



Corpus Christi Movement for Priests

CCM Newsletter

Founded by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in 1981

www.corpuschristimovement.org

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Briefs

SILVER JUBILARIANS

Let us congratulate and pray for those priests who celebrate their 25th this year:

- Fr. Alexander Sherbrooke (UK)
- Fr. Juan Pablo Jasminoy (Argentina)
- Fr. José M^a Calderón & Fr. Alberto de Andrés (Spain)
- Fr. Jacob Swapan Gomes (Bangladesh)
- And those we don't know about!



Corpus Christi Governing Council

International Coordinator:

Fr. Pascual Cervera (Madrid)

Msgr. Leo Maasburg (Vienna)

Msgr. Luis Cuña Ramos (Rome)

Fr. Joseph Illo (Los Angeles)

Fr. Jaroslav Broz (Prague)

From the International Coordinator, Fr. Pascual Cervera

In January, I gave retreats to the Sisters in the **Philippines** and visited mission houses and the Novitiate in Manila. As I usually do during these trips, I tried to visit the priests and the Seminaries, and sometimes they invite me to give talks. So I had the joy of talking about our dearest Mother in the Major and Minor Seminaries of the Archdiocese of Caceres in Naga. This Archdiocese was founded in 1595, one of the oldest dioceses in the Philippines. I was very impressed by their welcome, and by the awareness and interest of the Seminarians, as well as by the number of students. It was a great gift to visit there, as was my visit to the other places to see the Filipino people's faith.

Ignatian Workshop on in Los Angeles

In February, fifteen CCM priests gathered in Los Angeles for a workshop on the Ignatian Exercises led by Fr. David Keuter, OMV, who has given hundreds of MC retreats. Most participants came from North America, but some came from Spain, Austria, South Africa, and Scotland. The disalced Carmelites hosted us, affording many hours of fraternal recreation in addition to engaging conferences. Many thanks to the active MC sisters in Los Angeles, who housed and transported some of the priests! On Thursday we had Mass and dinner at the Contemplative MC's, joined by our beloved Active MC's.

International CCM Retreat in Fatima

Nov 17-22 2014

Every two years Corpus Christi holds an international retreat for its priests. In July 2012 we met in Czestochowa, Poland. Our theme this year will be "Our Lady in the life of the priest and the CCM Movement." For more information and registration, please email Mrs. Almudena Sanchez at corpxti@gmail.com by Oct. 1st.

Reflections on the Name "Corpus Christi" by Fr. Kevin Schembri

On Holy Thursday I reflected about the name of our Movement, so closely linked to the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. Mother would say that there is no separation, no difference, between Jesus in the Eucharist and Jesus in the Poor. I thought how easy it is for us priests to fall into the temptation of welcoming and adoring Jesus *only* in the Eucharist ... how easy it is for us to genuflect, sing, follow the rubrics and give him the best in the Mass, but then ignore, forget or even sideline Him in others. We CCM priests are privileged to have Mother, and we are privileged to have Pope Francis. Recently an elderly Sister, who knew Mother very well, told me how she feels that she is listening to Mother when she reads Pope Francis' homilies. Fr. Brian shared the same observation with me. The Pope constantly reminds us to meet and serve Jesus not only in the Temple but also (and especially!) outside in the existential peripheries of material, spiritual and emotional poverty. It is uplifting to see him celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper in a centre of the elderly and disabled, how he stopped and "contemplated" the deformed feet which he was washing: the *Corpus Christi*, the "flesh of Christ" (a phrase Francis has used fourteen times in these thirteen months of his pontificate!).

May we always live up to the name which Mother chose for our Movement.

A Silver Jubilee in Calcutta by Fr. Alexander Sherbrooke



Her desk and classroom where Mother taught as a Loretto Sister for 20 years.

As a priest in my 26th year, I reflect on how, at the beginning of “my priesthood,” I was going to save all! Now it’s more about Christ’s priesthood and how one is a priest for others. I have just returned from Calcutta to thank the Missionaries of Charity, the people they serve, and Mother for forming me as a priest. A beautiful moment with Mother thirty years ago has sustained me every time I go to the Altar of God. I started with an eight day retreat at the Jesuits, always an integral part of Mother’s journey. One of my earliest Calcutta experiences was meeting Father van Exem (Mother’s Spiritual Director). I remember well how in this wise and venerable Priest’s room there was only the basic furniture, a Bible and Breviary. I went to the Loretto Convent and spoke with a wise elderly Irish sister who knew Mother. She said the world’s adulation, “worship,” and attention was a real cross for Mother, who only wanted to know the crucified love of Jesus for her and to “sate” His thirst in the poorest of the poor.



I visited Kalighat (home for the dying) again, where my journey with Mother started. I cannot adequately describe this journey into poverty, isolation and physical rejection, but the sisters’ love for those people helps one realize that the world’s

agony and pain is not solved by processes, programs and the deliberations of the great and good, but in the simple acts of love and mercy Mother taught us. Every pilgrimage has its final destination and for Calcutta it is 54 Lower Circular Road, to the novices, the sisters, to Mother’s cell and her tomb. Returning after many years, having 150 sisters sing “congratulations,” and praying at the tomb was too much; I shed tears of joy, knowing that God’s love somehow continues to break into the world. Mother would often say that you do not need to come to Calcutta to find poverty and loneliness, but the city explains that in such a way that it can but enrich, explain and bless all our endeavors where God chooses to place us. **Please pray for me as I do for you.**



Lighting candles at Mother’s grave in thanksgiving for all your kindness

Promoting Volunteer Experiences with the MCs

Fr. Martin Vernooij of the Netherlands claims that “Mother gave him four and he gave her fifteen.” He explains: in 1991 extracted a promise from Mother to send four MC’s to his recently-established children’s home in Malawi. They arrived in 1992, and since that time 15 girls from this home have entered the MC’s. Most recently, Sr. Mariella will make her final vows soon, and with the others repeats to Fr. Martin, “We are the fruits of your work in Malawi.” Fr. Martin also reports that his grand-niece Tessa, named after Mother Teresa, recently did three weeks’ volunteer work in Calcutta. He had given her a birthday card at age 3 from Mother, which Tessa kept framed in her room. The card finally bore fruit this year when Tessa made all the arrangements herself to work in the children’s’ home in Calcutta. We can promote volunteer work with the MCs by directing them to the VOLUNTEERING FOR THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY website.

A Retreat in Cuba by Fr. Jose Maria Calderon

Last March I gave a retreat to the Sisters in Cuba (my first time in Latin America). They have 10 active and one contemplative house there. The sisters visit patients in their own homes. We met at the retreat house next to the Sanctuary of *La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre* (Diocese of Santiago). I stayed with two priests, Fr. Gustavo (local parish priest) and a French missionary who has spent 40 years in Cuba. They are good priests who have lived many years in real poverty and semi-persecution. I was moved to see the material poverty of a sister country, but above all their religious and spiritual poverty. Priests must make major efforts to educate their people. Fr. José Manuel of the Diocese of Santiago is a beautiful example of this: in great material poverty, he gives his entire life back to God. Thanks be to God for these priests.



Fr. Jose Maria and his beloved Sisters in Cuba