luz de la Torre, MCA
1160 Warren St
Placentia, Ca 92870
714-993-1098

Trinity

Kay Knott, MCA
4006 Governors Dr., Apt. G
Montgomery, AL 36111
knott4006@aol.com

Incarnation

Pat Regan, MCA
8362 Tamar Dr.
Columbia, MD 21045
410-772-5799
patregan3@verizon.net

San Juan Bautista

Luz Ivette Gutierrez, ACM
Urb. Villas de Loiza
Calle 25 AB #3
Canovanas, PR 00729
787-605-3332
ivetteprmca@gmail.com

Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe

Alma Rosa Hernandez, ACM
Av. 20 de Noviembre # 72
Buenvista Tomatlán,
Michoacán, C.P. 60500 MEXICO
arhm2005@yahoo.com.mx

Nuestra Senora de Los Angeles

Magda Zamora Esquivel, ACM
Urbanización Quizareo Cusa #6F
Sto. Domingo de Heredia
Apdo 444-3100 COSTA RICA
mzamor24459@ice.co.cr

Missionary Cenacle Family--100th Anniversary Celebration

Greetings Missionary Cenacle Apostolate Associates and Candidates!

This is an exciting time to be part of the Missionary Cenacle Family as we plan to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2009.

As spring approaches, each of the five Cenacle Family Areas (Northeastern, Southern, and Western USA and Puerto Rico and Mexico/Costa Rica) are planning and carrying out the MCF area gatherings as directed by the MCF100 Core Committee, a subcommittee of the Missionary Cenacle Family Council. The area gatherings were organized by a MCF Team which met in Philadelphia in 2007 to lay the groundwork for Area Assemblies in 2008, Area Celebrations in 2009, and the 2009 International MCF Centennial Assembly.

One of the goals for the area gatherings is to review our past and prepare for our future as we share our visions with other members of the Missionary Cenacle Family.

Each area will plan celebrations for the MCF and choose twelve MCF delegates to attend the International Assembly in 2009.

Following are our guidelines as we gather to “think together” and to celebrate:

Our direction statement: We give glory to the Triune God by:

- claiming and giving thanks for who we are in the Church
- celebrating with a grateful heart our past and present
- lighting a fire that draws us to give greater expression of our gift to the world

Outcomes:

- greater visibility of MCF in the Church and world
- a greater appreciation of our international/gender/lifestyle diversity as family
- a more intentional awareness of our “daily providence” as missionaries and how we share this with others
- growth in our ability to take counsel with one another
- new model/structure to facilitate MCF into the future

Please lift in prayer each area as it prepares and gathers. Following are the dates for area gatherings:

Puerto Rico Area

A Pre-Assembly at the Christ the King meeting, February 9, 2008, then on April 18-19, 2008, the 12 delegates are to meet to take counsel for the Pentecost Retreat, May 24, 2008. The delegates will be present and take counsel how to plan for the future.

Northeastern Area

March 28-30, 2008

Mexico, Costa Rica, and Colombia Areas

Since this area includes three countries there will be two meetings: one in Mexico and one in Costa Rica to include Colombia. The Mexico date is April 5, 2008. The Costa Rica date is September 27, 2008.

Southern Area:

April 11-13, 2008.

Western Area

August 8th and 9th, 2008.

All are encouraged to participate to the fullest in area gatherings this year and next.

Many creative ideas have already surfaced from some of the areas. For example, the Southern area is planning to have designer T-shirts for souvenirs (also used as a means to subsidize activities). Check out the website: Trinitario.org for the plans and pictures from each area as their plans progress.

The MCF100 Core Committee is also working and preparing for the 2009 MCF International Centennial Assembly. Location and exact dates will be forthcoming when final arrangements are made this spring.

Joanne Jones, MCA
MCF100 Core committee member

Incarnation Region Celebration of the Feast of Christ the King - Nov. 25, 2007

Our newly appointed regional spiritual guide, Sr. Debbie Wilson, MSBT, put together a celebration for the feast of Christ the King at Trinita, New Hartford, CT. It was a great success, thanks to everyone who participated.

From an old booklet for a celebration from Oct. 28, 1962, where Dr. Margaret Healey did the welcome and closing address, Sr. Deb noticed that the keynote address was on the Cenacle Spirit, so she used Fr. Judge's presentation on that topic as the basis of the day. She thought, "how can we hear Fr. Judge's words the way he spoke them? Let's get an actor!" Since your author is an actor and a member of the Cenacle, she asked me, and I made sure to clear my calendar for this wonderful event. She also wanted to involve the Angel Cenacle recently started at Trinita, so she recruited one of the teenagers to ask questions in order to jumpstart the presentation! A budding actress, she even fooled her father, Bill Panagakos, who thought "oh, no, she's interrupting the presentation!"

With the assistance of Sr. Barbara McIntyre, Sr. Deb put together pictures of the MCF in mission over the years, which she presented between the talks. Following the presentation, in the spirit of preparing for the Centennial of the Missionary Cenacle Family in 1909, everyone was asked to reflect on the questions: "Recall your past experiences of feeling the fire of the Cenacle Spirit—what has the Cenacle Spirit looked like in your own life?" and "What are some practical things you might do to help spread the fire of the Cenacle Spirit, the Catholic Spirit, through your own Cenacle or in your own daily providence?"

Sr. Deb and Sr. Barbara had brought some resources for us to look at from Philadelphia—documents, books, and newsletters from the early Cenacle days, rich material that provided food for thought. Thanks to Sr. Terry Ahern, our archivist, for lending them for the day.

In attendance, were Fr. Austin Walsh, who was our celebrant for the Eucharist; Br. John Skrodinsky; Sr. Maria Therese, who was able to pick up your author in Manhattan on her way to Trinita; members of Sagrada Familia in Manhattan; Srs. Lucita and Marion Agnes and all the local Sisters; George and Diane Zine and friends from the Boston area; and many local folk from Trinita,—Cenacle members, friends, and volunteers at Trinita throughout the year. Although there were no members of the BTMI present, they were present in spirit and in the photos.

It was a full day complete with the celebration of the Eucharist, the presentation and time for reflection, lunch, and a beautiful closing prayer service. We hope to be able to do the presentation again, but we also plan to give out the materials we created so people can use them where they are, rather than having to travel great distances to celebrate in this manner. In addition

to celebrating the feast of Christ the King, we also remembered the anniversaries of the deaths of Mother Boniface (11/22/1922) and Fr. Judge (11/23/1923).

--- Margaret A. Flanagan, MCA, Holy Redeemer Cenacle, NYC

What is the Cenacle Spirit?

I am telling you what the Cenacle spirit is. It is a spirit of charity. You understand what charity is, the love of God and neighbor. It is the spirit of sacrifice. This is what makes the Cenacle spirit difficult. This is why we must pray to get it. We cannot have it unless we wish to put ourselves out. Without sacrifice the Cenacle is of no use, but with it the Cenacle will never perish. As long as that spirit is in the Cenacle, the Cenacle will be useful and God will use the Cenacle. ---Fr. Judge, The Apostolic Life, p. 39.