

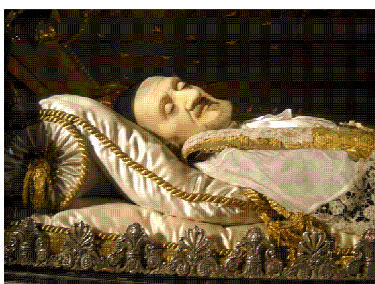
The Living Word Newsletter

Pilgrimage to France; A Visit with the Saints

The Lord often gives us opportunities to grow in our faith and often we don't seize those opportunities. My Catholic faith has grown so much these past few years because of the opportunities I have had to participate in various retreats, teachings, and the occasions I've had to approach the priests here at the Charismatic Center. A lot of my questions about the Saints and Mary, the Blessed Mother, have been answered here, especially since Fr. Carlos Martins arrived at the Center with his *Treasures of the Church* relics exposition (see www.treasuresofthechurch.com). The exposition opens the door to an awareness of the place of the Saints in the Church and has given me new love for my faith and a stronger desire to grow in my own holiness.



Such an opportunity arose as I traveled this past May with a group on a pilgrimage to France to visit the places where the incorruptible bodies of five Catholic Saints are venerated. The pilgrimage took us to Paris, Liseiux, Nevers, and Ars, to visit the incorruptible bodies of Saint Catherine Laboure, Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Louise de Marillac, Saint Bernadette Soubirous, and Saint Jean Marie Vianney. Let me explain what an incorruptible body is. Long after their deaths and burials, when bodies of these Saint's were exhumed for their respective canonizations, some fifty years or more after their deaths, their bodies were found to be free of decay; they were miraculously preserved. I looked upon this wonder with some skepticism.



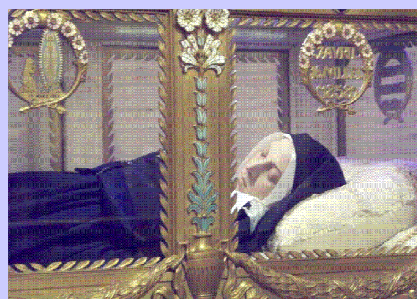
I was most touched when I looked upon the face of Saint Vincent de Paul. I questioned, "How?" I sensed so much holiness and a yet I also sensed unworthiness to be in his presence. I wondered why I felt so unworthy. After all, the Saints are just people who accepted their call in an extraordinary way and God's grace was revealed powerfully. "We are all called to sainthood," the priest chaplains told us over and over. I mulled over the thought that one day the world might look upon me with awe as a saint; as I was looking at Saint Vincent.

However, I could not deny the strong sense of holiness I experienced in their resting places. I knew I was standing among the holy. Experiencing this close-up view of the Saints left me wondering what I would need to do to become a Saint? What lead these people to such holy lives? Was it because of their special connection with the Mary the Blessed Mother and Jesus?" An exhortation written in a book for sale in the book store at Saint Gildard Convent in Nevers had me questioning further: *Pray that through the Spirit we receive modesty and purity.* "Are these the qualities that make one a saint?" I resolved that this is why people ask for prayer from the Saints (who were just like us once) because of their special relationship with Jesus. The Saints, unlike earthy friends and family members, are in the presence of Our Lord, and can speak on our behalf.

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The saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult moments in the Church's history. .. Pope John Paul II



Treasures of the Church Exposition Schedules

View Online @
www.treasuresofthechurch.com

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Fr. Michael's Message



“Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to experience the Holy Spirit who opens us to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father. The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed Catholic life, and evangelization” is the Vision Statement for the National Service

Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

One experiences union with God's love and presence as the Persons of the Trinity become more real. Our lives become transformed through our personal holiness and in wanting to share the Good News; as we evangelize those we come to meet. The Holy Spirit which we receive at baptism becomes inflamed and this fire can grow and illuminate us as never before. Our time, treasure, and talent become available and are used in the renewal as never before. This is the *“Baptism of the Holy Spirit.”* It is not a new spirit, but the same Spirit that has been with us, but not as active or on fire or alive.

The Catholic Charismatic Center's main vision is: *“To bring all people into that intimate personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.”*

The Holy Spirit is active and alive in all baptized Christians. The one question is “To what degree is the Holy Spirit active in me?” and “How do I stir the Spirit in me to flame up. A couple of examples: If you pour chocolate into a glass of milk, the chocolate goes to the bottom but some gets mixed in the milk and the milk changes color slightly. If you put a spoon in the milk and stir, it changes the white milk into chocolate milk. The milk becomes chocolate milk because the action of stirring causes the chocolate to become fully active throughout the milk. Another example would be building a fire from wood. Little by little the fire grows and the wood is fully engulfed in flames. As the wood is burned up, the flames become less and the fire becomes more hot coals than a flaming fire. If you stir up the coals and the wood that is left, the fire flames back up and if you add more wood the flame comes back and the fire comes alive and full again.

The Holy Spirit is active and flourishing within people in many ways and in many events. The Mass, reading scripture, various prayers—the rosary, novenas, etc., retreats, i.e. Acts retreats, devotions to Mary, and through many other ways. But I find the most powerful, the most immediate and the most effective igniting of the Holy Spirit within someone or a big group all at once is the weekend retreat called **“The Faith in the Fire of the Holy Spirit (FIF).”**

This retreat is put on at the Center and parishes within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and in other dioceses. The effect is very transformative for the participants, the lives of people around them and their parish. The music, talks, sharing, activities, fellowship, and food—God uses everything throughout the weekend to bring the person to surrender to the Lord and to open their heart and mind for Holy Spirit to come alive or aflame within them; and it does. The effect is immediate for many and over time for others. The testimonies and sharing, at the close of the retreat, are amazing. They are testimonies of the love of the Trinity for us and the active effect of that love of the Holy Spirit within each of us.

In Christ,
Fr. Michael Scherrey CC

Special Events at the Center



Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, 2010, found us rejoicing in the Holy Spirit of God, at the Catholic Charismatic Center. The guest ‘pillars’, of the old St Nicholas Center, were so delighted to see one another. Greetings, hugs and shouts of joy ran rampant in the Foyer, The Holy Spirit feast had begun.

Our Director Emeritus, Father Richard E. Paulissen, MM, who was the main celebrant of the Mass, had packed the Catholic Charismatic Center. This was his 40th year as leader of the Renewal in Houston.

Some of the guests were the Architect that designed the new C.C.C.; another member who envisioned that the ministry needed a larger building therefore, giving birth to the new Catholic Charismatic Building; the first book store manager at the original Charismatic Center: St. Nicholas; the co-founder, Sr. Kathleen Smith, Incarnate Word; the first singer, prior to St. Nicholas, and several others who supported the ministry of Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Healing, Mass celebrations, building, etc. Absent were Fran May, the artist of the Jesus portrait that hangs in the Main Assembly Hall and Sr. Irene, who worked with Fr. Paulissen for many years, side by side, developing new musicians, the Spanish Ministry, purchasing for the book store, etc. etc. Several Deacons, who were ordained as a fruit of the Baptism of Holy Spirit, under Fr. Paulissen, were concelebrating, along with the Companions of the



Cross Priests. At Fr. Paulissen's request, Deacon Bob Brughenoff sang: “One day at a time” and Father's talented niece, Sylvia Overtone sang “The Law of the Lord”. At his homily, after introducing “who's who”, he went on to quote

Vatican II declaration by Pope John XXIII (“we need a little fresh air in here”— he was with all his Cardinals) For the next three years we said this prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, after each Mass. His homily was on the need for a new Breath of God and the prayer that is needed to obtain it. Father also called all, to the front of the altar, to make Jesus their Lord and Savior with the manifestation of ‘tongues’.

Fr. Paulissen gave us the gift of his presence, his homily, his Texan humor, a couple of moving tears, and his book “Rebirth in the Spirit”, which was given out for free. This book is a ‘must read’ if we want to understand our roots, at the Catholic Charismatic Center.

After many autographs, Father, along with the community, enjoyed a reception of sweets, punch, tea and visiting with his followers new and old, in a well decorated environment. We left with a feeling of ‘well done faithful servant’ and peace. Hope to see you again at another Sunday Mass, Fr. Paulissen.

Many blessings to all who helped!
Norma Casey

Events at The Center and Around the Archdiocese

The Rite of Election
by *Sandy Higgins*
Associate Director, Office of Worship

For several years, the Catholic Charismatic Center has graciously hosted the Rite of Election for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. You may have heard about it, hopefully you have prayed for the unbaptized men, women and children who received the sacraments of initiation at this Easter Vigil and the Christians who were brought into full communion in the Catholic Church.

The unbaptized men, women and children have been undergoing a faith journey for a considerable period of time, at least one year. During that time, they have inquired about the faith and, through the Rite of Acceptance, they became catechumens and began their formal faith journey. During the period of the catechumenate, they grew their faith in four distinct ways. They receive catechetical formation which is accommodated to the liturgical year and is based on the Scriptures proclaimed on Sundays. Catechumens become acquainted with the dogmas and precepts of the church and the mystery of salvation (RCIA, 75.1). Second, catechumens learned what it means to live their life as a Christian. The role of the sponsors and godparents and indeed the entire community is formative to the catechumen. In seeing how we live our lives in faith, we become models. Thus, by seeing how we live the paschal mystery in our lives, they become aware of their call to become a new creation through baptism. Third, catechumens experienced the liturgical life of the church: its prayers and devotions help to strengthen, bless and exorcise the catechumens during their faith journey. Finally, catechumens learned how to spread the Gospel and build up the church.

After this period of formation, the catechumens and those responsible for their formation discerned if they are ready to enter fully into the life of the Church. If so, they are ready to formally enter into a period of intense prayer and scrutiny. This step is marked formally in the parish by an optional rite called the Rite of Sending and is marked by the greater church on an archdiocesan level at the Rite of Election.

The Rite of Sending allows the local community to express its approval of the catechumens and to pledge their support and prayer. During this rite, the catechumens, who are the unbaptized, signed the Book of the Elect in front of the entire assembly to publically show their desire to become a part of the Catholic Church. They were then sent to the Rite of Election. This rite is called election "because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on the election by God, in whose name the church acts" (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 119). The catechumens became the Elect and the church and the elect entered into a period of intense prayer and purification as we ready for the Easter sacraments.

This year, the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston was blessed to fully initiate 1374 men, women and children into the Catholic Church. 862 Christians professed their faith in the Catholic Church and received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Please continue to keep these newly initiated in your prayers.

Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will begin the 2010 - 2011 process starting with registration on Saturday July 31, 2010 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in room 112.

RCIA is for:

1. All those adults not baptized and seeking the truth of a Creator and Salvation for man,
2. those Christian baptized but without a Christian-taught foundation,
3. those baptized Christians from a non-Catholic Faith who are in Interested in living a Christian life through the Catholic Faith,
4. as well as those baptized in the Catholic Church but who have not received their Sacraments of 1st Communion and Confirmation.

To register, bring:

1. a certified copy of your birth certificate, and
2. if baptized, a updated copy of your baptism certificate, or letter from baptized location confirming date, presider, and place of baptism.

The first meeting will include an introduction to the RCIA Ministry Team, and its process. Registration is free.

Don't put off tomorrow what you can do today which could be the beginning of a new you and an adventure of a lifetime!

If you have any questions please call Debra Hoffman at 832-692-8484 or email debra.hoffman@yahoo.com with "RCIA questions" in the subject line.

Scott's Walk for Life Story (in his own words):

My name is Scott. I am 9 years old, and my sister is 7. We are pro-life altar servers at the Catholic Charismatic Center. Our project started in May when Fr. Carlos Martins and Fr. Michael Scherrey talked to us about the Walk for Life.

So, my sister and I got lots of forms to fill out. We raised money by asking people "would you sponsor me because I am walking for life?" I went to churches, parks, CVS, Krogers, Chick-fil-a and my money would start at 50 cents, \$1,\$5, \$10 \$20 and \$100! We would pray before we collected money. One day I was at HEB with my sister and this lady gave my sister a \$100 bill. Even if they gave me money or not I would still bless them and go to the next person.

Abortion is real bad because we are killing God's creation. I have been holding signs in front of the clinic on Saturdays with other friends from the church. If I got the chance to talk to one of the ladies going into this clinic I would tell them to let someone adopt the child and give the baby a chance to grow up.

We wanted to share with you Scott's story in his own words on how he has been able to raise \$37,201.00! Visit the website to read the complete story. www.discoverthecenter.com

www.ministrysync.com/event/website/?m=443039

Donations can be mailed in to the following address:

Scott Esparza sponsorship
Houston Coalition for Life
P.O. Box 301094
Houston, Texas 77230
713-395-1330

Teaching That Transforms

By Hector Antonio Molina, Jr.



We read in the Old Testament Book of the Prophet Hosea 4:6

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

There is indeed much truth to that statement. Many recognize that there has been a crisis of catechesis in the Church for the past thirty years. According to the oft-cited Gallup Poll, the majority of American Catholics either cannot identify Catholic teaching on the Eucharist or do not believe it. Catholics cohabit, contracept, sterilize, abort, divorce, and support same-sex "marriages" at about the same rate as the population at large, indicating a large-scale rejection or ignorance of the Church's moral teachings.

There is an urgent need for a robust and dynamic catechesis that evangelizes and transforms. This was very much the thought and intention of the Servant of God Pope John Paul II, who, devoted his lengthy pontificate to implementing the pastoral initiatives of the Second Vatican Council and summoning the Church to a New Evangelization. As a Council Father himself, John Paul II understood the vision of his predecessor, Blessed John XXII, who, opened the Council with the following words:

“The intention of (This twenty-first Ecumenical Council) is to give to the world the whole of that doctrine which, notwithstanding every difficulty and contradiction, has become the common heritage of mankind—to transmit it in all its purity, undiluted, undistorted. It is a treasure of incalculable worth, not indeed coveted by all, but available to all men of good will. And our duty is not just to guard this treasure, as though it were some museum-piece and we the curators, but earnestly and fearlessly to dedicate ourselves to the work that needs to be done in this modern age of ours, pursuing the path which the Church has followed for almost twenty centuries...The major interest of the Ecumenical Council is this: that the sacred heritage of Christian truth be safeguarded and expounded with greater efficacy.”

It has been a source of great encouragement for me to see how committed the Catholic Charismatic Center of Houston is to the realization of this most important pastoral mandate. To preach and teach the fullness of our rich Catholic faith, with what John Paul II called, **“dynamic orthodoxy”** and fidelity to the truth.

Consider for a moment the many and varied opportunities the Center provides for ongoing faith formation and catechesis. I must tell you from my travels throughout the United States that there are few Centers that offer the kind of spiritual sustenance that is offered here. Meat and Potatoes Catholicism for sure!

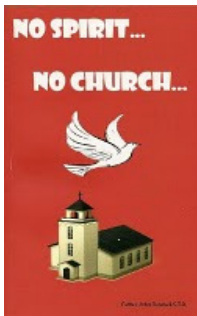
I am particularly grateful for the many opportunities that I have been afforded over the last several months to collaborate in the evangelization efforts of the Center, both at Retreats and during my monthly teaching series (which has been so well attended and continues to grow!).

There is no doubt that people are hungry for the Truth that sets us free, for **teaching** that transforms. My hope is that many more of you will consider availing yourself of these wonderful opportunities to grow in your knowledge of and appreciation for your Catholic faith and become more thoroughly furnished and equipped to share that faith with others.

To that end, I would like to invite you to join me for my next faith-building Seminar, which will take place **on Monday July 19th** at 7pm at the Center. This next teaching will explore the relationship between **“The Bible and the Mass”**. Come early and get a good seat! And as always, don't forget to bring your Bible and your Catechism! See you then!

“No Spirit... No Church ...”

“No Church without Pentecost : No Pentecost without Mary.”



What? Who said that? VATICAN CITY, MAY 23, 2010 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Benedict XVI, that's who. It is 3300 years since God gave Moses the law, the Ten Commandments, on Pentecost, the Jewish Feast Day. 1300 years after that, on another Pentecost Feast Day, we were set free from the law, into the spirit of the law of love. The New Testament church was born. They, the believers, even if only 'hoppers', were all together in one place. I love that. Did Jesus tell them to meet in the Upper Room after his Ascension and to stay there until they met the Paraclete? We don't know. We know only that the faithful Mary was there, determined to wait it out. Her heart was broken. Her Jesus was gone – again! Her life, her love, her beautiful, beloved Son had gone. He said he would send the Paraclete, The Comforter, and so he would. And so she was there.

Who could be in the mood for company after what she had suffered? We will never know the inner strength and love it took for her to be there for the people as a magnet for the fire of her Spouse. Surely she held them together for the interminable 10 days between the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit, 50 days after the Crucifixion. Can you imagine them, all in one room, cooped up, restlessly awaiting God knows what and afraid for their lives? But Mary knew her Son. She knew his word stood. She had the faith to wait it out and she knew that the more they stayed together, believing, the more would be their power. With her flair for hospitality she showed at the wedding at Cana I can see her running around, organizing the women, the food, the wine, trying to make merry with song and dance, prayer and stories. Oh, what stories she had to tell about her Son before they knew him: the kind of stories that are entwined in the rosary, still being told today! She would have done everything to stay occupied, waiting for the next thing. Oh, that waiting! Mary's whole life was waiting and, knowing what it is, she does not leave us alone in ours.



But it worked! The Holy Spirit did, indeed, come. He came with sound and fire and showered them with his gifts, his charisms. They were empowered with a zeal that propelled them out into the street with such a power and passion for the truth of Jesus that it was said they 'turned the world upside down'. How we need that power! How we need that conviction! Our world is so upside down that it's screaming to be put right way up!

To return to Pope Benedict, he also said: "The Church constantly lives on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a continuous cycle of 'new Pentecost'. And this is how it always is, in every place and in every time. Wherever Christians gather in prayer with Mary, the Lord grants his Spirit." We need them both for a New Pentecost! We may be empowered from within but without the 'empowering from above' we are a half-way house. Is the Holy Father pointing to Mary as the key? Is she coming into her time? Is she preparing her people, her 'little flock', to put their foot on the serpent's neck as she crushes his head? "Wherever Christians gather in prayer.....", the Pope said. Wherever! We can have our own Pentecost! In our groups, praying with fervor and faith, with one mind and one purpose, gathered around Mary, we can do it! We don't have to wait till next year. NOW is the hour for signs and wonders to follow us! But we must come together.



On a trip to the Holy Land I visited the Upper Room with a Palestinian Christian guide, a strong, fascinating, man. It was in the time of Yasser Arafat and the atmosphere was strained. What's that, I asked, looking at a small staircase climbing one side of a wall, with a door at the top. Squeezing my arm, finger to lips, he muttered, glancing around, "Say nothing! This side Last Supper, that side Pentecost." A wall of separation from the Holy Spirit? Food for thought; how many more walls have we built? Come Holy Spirit, tear down these walls!

“No Spirit... No Church...” Book Written By: Fr John Randall
© Elizabeth Pringle: May 2010 elizabethpringle@sbcglobal.net

Eventos de la Comunidad Hispana

Actividades de la Semana

- ◆ **Martes:** Ensayo de Ministerio de Música
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Santuario Principal
- ◆ **Martes y Jueves:** "Nuevo Amanecer", Apoyo para adictos 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Cuarto 106
- ◆ **Martes y Viernes:** Sesiones de *Al- Anon*
10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Cuarto 106
- ◆ **Miércoles:** Rosario, Asamblea y Eucaristía
9:30 am - 1:00 pm - Santuario Principal
- ◆ **Miércoles y Viernes (Primero de mes):**
Exposición del Santísimo
- ◆ **Miércoles:** Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos "Agua Viva"
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
- ◆ **Jueves:** Crecimiento o Formación
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Cuarto 205
- ◆ **Viernes:** Rosario, Asamblea y Eucaristía
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - Santuario Principal
- ◆ **Viernes:** Formación para Niños de 6 a 12 años
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm - Cuarto 106 Y 108
- ◆ **Miércoles (Primero del mes) y Viernes (Segundo del mes):** Bendición de Sacramentales e imágenes

OTROS EVENTOS:

JULIO

17 y 18 de Julio "Taller de Asamblea"
Sab. 8am a 6pm y Dom. 8am a 6pm

17 de Julio "Taller para Evangelizar a Niños"
Solo Sábado 8am a 6pm (*solo con preregistración, cupo limitado*)

AGOSTO

7 de Agosto "III Encuentro Regional de Jóvenes" solo sábado 8:30am a 10pm

11 de Agosto "Concierto con la Hna. Glenda"
Miércoles 7pm a 10pm

21 y 22 de Agosto "Congreso de Hombres"
Sábado 8:30am a 6pm y Domingo 8:30am a 3pm
(*con P. Ricardo Campo y Ministerio de Sanción de Familia*)

SEPTIEMBRE

11 de Sept. "Concierto Misionero"
Sab. 7pm a 10 pm
(*con Ines DeViud, Lucia, Isadora de Colombia, y Freddy Flores*)

18 y 19 de Sept. "Ier Encuentro Arquidiocesano para Adolescentes"
Sab. 9am a 6pm y Dom. 2pm a 7pm

25 de Sept. "Vigilia Pre-Congreso"
Sábado 8pm a Domingo 8:30 am



EL CENTRO CATOLICO CARISMATICO DA LAS GRACIAS A TODAS LAS PERSONAS QUE ASISTIERON Y COLABORARON CON SU TIEMPO, TALENTO Y DEDICACION EN NUESTRO VI CONGRESO DE ALABANZA Y ADORACION. NUESTRO AGRADECIMIENTO TAMBIEN SE EXTIENDE A TODOS LOS CONFERENCISTAS, MINISTERIOS DE MUSICA Y AL GRUPO SON BY FOUR QUE POR PRIMERA VEZ NOS VISITARON DESDE PUERTO RICO Y QUE JUNTOS TRABAJARON COMO UN EQUIPO PARA QUE ESTE EVENTO FUERA TODO UN ÉXITO. MIL GRACIAS POR DAR EL SI Y SER PARTE FUNDAMENTAL DE ESTE EXITO!!!

CURSO DE EVANGELIZACION

¿QUIERES TENER UN ENCUENTRO PERSONAL CON JESÚS?

VEN, JESÚS TE ESPERA!!!

ESTAS INVITADO A

RECIBIR EL REGALO DE DIOS

CADA PRIMER FIN DE SEMANA DE CADA MES

SALON 205 (SEGUNDO PISO).

ES IMPORTANTE QUE PARTICIPES LOS DOS DIAS.
NO TENEMOS CUIDADO DE NIÑOS.

JULIO 10 y 11, 2010 (solo para Jóvenes Adultos)

AGOSTO 7 y 8, 2010

SEPTIEMBRE 4 y 5, 2010



HORARIO SABADO

8:00 A. M. - 6:00 P. M.

HORARIO DOMINGO

8:00 A. M. - 6:00 P. M.

EL CENTRO CATÓLICO CARISMÁTICO

Te invita a todos los
GRUPOS DE ORACIÓN

de la Arquidiócesis a la

**ASAMBLEA DE ALABANZA
CARISMÁTICA MENSUAL**



HORARIO

SABADO

10 DE JULIO, 14 DE AGOSTO, y 4 DE SEPTIEMBRE
DE 7:00 P. M. A 9:30 P. M.

¡JUNTOS ALABEMOS Y ADOREMOS AL
REY DE REYES!

St. Catherine Labouré and the Miraculous Medal



Pray for **Linda Schubert**, as we unite our faith together and trust Jehovah Rapha --
The Lord our Healer.

Psalms 30:2 "Oh Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me."

Send prayers and testimonies to **Linda Schubert at Miracles of the Heart** personal blog On this blog you can: Talk to Linda: Ask her questions of general interest . If you have been praying for her medical condition, and want to say something about that, this is the place to tell her. Linda has connections with people around the world through her travels and books and seminars and she would like to maintain those connections. Because of some newly diagnosed health conditions she will be staying close to home these days. But her heart is out there with you and she wants to encourage you to share your comments, prayers and testimonies at her personal blog.

<http://www.linda-schubert.com/>

Pilgrimage to France; A Visit with the Saints

Again I thought, "Why do people come to see the Saints? What are the Saints to us?" I resolved that to us they are a certainty of God among us. Their incorruptible bodies are evidence that the miraculous exists; lasting miracles that can be seen. Though much was revealed to me there at the convent, I still left with so many questions. "What does it take to become a Saint? Is it in the suffering? Must we suffer for our belief? Is it in a life of complete solitary, prayerful work, such as monks and nuns live? Is that the only type of life that enables one to see God?" I thought, "Now, how is it that I believe in the Holy Spirit and doubt those whom the Holy Spirit works through or is revealed to?"

I thought as well about Jesus' Mother Mary, about how people question why we pray to her. Our Lady leads us to Jesus. So I thought, "Why the questions?" We honor Our Lady because she is the example of what perfect obedience looks like. I thought, "She and the Saints have given us hope. They were obedient and were lead by the Lord to Himself. It was Mary's obedience that gave us Our Lord Jesus Christ."

I found many of the answers to my questions in my notes from the homilies of the daily Masses we celebrated. I was taught that we as Catholics are asked to pray, before Mass, for the celebrants; to pray that the Holy Spirit would speak to us. The Spirit did just that in France, he spoke to me through Fr. Michael and Fr. Carlos. These are some of the themes that impacted me:

The Saints are heroes ... Sainthood can only come if you seek Christ in the purification of your soul ... Sainthood is a decision, a path you pursue ... Heroic Christian living, it's up to us to choose it ... we must put our faith in Our Lady who leads us to her son ... all of us can help each other know the joy of our Lord. We desire to know the lives of the Saints so that we can put our lives on the path to Sainthood. I must keep giving Him first place and not allow little gods to interfere with my time/obligation with Him ... 'Go out into the world' ... Unless you believe you will not understand ... Jesus: "What you want out of life – I desire to give you."

Often Catholics question what they do not understand. I think that is a very good thing that they do, so long as they seek the truth which they lack. The prophet Hosea says that we "perish for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). I say, "We have not if we seek not." Seek the truth of your faith, which is the only way that you will be able to truly possess it.

God Bless you.
Ann Martinez

Vicariates & Deaneries 4 Corners Liaisons



**Come and Journey with Us
With the Great Adventure!**



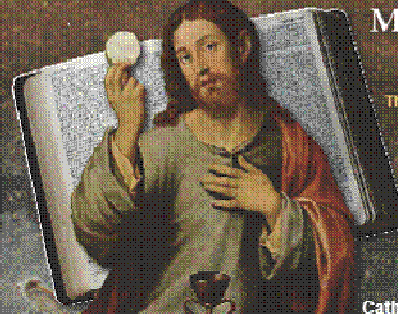
Book of ACTS

**Start Time 7:00 pm
Registration
Necessary
Begins Sept. 7th.
Ending Jan. 2011**

THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CENTER INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A SPECIAL FAITH BUILDING PRESENTATION IN THE SERIES "KNOW YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH"

THE BIBLE & THE MASS

featuring Catholic
Speaker and Evangelist
Fr. A. Molloy, Jr.



**Monday July 19
7:00 - 9:00pm**

The Catholic Charismatic Center
1949 Cullen Blvd. Houston, TX 77023
Phone (713) 236-9977

CatholicCharismaticCenter.org

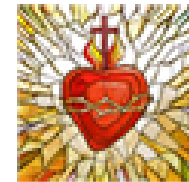
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The Living Word

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Mission Statement : The Catholic Charismatic Center is dedicated to bringing all people to the full life of Jesus Christ and His Church through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit