

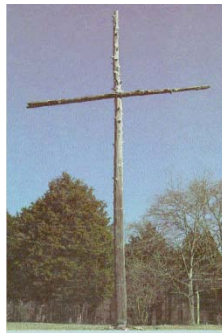


The Spirit of the Cenacle

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“Love is the main spring of effort. Love the cross more. You have affections. Shower these upon your crucifix. Make much of your cross. Let it be the inspiration of your desires. Yes, it will even please God if you encourage yourself to often think that the triumph of that Cross is to be your triumph. Love the Cross of Jesus Christ, for of all signs, it is the surest pledge of our predestination to glory; in fact I think it can be safely said that that person who shows a devotion to the Cross, who works for it, who loves it to sacrifice-cannot be lost.”

Fr. Judge 1927

FROM THE GENERAL CUSTODIAN+

TODAY I THINK ABOUT AMY CROKE, CATHERINE SHELBY, MARY, CATHERINE, AND LAURA; HOW OFTEN THEY HEARD FR. JUDGE TALK ABOUT THE NEEDS BEYOND THE CHURCH'S WALLS, OF ALL THOSE WHO NEED THE LOVE OF GOD AND OUR COMPASSION.

I WONDER HOW OFTEN THEY LOOKED FOR FR. JUDGE TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE NEEDS THEY FOUND, HOW OFTEN WERE THEY CHALLENGED TO KEEP PRAYING FOR THE "SUPERNATURAL" WORK THEY PERFORMED; THEY HAD BEEN CALLED TO BE SUPERNATURAL MEN AND WOMEN. WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THEY WERE AFRAID AND PONDERED IN SILENCE, "WHAT ARE WE DOING?" DID THEY TAKE ANY THEOLOGICAL OR EVANGELIZATION COURSES BEFORE THEY REACHED OUT TO OTHERS ON THE STREETS?

HOW MANY EXPERIENCES AND WORDS HAVE NOT BEEN DOCUMENTED? HOW OFTEN DID THEY AWAIT FOR THE SUPPORT OF LAY MEN AND WOMEN WHO DID'NT UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY WERE DOING? HOW OFTEN DID THEY AWAIT FOR OTHER PRIEST'S OR MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH LTO SUPPORT THE MISSIONARY AND APOSTOLIC WORK OF THE LAITY? HOWEVER, THE MOMENTUM OF THIS IDEA DIDN'T STOP. AMY, CATHERINE, MARY AND LAURA'S WITNESSES ATTRACTED OTHER MEN AND WOMEN.

IN 1909 THIS WAS A NEW IDEA, A NEW VISION. OTHERS WERE NOT READY FOR IT YET, BUT THESE WOMEN WERE.

OUR GOD HAD LIT A FLAME, A PROMPTING OF HIS SPIRIT AND FATHER JUDGE SHARED IT WITH THE SMALL WORLD HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH HERE IN BROOKLYN. AS SIMPLE AS THAT, AND THAT MEETING GAVE WAY TO WHAT WE NOW CALL A MISSIONARY FAMILY FOR THE CHURCH.

TODAY, ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THAT FIRST MEETING, WE ACKNOWLEDGE HOW THEY LIVED THE TRUTH OF THEIR BAPTISMAL CALL AND HOW THAT TRUTH WAS TRANSFORMED.

WE KNOW NOW THAT MANY OTHERS ARE LIVING OUT THIS APOSTOLIC AND MISSIONARY IDEA. BUT HOW ABOUT US, ARE WE READY TO BE CALLED, TO IDENTIFY OURSELVES, AND LIVE AS GOD'S MISSIONARY FAMILY IN A WORLD WHERE VALUES AND RESPECT FOR FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND THE NOTION OF GOD KEEP MOVING AWAY FROM THE HUMAN HEART?

EACH OF US FACES A REALITY, AND THAT REALITY IS REALLY NOT THAT COMPLEX. IT IS THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH ONE ANOTHER, THE SITTING AT A TABLE AND LISTENING, KEEPING SOMEONE COMPANY, FEELING WE ARE PART OF THE CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND SANCTIFIER OF ALL.

THERE IS A CHALLENGE AHEAD OF US: TO NOT LOSE THE IDENTITY OF WHAT WE WERE CALLED TO BE AND PRESERVE.

OUR REALITY'S FACE IS THE FACE OF HOPE IN BOYS AND GIRLS, OF YOUTH.

LET'S BE FOR THE WORLD THE HOLY FAMILY THEY NO LONGER SEE. LET'S CELEBRATE THIS EUCHARISTIC LITURGY WITH A SPIRIT OF LOVE AND OPENNESS. LET'S ASK TO BE DOCILE TO THE SPIRIT, TO CONTINUE OUR PROPHETIC MISSIONARY AND APOSTOLIC WORK.

In love and service,

ALMA ROBLES, MCA



TRINITY REGION NEWS

With joy Area two received Martha Vega for a visit in July. The local MCF gathered to spend time with her and to honor her on the occasion of her birthday. Our local STs provided a wonderful luncheon at their cenacle.

Good food, laughs, and hugs abounded.

Martha's next assignment will be at St. Joseph's Seminary in Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica. We send our prayers and love along with her.





+++++VIVA MARTHA !!!!+++++

HOLY SPIRIT REGION

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CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE MCF AT HOLY SPIRIT REGION

by Josie Morales

The Holy Spirit Region has members of the MCF in California, Arizona, State of Washington and New Mexico.

Originally Father Jim O'Bryan helped establish the MCA for English speaking members in the County of Orange. These first members, apart from their apostolic works, helped Fr. O'Bryan to distribute cassettes of his talks and of his Biblical class. This material now one can obtain by means of the Internet.

In 1982, Josie Morales began to work with a Spanish-speaking group of people who were members of the parish at Our Lady of Victory in Compton CA, but the Church was still not prepared to assist this new population of immigrants who came mostly from Mexico. They received talks on various religious subjects that Josie coordinated and were given by different people, but the time came when they needed "something more" and that was when the idea of the MCA arose, by the Father Juan Seymour, S.T., however, the responsibility of forming the MCA fell totally in Josie as Fr. John was being transferred to another parish. Using the green book, "The Apostolic Life" and with the support of Father Matt Ewing, of the Carmelite Order (Josie's counselor), the establishment of three cenacles one-by-one, began very slowly due to controversy and an uphill struggle. Years later, when Fr. John was re-assigned to Our Lady of Victory parish, in the year 1990, Luz de la Torre, the newly appointed Regional Custodian, asked Father John Seymour, S.T. to be the Spiritual Guide of the Region. Fr. John has been a significant

influence in the MCA of this Region together with Josie, Luz de la Torre, and several other pioneers. The region will give a special recognition to the pioneers of the MCA during the regional celebration of the Centennial.

The members of the region are today delighted because of this significant event of the centennial, although at the beginning it was difficult for them to understand what was expected of them, especially the members of the MCA; however, a committee was formed that worked very hard and planned out the Regional Assembly where all the members of the MCF in this area that assisted were able to contribute their vision for the MCF in next 100 years.

The Centennial Committee after various meetings and of rigorously studying the proposals rigorously the proposals regarding the vision for the MCF, it became obvious to them that the great emphasis on working with the youth, young adults, children, the family and that this form of working as MCF should have a component of collaboration.

Some members of the committee had additional meetings in order to take clearly and firmly the message to the Assembly in Atlanta and this action strengthened and united these persons so that when participating in the different work tables at the Assembly in Atlanta and working with the other members of the MCF, they knew and were able to transmit the vision assigned to them to take. This interaction also promoted the beginning of new friendships and bonding with members of the other branches. At night some members of the committee would get together to share the events of the day and the sharing taking place in their working tables. Their energy and enthusiasm was renewed to continue with the task.

The results of the Assembly in Georgia strengthened our team significantly as they saw the fruits of their convictions, efforts and work regarding the new vision for the MCF.

I am convinced that the Holy Spirit will continue guiding us and setting us on Fire.

A SHARING FROM THE COMPTON AREA

Area Custodian: Mayra Hernández

The area of Compton counts with 6 active cenacles and our vision and principal mission is especially to children, youth, young adults and families. Our goal is to make every Catholic and Apostle. During this short time of leadership, I have had the opportunity to share with all of the cenacles from this area and at the same time I have had the privileged to meet and talk to every member individually to know each other better. Recently, the areas of Compton and Paramount had their traditional gathering “picnic” at the park to share and know better every member from both areas. I can assure that the gathering was extremely successful for everyone for the fact that every cenacle, from both areas, was present. On this day, we all had the opportunity to bring our nuclear and extended families to this greater gathering. We had many different games and a variety of activities which kept the adults, children and adolescents highly entertained and

motivated almost the entire day. While the children were the main objective at the picnic, the adults also had a greater time; they enjoyed, shared, and kept the youngsters entertained with games and gifts for motivation. We had delicious dishes to share and a great variety of drinks and fruit.

Other reasons that continue motivating all of our members from the area of Compton are our actual MCA orientations. We are offering these sessions every week. These orientations have been offered to all of those who wish to know more about the MCA. The invitation to attend the orientations has been extended to the entire membership of which they have responded successfully with a high number of attendances.



WASHINGTON

by Robert Fontana

The MCA from Tacoma, Seattle, and Yakima, along with affiliates from other communities in Washington State gathered in Yakima for the 5th annual Camp St. Francis family service camp. Through Camp St. Francis MCA associates bring their children and friends to help the elderly and poor in the Yakima Valley. Base camp is the backyard of Cenacle Associates Lori and Robert Fontana. Campers arrived on Friday night, set up tents, enjoyed a pancake supper, and settled down to folk songs and S'mores around a camp fire.

Work began at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. We divided the campers between three houses with the most people going to Rhoda's home where we had to scrape, prime, and paint the entire house. We also had to repair rotten siding, fix a broken door, clear debris and plant flowers.

Rhoda received a wonderful home makeover. Other campers went to Tim's house where they repaired a hole in the kitchen floor, and primed and painted a wheel chair ramp. The third group of campers went to Sue's house where they did yard work, and stained a porch with a water-resistant stain.

Not all the work was completed on Saturday, but we stopped in time to attend a vigil Mass and give thanks to God for the wonderful opportunity that the Spirit gave us to come together for fun, service, and fellowship. After Mass we had a swim party, BBQ, and finished the night buying soft-served ice cream at Ron's.

On Sunday there was still work to be done at all three houses, plus we added a fourth: Craig needed a hole in his kitchen floor repaired.

60 adults, youth, and children participated in Camp St. Francis. The oldest was Jack at 92, the youngest was Ruby at a year and a half. It was an amazing success and proved once again the wisdom of Fr. Judge: we are much more effective being a power for good in the world through group action. Camp St. Francis is a way that the MCA of the Northwest fulfills the Cenacle mission of serving the abandon Christ by serving the poor and elderly of the Yakima Valley.

A NOTE FROM SYLVIA RAMOS, temporary editor of the Spirit of the Cenacle: Our sharing builds our Missionary cenacle Family and keeps us close while we are apart from one another. Please, share your joys and sorrows, your successes and attempts with all of us. Gratitude goes out to those who contributed to this newsletter. The deadline for the next Spirit of the Cenacle is November 15. Please submit your articles in both English and Spanish to me by that date.

