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In this edition

The Holy Spirit Sets the Works of the Cross on Fire!	1
Our Family Retreat	2
Promoting Vocations at Notre Dame's Parish	2
What a Privilege to Know Where I Come From!	3
My Experience of a Weekend Retreat	3
New Spiritual Director	4
Dates to Remember	5
Our Goal	5
Words of Reflection	5



Apostleship of the Cross

Houston Center



THE HOLY SPIRIT SETS THE WORKS OF THE CROSS ON FIRE!!

On the weekend of September 23rd, the Holy Spirit enkindled the heart of Saint Vincent de Paul's Pastor, Reverend John Wyer. Father Wyer was on fire and so were the members of all the Sections of the Apostleship of the Cross in Houston, who so lovingly and graciously flocked to Saint Vincent to share in the inauguration of our newest Section of the Apostleship – Saint Vincent de Paul. With his zealous love for Christ and his spiritual ardor, Father Wyer spoke at every Mass that weekend setting the hearts and souls of the congregation ablaze.

However, the highlight of the week-end were our own Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, Father Gerardo Cisneros and Brothers Antonio and Daniel who, glowing in love, profound knowledge, joy and humility, spoke of the wonders of the Spirituality of the Cross to all who wished to hear.

The Apostleship of the Cross was welcomed by the faithful of SVDP with much enthusiasm and with unquenchable spiritual thirst to learn more about the Spirituality and the beautiful woman who founded the works of the Cross. More than fifty parishioners signed up, eight of which are currently attending the Encounters, which are held every Monday from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

The inauguration of the Apostleship of the Cross at SVDP Church was a genuine celebration of Jesus' love for us, who through Conchita confirmed the true way to follow Him, the Way of the Cross!

Brenda Maymí-Luna
Apostleship of the Cross, SVDP's Section

**Love is what is central in the Christian life;
and the service is an incarnation of our love for others. If we truly love, we serve.
(Fr. Fernando Torre, Semillas de esperanza, 80, p.71-translated)**

OUR FAMILY RETREAT

What we learned during the retreat that Fr. Gerardo Cisneros and Brothers Daniel Garcia and Antonio Romero, MMSpS gave us, was a lot, and without a doubt, what we experienced and shared was immensely big. The retreat unwrapped in an environment of great peace, unity, fraternity, trust, simplicity, and spontaneousness. We really liked the fact that although the retreat was structured, we did not feel the pressure of having to start or finish the talks at a certain time. We enjoyed meeting in groups of six people, with whom we were able to comment on various questions or themes, openly and with great trust.

And how not to have fun when we had to improvise an acting of three of the talks that Fr. Gerardo and the Brothers had presented!

¡We didn't know that we had such great artists among our members of the Apostleship!

And there was time for everything! To share, reflect, and confess our sins; to learn about the Eucharist, prayer, and forgiveness; to marveled at and be moved by the beautiful testimony that Brother Antonio shared with us about his life, and about how his priestly vocation began; and, time to know more and fall deeper in love with our Triune-God.

This retreat was like a great family reunion.

Thanks Fr. Gerardo! Thanks Brother Daniel! Thanks Brother Antonio! For being instruments of God by giving us an awesome week that began with the launching of the Apostleship at SVDP, and ended with a wonderful retreat, and a very original goodbye at the airport.

Come back soon!

Myriam Vega

Apostleship of the Cross, St. Therese's Section

PROMOTING VOCATIONS AT NOTRE DAME'S PARISH

As per Fr. Gerardo Cisneros' request, and taking advantage of his visit and that of Brothers Daniel García and Antonio Romero to Houston, on September 27 we gathered many youth of Notre Dame's parish, in order to promote priestly vocations for the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.

Even though we only had three days to prepare for this meeting, the event was a total success because we were able to gather the young men that assist in the ministry of acolytes, others that work in the ministry of retreats and some that belong to the youth group of the Hispanic community of the parish. It was really impressive the way in which the two Brothers talked; they were filled by the Holy Spirit in such a way that they were able to keep the youth interested and at the same time, they sowed in them enthusiasm for the service to our Church, awakening their interest, which led to them asking many interesting questions.



Let us pray for those seeds to flourish and give many fruits!



WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO KNOW WHERE I COME FROM!

I come from God. What a privilege to know where I come from! I know who I trust.

Phrases like these reaffirmed to us that God is our Father, and that having as example the greatest of all sons, we should join the most profound reality of Jesus, which is his filiation; the fact that He is the Father's son, and that God is his Father. The Father has given us everything, because He has given us Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Mary. Let us avoid sin; let us seek God's forgiveness and learn how to forgive. Let us remember that sin is social because our sins not only affect us, but also those around us. Let us be drawn in the divine current that drives us to an intense prayer in order to reach that intimate contact with our loving Father, with Jesus as example. Our prayer must invade and penetrate our whole life, and should not stay in the corner of our bedroom.

Jesus invites us to a compromise; to contemplate Him from the Spirituality of the Cross; to follow a road that leads us to eternal life, to the profound knowledge of God the Father. Jesus invites us to accompany him in his prayer, and to drink from that spring which is the Eucharist. Jesus gives us the Eucharist, and invites us to renovate and revive the handing of himself and his death at Mass.

Jesus, we want you to convert us with you! We unite ourselves to you in the salvation of the world! Help us!

Myriam Vega

Apostleship of the Cross, St. Therese's Section

(notes taken at the retreat given by Fr. Gerardo Cisneros and Brothers Daniel Garcia and Antonio Romero, MMSpS)

Sept. 29

MY EXPERIENCE OF A WEEKEND RETREAT

Oct. 01

My experience of the weekend retreat that Fr. Gerardo Cisneros, MSpS and Brothers Daniel Garcia and Antonio Romero gave us September 29 thru October 1st, about "Contemplating Jesus from the Spirituality of the Cross" was one of a total blessing and of a great example of giving of oneself.

The retreat helped me discover how I can be more like Jesus, and how to love him more. There were moments of encounter with God in prayer, and in silence. As the reflections continued, I was able to dialogue with Christ, and shared with him my worries, my wishes, and my sorrows. I came to the conclusion that Christ in the Cross teaches me that I can always love and serve others to contribute in the building of the Church, and that Christ is calling me for something big: My Salvation.

Ana Luisa García

Apostleship of the Cross, Notre Dame's Section, Houston Texas



OCTOBER 01, 2006

NEW SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

This past August Fr. Hugh (“Hugo”) Cullen became our new spiritual director. Father Hugo comes to us from St. Francis de Sales parish in southwest Houston. He is of Irish extraction but was born in Wales, Great Britain. He is the 12th of 15 children. He has two brothers who are priests and were all ordained the same day! He has one sister who is a nun.

After many, many years of requesting from his local bishop to be sent to be a missionary priest, he was finally allowed to go to Ecuador where he put into practice the Spanish he had learned. He has always felt called to be a “bridge” between English and Spanish-speaking faith communities and this is what led him to the Galveston-Houston archdiocese.

He has a special love for the Eucharist and actually spends time before the Blessed Sacrament as his spiritual nourishment. I had the privilege of seeing him “in action” during the medical mission to El Salvador at the beginning of November. His enthusiasm is contagious and there is no stranger he has not met, liked, and remembered his or her name. He visited and consoled the sick; prayed and anointed the dying; and was a source of strength for all who called on him.

I firmly believe that he is a wonderful spiritual leader for our Houston Center. If you have not met him, I urge you to do so. As he becomes acquainted with the Works of the Cross, with Conchita’s and Monsignor Martinez’s writings, he will be a strong supporter of the spirituality of the Cross and our plans of expansion in this archdiocese.

Frank García
Houston - Center Coordinator



DATES TO REMEMBER



DECEMBER 2006

- 4 Advent Vigil (English)
- 8 Immaculate Conception
- 8 144th Anniversary of Conchita's Birth (1862)
- 9 Houston Center's Christmas Party
- 25 Christmas
 - 92nd Anniversary Foundation Missionaries of the Holy Spirit (1914)

FEBRUARY 2007

- 2 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- 3 104th Anniversary Encounter Conchita and Fr. Félix (1903)
- 21 Ash Wednesday

JANUARY 2007

- 1 Mary, Mother of God
- 7 Epiphany of the Lord
- 10 69th Anniversary Death Fr. Félix (1938)
- 14 113th Anniversary Birth Works of the Cross (1894)
- 19 95th Anniversary Foundation Fraternity of Christ Priest (1912)
- 23 113th Anniversary Spiritual Betrothals (1894)

When we set a goal, the desire to achieve it unleashes in us, and this translates into intentions. (Fr. Fernando Torre, *semillas de esperanza*, 80, p. 127 - translated)

Our goal: Assist the III Congress of Spirituality of the Cross, which will be held in Monterrey, Mexico.



July 3 - July 6, 2008



Words of Reflection...

January 1894

"It seems that with the monogram the Lord opened the door to overflow in graces. Since that day, what a persecution, what tenderness, what caress, what wonderful kindness with this vile mud!

He did not leave me alone during the day, or at night; when praying, or when not praying.

"I want you to be mine, you already are, but I want that belonging to be even greater, He would repeat; get close to me, I want to make some betrothals with you, I want to give you my name and prepare you for great graces."

Like a boyfriend that courts a young lady for marriage, like that Jesus, how embarrassing! He courted this tarantula from hell without allowing her to rest. What affection, what tenderness, what flattery, what spring, the Lord presented then! How he won my will by courting me until madness of Him!

One morning, God of my life! After I had just received communion and had started to pray, I happened to see Jesus himself in front of me, that showing me his Divine chest, separating with his two hands the clothes that covered him, told me: "Look". And I saw...saw, my name written with gold letters over his chest. What did I feel? blushing, gratitude, a desire to cry and to throw myself at his feet abandoning myself to him forever.

(C.C. January 1894)



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Jesus, Savior of men, Save them!