



Corpus Christi Movement for Priests

CCM Newsletter

Founded by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in 1981

www.corpuschristimovement.org

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corpxti@gmail.com



BLESSED FEAST OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI

This month we celebrate our patronal feast, on Thursday, June 20, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Fr. Joseph Langford, our co-founder, originally called our Movement the “priest co-workers of Mother Teresa,” but Mother soon changed the name to the “Corpus Christi Movement.” She knew the priesthood in and through the Most Holy Eucharist. On Friday, June 28, we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, followed by the memorial of the Immaculate Heart on June 29 (also the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul). Mother’s home parish was Sacred Heart in Skopje, and her devotion to the Sacred Heart led her to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Cause of our Joy. Let us be joyful priests as we celebrate these great feasts!

Sr. Prema’s Address to Corpus Christi Priests in Calcutta

Last September 40 Corpus Christi priests traveled to Calcutta on pilgrimage. Fr. Pascual offered Mass in Motherhouse on the Feast of St. Teresa (Sept. 5), and we visited all the places made holy by Mother in the first years of the Society. One of the most special graces was given us by Sr. Prema, the General Superior of the Society, who spoke to us for about 30 minutes. Here are some of her words to the Corpus Christi Movement:

“Welcome fathers to Mother house. I see you are very well represented from Spain, and Germany also, Austria, the Czech Republic also very well represented and Malta of course and UK (Father Hans is a nice German name!) and from India. [Fr. Hans was actually from the Philippines, but Sr. Prema is German and so appreciated his German name. Other priests were from Argentina, Africa, India, and the United States—ed.]

“Nowadays people are in need of being smiled at—how the world has become so isolated! From the face of the person whom we see, we are either welcomed in or shut out. Mother wanted our sisters to smile, the brothers to smile, the fathers to smile. She used to say you will never know how much “good” a simple smile can do, and one smile generates another smile and becomes a chain of smiles... Why was Mother so fussy about the fathers and the priests? Because they are Jesus, you are Jesus; you are the one who gives us Jesus and the world today is longing to have the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



A street sign we saw outside Motherhouse in Calcutta

You are the ones making Him blessed in the Eucharist and the Sacraments. For our sisters, the more pure—the more we are attached to God—the more the Grace of God can flow through us on others and make us channels of this Grace. There are so less priests, and you have so much to do ... I really am grateful to you for serving the sisters in whatever place you are. Help the sisters to take great care of their interior life because Mother from the beginning was convinced that the exterior must grow from the power of the interior, the union of God ... Mother would say to the father who was going to begin the retreat that day for the sisters: “father help my sisters to fall in love with Jesus” ... You keep us close to Jesus; you teach us how to pray and how to be in real relationship with Jesus, to deserve his spirit and to recognize his voice. Thank you.” *Sr. Prema, MC*

Corpus Christi Governing Council

International Coordinator:

Fr. Pascual Cervera

Msgr. Leo Maasburg (Vienna)

Msgr. Luis Cuña Ramos (Rome)

Fr. Joseph Illo (San Francisco)

Fr. Jaroslav Broz (Prague)

The Spanish priest Fr. Jose Antonio Sanchez was one of the fathers who came to Calcutta last September. Here are some of his impressions, from his blog:

At 2:20 am on September 2, I got on a bus at the Andújar station to the Barajas airport. It was the first leg of a long day's journey that would end in Calcutta. During the four-hour trip to Madrid I tried by all means to sleep, but it was impossible. Everything was mixed in my mind: the farewell to my family and my parishioners, my concerns about taking a plane for so many hours, a distant destination and with uncertain dangers. We arrived in the city and what struck me was the smell of Calcutta. I would not be able to compare this smell to anything I've experienced. But soon



Visiting with children outside the leper home

I realized that it is a special "smell", the "smell" of a city, of a humanity that lives and cries out.

Mother Teresa had to come here, because here she found the "Christ made flesh" that was going to change her life. And here we are, a group of priests who for a few days are going to make a pilgrimage through the different houses that the Holy Albanian founded, and whose work continues in the religious Missionaries of Charity, in this city and in many other places in the world.



Fr. Pascual leading us through the School in Entally, where Mother taught as a Loretto Sister until 1948

To pray before the tomb of Saint Teresa of Calcutta is to face the example of a woman touched by the grace of God to serve the poorest of this world. She has incarnated the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in our day and has left us a clear message: it is worthwhile to serve Christ in the poor! It is worth loving!

In the Motherhouse, her room remains intact. It is located above the kitchen, where the heat can make the air unbearable. And there is a small bed no more than 70 cm. wide, with a small mattress no more than 10 cm thick. Then a small table with her chair, a tiny closet, an old map of the world and an image of Christ crucified where she wrote "I am thirsty", recalling one of Jesus' last words before dying. You cannot live with more austerity. The whole house is also wrapped by that austerity and simplicity that does not distract from the fundamental. The chapel where her grave is located and the upper chapel where the saint prayed, is absolutely simple. I am struck by the fact that the two chapels are facing the street, that is, they force us to pray with the unbearable noise that characterizes this city, of cars and motorcycles continually honking, the squawking of big black birds (I would say they are crows), bent on disturbing us. Paradoxically, we must seek silence amidst the noise, that inner silence that allows union with God in our world and in our day-to-day life.



Sr. Prema speaking at Mother's Tomb



Sisters praying at Motherhouse on Mother's Feastday (Sept 5)