

APOSTLES of the CROSS, SAINTS IN THE MAKING

On Saturday, February 14th, 1903, Conchita told Fr. Felix: *“become very holy, my father: don’t feel anything as too demanding, all for love of God.”* And these are the words I would like to stress in this message to you Apostle of the Cross: Become a saint. Years later, Fr. Felix would say in a letter to the students in Rome: *“Become very holy! Everything is passing away... having led a holy life on earth remains... it bears a happy consequence in eternal life...”*



I truly aspire to be holier every day, and to be able to live the experience of God’s presence in my life day after day. Through contemplation and through the everyday actions is where my holiness – and yours – takes shape. When I started my seminary life, in seventh grade, I wanted to be a saint, but I thought holiness was a battle I had to win. My understanding was that holiness had to do with perfecting many virtues and getting rid of all sin; but time has made me wiser, and now I understand in a more profound way that HOLINESS IS A RELATIONSHIP. It is a personal relationship with God, and when we allow Him to act in our life, He transforms us.

In as much as I relate to God, He transforms me and brings out the best of my human nature; He gives me the graces I need to belong completely to him and live only for Him. We, members of the Spirituality of the Cross, are called to be transformed into Christ Priest and Victim; but think about the beauty of “being” transformed, and not transforming ourselves. The action is God’s, we just open ourselves to his graces and we put them into action in the ways he shows us. Our Statutes say it best in #1: *“follow Jesus Christ Priest and Victim, Contemplative and Solidary, and in communion with Jesus, collaborate with His salvific mission”*, And this becomes a reality in our commitment and belonging to the Work.

How wonderful to think that all men and women of the Apostleship of the Cross dream of being holy and allow themselves to be moved by the Holy Spirit so we can delve into the processes of holiness He’d like to guide us through every day.

I’d like to say to all of you like Conchita said: become holy.

May this year we just begin be an opportunity to grow in holiness as a Work of the Cross.

Fr. Mario Rodríguez-García M.Sp.S.