



August 2003

Fr. Celso sends a message to the Houston Center

- The Apostleship of the Cross is a Work of the Church
- Share your gift freely
- Each and every one should enrich the community
- Pray for the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in preparation for upcoming General Chapter.

Important Date:

Sept. 14. The Exaltation of the Holy Cross and 20th Anniversary of the foundation of the Houston Center.

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Apostleship of the Cross

Houston Center



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

Notre Dame Section

- **September 9 & September 10.** First meetings for former members. Members will be contacted with more information
- Night of Information for new members to be announced.

St. Thomas More Section

- **September 4.** First meeting for former members
- **September 18.** Night of Information - if only we could have all members invite someone for that night

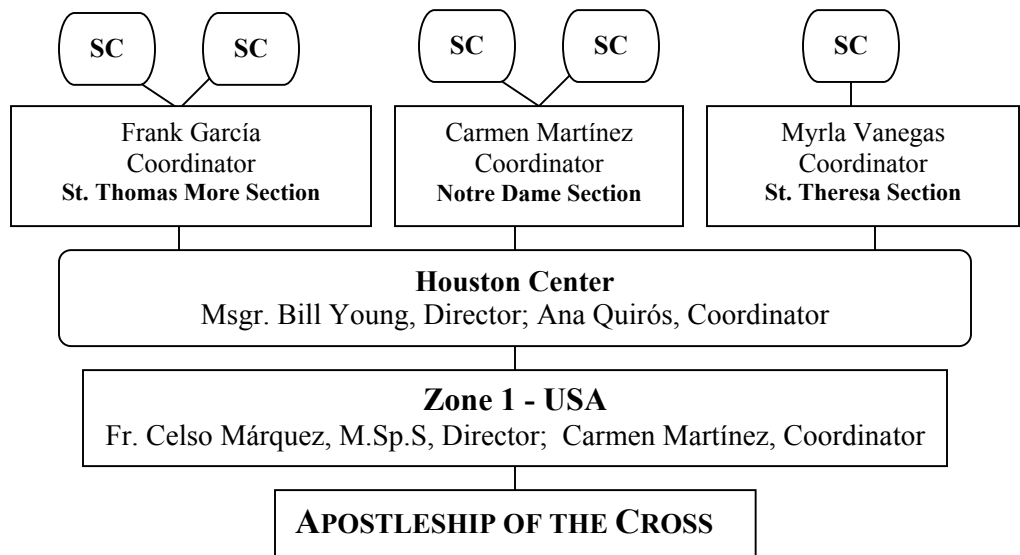
St. Theresa Section

- **September 18.** First Meeting for former members

Sept 26-28 Spanish Weekend Retreat with Fr. Gilberto Rivera, M.Sp.S. at Mt. Carmel House of Prayer. Information will be forthcoming.

Organizational Chart – Apostleship of the Cross

The elements of this organization chart form the fundamental structure of the Work of the Apostleship of the Cross. The Small Communities (SC) are the meeting groups that form the core of the Work. The Small Communities meet in Sections and together form a Local Center. The Local Centers are united into Zones, and are grouped by the Central Council in one Work – The Apostleship of the Cross.



A MESSAGE FROM FR. CELSO MÁRQUEZ, M.SP.S. DIRECTOR FOR THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE CROSS – ZONE 1

To my brothers and sisters of the Apostleship of the Cross – Houston Center.

I write to you expressing my sincere interest in your journey as a follower of our Lord Jesus and to let you know that my prayers are always with you.

Above all, I thank God for each and every one of you, for having blessed you with a vocation for holiness and for your acceptance and commitment to your Baptism by living a life dedicated to the construction of the Kingdom of God on earth. **I believe and hope** with all my heart that your participation in the Apostleship of the Cross will lead you to live a plentiful life, joyous and filled with the love of God and that through your good deeds, other brothers and sisters will be motivated to follow your example.

I remind you that the Apostleship of the Cross is a Work of the Church and for the Church, to continue its salvific mission which is Jesus' work, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In this manner we glorify God our Father the Creator whose love has made us one with the work of His Son.

Therefore, no one should claim for himself or herself personal merit for participating in the Apostleship of the Cross. Rather, with a heart full of gratitude for having received this gift, share it freely with all the people

called by the Lord to participate in his plan of Salvation.

The priests, coordinators and group animators should not be expected to “form” the Apostleship of the Cross. Each and every one of the members, inspired by the Holy Spirit, should enrich the community with their ideas and participation. This does not mean that they do not recognize in their superiors, the voice of the Good Shepherd.



The mature and responsible contribution of each one gives witness to your growth in Faith and a commitment and solidarity to the well being of your brothers and sisters.

The evaluation and planning for your journey in the coming year should capture the feelings of each member and at the same time, fill you with joyous hope in continuing your mission of spreading the reign of the Holy Spirit in the Church and throughout the world. **I invite you to pray** for the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in preparation for our

upcoming General Chapter in the month of February of 2004. You have probably received the prayer from Carmen Martinez, Coordinator for Zone 1, but if for some reason you have not, I am sending it to you now.

Prayer for the XIV General Chapter of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit:

Holy Spirit, we firmly believe that You guide the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit impelling them to a renewal of their spirit, mission and life style and to “walk in creative fidelity towards 2014”. **Bless them** with your holy gifts so that the upcoming General Chapter brings them vitality in living their charism and renewed strength to walk in union with the Church in its service and adaptation to the modern world. **Help them** to imitate the courage, creativity and holiness of Conchita and Felix de Jesus in response to the signs of modern times. **Open their hearts** to listen to the invitation that Jesus makes: *Duc in altum*, so that they may remember with gratitude the past, passionately live the present and with faith open themselves to the future. **Amen.**

With my gratitude and prayers for all of you for the continued realization of the Work of our Lord.

- Fr. Celso

PERSPECTIVES

I was affiliated to the Apostleship of the Cross on May 3, 2001, after over a year of small community meetings. Since that first meeting, I have been invited to live the Spirituality of the Apostleship of the Cross. It has not been easy, and I have not been perfect in meeting the challenge of living the spirituality, but over the last three years I have increasingly been made aware of the Presence and Works of the Lord in the world. Things happened from the very beginning that called my attention to the fact that something fundamental has changed in the way that I see the world.

I notice first the events that must be dealt with every day. I have been gradually given a different attitude towards things that occur in the normal course of family, social, and business life. The things that demand my attention on a day-to-day or moment-to-moment basis no longer carry the immediate urgency that they used to. I often say, "just a minute, I'm in the middle of something, wait a minute." I then take a moment to think and pray, "What is happening here, what should I do." Normally, I get an idea about what is happening that somehow grants me perspective and I see what I should do next.

I cannot speak about all of the ways that my life has changed since that first meeting, but my family and associates have noticed a great difference. I have read with avid interest all material made available to me concerning the Works of the Cross, and continue to learn all I can about Conchita, Fr. Felix, Msgr. Martinez, and the guiding documents prepared by the International Congress of the Spirituality of the Cross.

Conchita's Chain of Love: (<http://www.stmhouston.org/+chain.htm>) is the characteristic way that we are called to live our spirituality. She wants souls that pray. The 14 links of the Chain of Love are the core of the Spirituality of the Cross.

The invitation is the same invitation issued to Simon and the first Disciples when Our Lord told Simon to "put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch": "**Duc in altum**", they caught so many fish that their net was at the breaking point and even with the help of their mates in another boat, both boats were so full of fish that they nearly sank.

- Mike McKelvy, St. Thomas More (STM) Section

We May Pray Through The Intercession of Conchita



Heavenly Father, in your goodness, may you grant me the graces I confidently ask for through the intercession of the Venerable Concepción Cabrera de Armida, lay woman and mystic. Glorify your servant on earth so that all priests, religious and laity, inspired by her example, experience the desire to be transformed into your son Jesus Christ, Priest and Victim. May this be for the greater glory of the Trinity, the holiness in your Church and the building of your Kingdom. **Amen.**

THE HOUSTON CENTER NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

<http://www.stmhouston.org/+news.htm>

Please be sure to sign up with your Local Section if you have an e-mail address. Wherever possible, we will send the newsletter by e-mail, making available color graphics and the capability of immediate notification about issues and events concerning the Apostleship of the Cross, and especially the Houston Center and your Local Section, and the Family of the Cross.

Send your e-mail address to: APCNewsletter@STMHouston.org . Be sure to include your local section if you are a member of the Houston Center. Also let us know who you are if you are not in Houston and would like to receive our newsletter.

JESUS, SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE, SAVE THEM!

Words of Reflection...

When, after his resurrection, he showed himself to his apostles on the shores of Lake Genesareth as they were approaching the shore in a boat, they did not know him; the only one who recognized him was John, who said: "it is the Lord" (John 21:7).

I want to emphasize that the same thing happens to souls; on very many occasions they do not know Jesus. Still less do they understand his designs, discern his wishes, or understand his divine teachings. A few, a very few, souls do know Jesus thoroughly and understand him, and in these he takes rest. It pleases him so much to rest in souls! But those who give him this comfort are few indeed.

Souls in whom Jesus rests recognize him, although he may come in disguise. Some secret instinct, some loving presentiment, some intuition of the heart whispers to them: "it is the Lord!"

- **Most Rev. Luis M. Martínez**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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