

# ST SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

## APRIL 2011

### *¿QUE ES COMUNIDAD?*

*by Bro. Andres Rivera, S.T.*

My brothers and sisters, I want to share with you some about what is community? A community is a group of persons whose goal is to lead a common life, based upon mutual help and a love among the members. Life in common and the type of mutual help varies according to the community. We were created by God to live in communion and to love and be loved. The first form of community, without doubt, is the FAMILY. We human beings by our very nature tend to participate in a community life, but at the same time the forces of selfishness create obstacles to unity.

To overcome these forces of selfishness, God sent into the world his only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the only one who is able to bring human beings together in his divine love. Saint John in his First Letter tells us in 4:8, "GOD IS LOVE." The Christian community has Christ as its head and participates in his supernatural life, uniting us to him in BAPTISM and in the Eucharist we receive his Body and Blood. According to the Acts of the Apostles 2:44 the first Christians lived a deep experience of community life. We as Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity take vows to live in community according to our rules, but these ideals become threatened sometimes because we do not firmly adhere to their source: JESUS CHRIST. As Missionary Servants we should always seek out this source (JESUS) to strengthen us as a family in a society which daily makes this more and more difficult.

**Reflection questions:**

What is the quality of my community life in the Cenacle to which I belong?

To live a more intense community life, how do I make Jesus the true source of our unity together?

TO HELP US TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER THE ST SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A BRIEF BACKGROUND ON OUR CONTRIBUTORS:

Andrés Rivera was born in Comerío, PR and moved to Massachusetts with his family. After a missionary experience in the Dominican Republic he joined the ST because of a desire to serve the poor and abandoned and educate the laity. Right now he directs the Religious Education program in Compton for over 500 children, guides the catechists, works in the parish school and contributes to the Justice and Peace Committee of the LA Archdiocese.

