



MESSAGE FROM THE XI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE CROSS



Dear Apostles of the Cross, youth and adults:

With profound joy we make ours the words of the Apostles when they affirm, "It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

Thirty-eight brothers, Apostles of the Cross and Missionaries of the Holy Spirit from the four Regions and from different cultures and walks of life, were gathered during four days in Mexico City. Motivated by our theme and certain of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit among us during the long moments of prayer, discernment, listening, dialogue, decision making and fraternal company, we share what we have in our hearts.

We were astonished...!

- ... that the Holy Spirit blows where and how He wants, with us, in spite of us;
- ... by the diverse faces of an Apostle of the Cross;
- ... by the richness and variety of experiences, pursuits and projects that God brings forth in the Work;
- ... that the conviction, surrender and desire to serve are stronger than the material resources;
- ... by the creativity demonstrated to realize the mission.

We feel thankful and joyful!

The search that commenced nine years ago for a renewed Apostleship of the Cross that would respond to the challenges of the Church and the present day World, is becoming concrete. The mission shared by the entire Apostleship of the Cross and the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit is a sign of communion and font of complementarity.

Knowing we were accompanied by your prayers brought us zest and fortitude during these days.

Learning about the history and current situation of each Region brought us to discover that the diversity, far from being a threat, is a font of richness. It also invited us to overcome individualism to view ourselves as one Work and recognize each other as the siblings we indeed are. We approved amendments to our Statutes, confirming that Jesus' invitation to "be born again" (Jn 3:7) prevails.

Once more the Lord meets us on our journey to remind us that the true experience of God does not have a mold because the history of each person is unique and goes beyond the Sacraments and formal prayer. The experience of God touches the entire person and opens them to evangelical relationships that propel them to serve with solidarity.

We became aware that the graces received throughout these years and during these four days are a gift, but also a task that entails

enormous challenges, that we are willing to bravely face with joy and hope, and with the certainty that if we do our part, He will do the rest (Félix de Jesús).

Dear Apostles of the Cross, we invite you to hear the solidary and contemplative Jesus the Priest, that today also speaks to us through Pope Francis: "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security" (EG 49). We need to "...enter into the reality of other people's lives and know the power of tenderness. Whenever we do so, our lives become wonderfully complicated and we experience intensely what it is to be a people, to be part of a people" (EG 270).

Let us be Apostles of the Cross that LEARN TO LOVE BY LOVING AND TO SERVE BY SERVING, until discovering that this is a source of superior joy. That Mary, the prayerful Woman that listens to the Word and lives it out, be our model to follow.

Let us unite to Conchita's cry:
"Jesus, Savior of all people, save them!"
and to save them, count on us!

Your sister and brother participants of the
XI General Assembly of the Apostleship of the Cross
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