



October-November  
2003

### A Special Report: II International Congress

- Day-to day chronicle of the journey
- Important themes of the Congress
- Bishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S celebrated mass at the School of Girls.
- Visit to San Luis Potosi and Jesus Maria

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# Apostleship of the Cross

## Houston Center



## Past & Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

### October

- Oct. 1** Notre Dame’s Information Night
- Oct. 7** St. Theresa’s Information Night
- Oct. 8** A group of the Apostleship is initiated in Bothell, WA.
- Oct. 22** 25<sup>th</sup> Pontificate’s Anniversary of Pope John Paul II

### November

- Nov. 1** All Saints’ Day
- Nov. 2** All Souls’ Day
- Nov. 8** Wedding Anniversary of Conchita and Francisco Armida (1884)
- Nov. 8-9** Workshop with Fr. Marcos Alba, M.Sp.S. (Spanish)
- Nov. 23** Christ the King
- Nov. 27** Thanksgiving Day

### Join in Prayer for...

- ❖ The General Chapter of the Sisters of the Cross that will take place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 2003.
- ❖ The Assembly of the Province Christ the Priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit to be held November 24-27, 2003.
- ❖ The expansion of the Family of the Cross in Romania.

### Deaconate’s Ordination

**On November 22, 2003**, our brothers MM.Sp.S. Lucio Villalobos, Pablo Sánchez, Hugo Maese and Joel Quezada will be ordained Deacons. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to pour out his graces especially in this day of their ordination, and to make them ardent apostles in their pursuit of Jesus.

## A SPECIAL REPORT – CHRONICLE OF THE JOURNEY: II INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS

**Still after 100 years** it makes us vibrate to see two souls in love with the Cross and that desire most of all to do God’s will. Through their example we take the necessary guidelines to live true encounters that just as it did to them, leads us to God. Forty- two people of different nationalities and cultures formed our group “Pueblo Sacerdotal”. We were of different states of life: Priests, brothers and lay people. On Saturday July 19, we traveled to Mexico City from California, Florida, New York, Ohio, Washington State, Texas and Germany, to attend the II International Congress of the Spirituality of the Cross. *(Continued on Pg.2)*

## A SPECIAL REPORT *(Continued from Pg. 1)*



**Group from USA with Fr. José Ortega, M.Sp.S. in Jesus Maria**

**The day of our arrival** we visited the Church of the 5<sup>th</sup> Apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the Intercongregational House where Fr. Felix's museum is located, and the confessional, witness of an encounter promoted by God for the growth of His church. To conclude the day we had dinner at "La Fonda del Recuerdo" where we ate as Mexicans do. We enjoyed the company of Fathers José Ortega and Roberto Saldívar, MM.Sp.S.

**On Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>** the group from Oregon joined us. Fathers José Ortega and Eusebio Elizondo, MM.Sp.S. celebrated the Eucharist for us in the chapel of Saint Joseph of the Basilica of Guadalupe, where we were able to live the emotion of the pilgrimage of some 100,000 people from Querétaro. In the afternoon we went to the Altillo where we visited Conchita's tomb and the chapel of Saint Joseph of the Altillo. That same afternoon we also visited the house of the Sisters of the Cross in Coyoacán, and in Altavista where Conchita lived and died. It seemed like a dream to be able to see all those relics.

**On Monday 21<sup>st</sup>** with much enthusiasm begins our first day of the congress, in which we lived an atmosphere of brotherhood, joy, and of many encounters and re-encounters.

**Of all the various themes** that we heard we will mention only some of them because it would be impossible to describe everything in just a few words.

- We should be a community that lives in the love, being an answer and complete return to God.
- We celebrate an encounter when Jesus invades us from within.
- If a soul wants to know itself, it should know another soul.
- When Fr. Felix encounters Conchita, he encounters the Word.

**We concluded** the day at the Altillo with a banquet: the celebration of the Eucharist.

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## A SPECIAL REPORT *(Continued from Pg. 2)*

**On Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>** we heard that:

- Between Fr. Felix and Conchita there was an encounter sealed by purity that leaves us lights of new hopes and renewal longings.
- Conchita was also a priest in her spiritual maternity that is a reflection of the divine paternity.
- Conchita's writings are full of life; there you will find yourself with that hidden God that is alive.
- Jesus comes to us little by little, respecting the moment in our life; He may not come when we call Him, but He is never late.

We celebrated the Eucharist at San Felipe's Church, where Fr. Felix was laid to rest.

**On Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>** we were told that:

- We have to take the risk in order not to let fear confine us.
- Conchita and Fr. Felix lived a profound human friendship oriented towards God, towards the Cross, sharing mission and path.
- Lay people, vivified and stimulated by a spirit, exercise a spiritual cult for the Glory of God and the salvation of the brothers, and through their daily works will consecrate the world.
- We should instill in ourselves the desire to be better.

**Bishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S.** celebrated the Eucharist at the School of Girls, where on February 4, 1903 took place that great encounter that we now celebrate. This celebration was without a doubt something unforgettable.

**On Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>** we heard that:

- Jesus is the loved one and we are the disciples of love.
- Lay people have to discern, pick up what the Holy Spirit is bringing to the world.
- Lay people are the future of the Church.
- The Christian spirituality is one of open eyes.

**This last day of the congress** concluded with an Eucharist preceded by Fr. Jorge Ortiz, M.Sp.S, and concelebrated by many priests, most of them Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.

To the music of Mariachis and marimba, we enjoyed dancing; "tortas", sweets and refreshments, but most of all we enjoyed a great fraternity. What a beautiful celebration! And so much rain, Lord! There is not a doubt that with that rain Conchita and Fr. Felix sent us their congratulations from heaven.

**On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>**, accompanied by Fathers Jose Ortega, Rafael Ledezma and Francisco Altamira, MM.Sp.S. and again with the group from Oregon, we left for San Luis Potosí and Jesús María. Guided by Fr. Pedro Vera, M.Sp.S. and Mrs. Claudia Martinez, a member of the Apostleship of the Cross, we visited the places where Jesus poured out numberless blessings over Conchita. In Jesús María we began our pilgrimage at the foot of the Cross of the Apostleship. From there we immediately joined the people of the town of Jesús María, for a celebration of the Eucharist at the Sanctuary. We stayed at the house of the Guadalupans Missionaries who greeted us and treated us with lots of love.

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## A SPECIAL REPORT *(Continued from Pg. 3)*

**On Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>** we began our day with a celebration of the Eucharist at the Chapel of the Solitude. From there we went to the convent of the Sisters of the Cross where at first we visited our



This Cross was erected by Msgr. Ramon Ibarra on October 12, 1895 at the Tepeyac, Mexico City, on the Crowning of our Lady of Guadalupe.

Lord. There we were able to, see some relics of Conchita, walk in the Huerta, and buy sweets and religious articles. The Sisters of the Cross gave us a brief explanation of all these sacred places. We visited the house of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, and in his office Fr. Rafael Ledezma, M.Sp.S. showed us and explained to us the Count of Conscience of Conchita. In the afternoon Fr. Pedro Vera, M.Sp.S. shared with us what the Spirituality of the Cross is. To conclude the day we gathered at the foot of the Cross of the Apostleship for a bonfire.

**On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup>** we returned to Mexico City, some to stay a few more days, and others to return home, with many wishes to share with others what we learned and lived. God came and went with us; He was the guide of our journey.

**We thank God** because one more time He let us encounter ourselves with Him, with Conchita and Fr. Felix, and with all those that were a part of our journey of these days. We thank the organizers of the congress, of the Eucharist celebrations, and feast, and all the priests that accompanied us during our stay in Mexico.

**May God bless you all** and make you be each day more like Him!

*- Myriam and Myrla*

### **Retreat with Fr. Gilberto Rivera, M.Sp.S.**

**From September 26<sup>th</sup> thru the 28<sup>th</sup>** we had a retreat about love (to love with Christ's Heart), purity (to lack of everything that is unclean), and sacrifice (to add our sorrows to Christ's Passion). It was a silent retreat so that we could try to talk more with God, offering this silence for the health of Pope John Paul II. We were told about how important it is to know the Bylaws, as essential requisites to live our spirituality.

**Our Lord has been waiting for us** since a long time ago, like the friend that is never absent, and of whom we should not be afraid. God has sent us the vocation to be prophets; we should believe in our calling because we are the third vicar.

**I know that I am loved by You, and I believe in Your love!**

**On Monday Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**, Fr. Gilberto also gave us a talk at Notre Dame Church.

Thanks Fr. Gilberto for sharing with us the love to the Most Holy Trinity and to the Spirituality of the Cross.

## Testimonials

**What I experienced** on my trip to Mexico City for the II International Congress of the Spirituality of the Cross was something I will never forget.

**It was a trip** I would not have wanted to miss. The Spirituality of the Cross is very new to me, however, what I learned at the Congress has inspired me to want to experience more. Coming to understand what remarkable people Conchita and Fr. Felix were and being able to see where and how they lived has given me a hunger to want to learn more about them. I believe that my pursuit of the spirituality of the cross will impact my life in ways I can't begin to imagine.

**I was also awed** by the love of the people who are involved in the Apostleship of the Cross. Never before in my life have I experienced such a wonderful group of people from all over the world. Even though there were many language barriers there was a universal language shared by all – the smile – and believe me there were thousands of those.

**- Polly McKay**  
**Bothell, Washington**

**The Congress in Mexico City**, followed by a pilgrimage to San Luis Potosi and "Jesus Maria", was an un-interrupted, blessed "Encounter" with the Divine, made possible by human vessels.

**The experiences were transforming** and life-giving. They were pure grace and left an indelible mark on the soul, too deep for words! Some rare and precious "pearls" emerged during presentations, testimonials, and pilgrimages to holy places. The transforming grace of the encounter between two people in love with God (Conchita and Felix), filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, embracing the Cross, was a holy union, transforming those of us so privileged of "meeting" them.

**A new understanding** of the "Spirituality of the Cross" dawned on the "hearer" like a blessed light, penetrating the soul. It is a gift that has the potential to change the world. And we, blessed with these riches, must help bring about this transformation by living

holy lives, embracing (without compromise) the Spirituality of the Cross.

**Thanks to all** who made this possible - may you be blessed abundantly!

**- Ursula Tobar**  
**Mount Angel, Oregon**

**The Encounter.** What a beautiful theme for a beautiful experience! For me it was a long and anticipated wait of many months.

**At first I would ask Jesus**, "why did you bring me here? Who am I to be here with all your people, your chosen ones?" My heart wanted to come out when I saw myself with so many important people that were filled with the Holy Spirit, so much that I entered into the spirit that they spread. It seemed like a dream, there was no tiredness that would distract me because my thirst was so great that the time seemed short to enjoy it. In every moment I would ask the Lord "Make this joy last forever in my heart, and help me to share it with others".

**May God bless** all those that participated in this congress.

**- María Rios**  
**Houston, Texas**

**The International Congress** was a profound Encounter with the Holy Spirit working through the many excellent speakers and attendees to enhance my understanding of the worldwide scope of the Spirituality of the Cross, to deepen in my heart the call for daily "transformation into Christ", and to work with greater fervor for the Reign of the Holy Spirit and spread of the Spirituality. Each Liturgy, each speaker, each person I met was truly a gift from God.

**- Rita Andrich**  
**Cleveland, Ohio**

**My experience in the congress** was vivid and very fruitful; it helped me to grow and deepen my spirituality and to learn more about the Works of the Cross, especially about Fr. Félix Rougier. It also was as if I renewed my love and sacrifice with Jesus.

**Now my compromise** is more profound because God has given me much more knowledge to share it and to live it with my brothers and sisters in my daily living.

**- Emerita Hernández**  
**Portland, Oregon**

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***Words of Reflection...***

And the Blessed Virgin continued telling me: "My Son is hungry, cheer Him with virtues and with souls. He is cold, warm Him with your love; He is thirsty of glory for the Holy Spirit and to glorify the Father. Spread His reign.

My daughter, today your Director handed you in my arms in a special way (Oct. 26), and because of that I come to you, to advise you and to take care of you. My Divine Son received you for the Works of the Cross, that will save and sanctify millions of souls, and show yourself worthy of that favor."

"And how, my Mother?"

"Loving the Divine Word and making Him loved with one's own sacrifice... (CC – Conchita)

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***Jesus, Savior of all people,  
Save them!***