



Las Servidoras

Newsletter of the Houses of Formation of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará,
Province of the Immaculate Conception: United States, Canada and Guyana



Winter 2010

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE RELIGIOUS FAMILY IN OUR PROVINCE

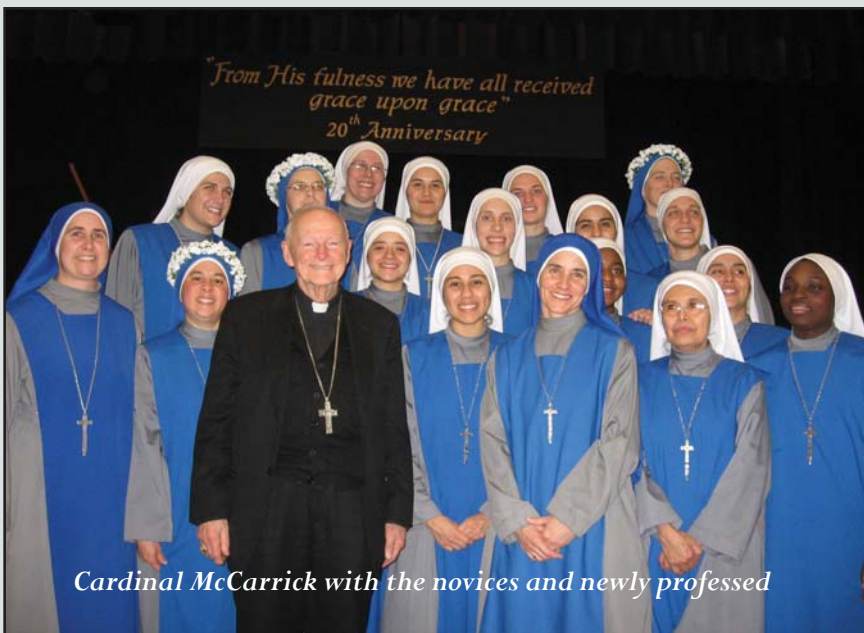
In 1989, the first IVE priest set foot in America to begin a new mission in Brooklyn. Twenty years later, the IVE has over 100 members in this province. The sisters arrived five years later, and today there are also more than 100 members.

In thanksgiving for these great gifts from God, the Religious Family came together in Washington from all over the country on December 14th to partake in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to celebrate with the feast afterward. Over 800 priests, seminarians, sisters, Third Order members, and friends from our parishes came from California, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and DC to join in the festivities. We were honored by the presence of His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Fr. Carlos Walker, Vicar General of the IVE Fathers and many of the sisters and priests who have been missionaries here throughout these past 20 years.

We were able to witness the fruits of their hard work and sacrifices through the vocations presented to the Church during the Holy Mass. Our new SSVM novices received their habits of grey and blue, colors represent the two natures of Christ, human and divine. The IVE novices were clothed in their black cassocks, symbol of their death to the world in order to live only for Christ.

To be concealed from the world, our new novices received a religious name, a title of Mary. Also on this day, four sisters professed their first vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and Marian consecration, our fourth vow.

Without ceasing, we give thanks to God for the gift of growth of our Religious Family in the United States.



Cardinal McCarrick with the novices and newly professed

"The religious of our Institute must wear the Holy Habit, which is a sign of their consecration and witness of their poverty. Let us then love the habit, which should be as our very own skin." -Constitutions, 154



MARCH FOR LIFE 2010: "THIS BATTLE WILL ONLY BE WON BY PRAYER"

Over the years, the January 22nd March for Life has both retained its essential goal of protesting the Roe v. Wade decision which legalized abortion, and has expanded to include the new generation of the Pro-Life movement. University students, high school groups, and parish youth comprise more than half of all the marchers—these young people having all been born since the 1973 ruling. Our sisters, seminarians and youth who join our group at the March reflect the confident joy born from prayer together with a lively hope for the victory of the Culture of Life and the end of abortion in our country.

The annual Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center captures the spirit of this new generation. During the Rally this year, performers played for the groups arriving to fill the arena, while our sisters served as volunteers directing the lines of thousands of youth going to confession.

In the Mass, over 230 priests concelebrated with Archbishop Donald Wuerl and other bishops from around the country. His Excellency, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic



Nuncio to the United States, was greeted with a standing ovation as he stepped forward to read the message of the Holy Father to the 20,000 youth gathered. The homilist, Fr. Larry Swink, preached on the "Three P's" by which the Culture of Life will prevail: Protection [of life], Purity, and Prayer; reminding everyone that "this battle will only be won by prayer." The young face of the Pro-Life movement is keenly aware that only personal holiness and heroic witnesses can change hearts.

Contrary to the weather reports, sun shone on the crowd of 300,000 people gathered at the National Mall. Our group of about 400 marched through the streets celebrating the gift of life with much joy, hope, trumpet music and drums as we raised our voices on behalf of our defenseless brothers and sisters.



HIGHLIGHT ON INTELLECTUAL FORMATION FOR FUTURE MISSIONARIES

The 5th Annual Biblical Conference held in February at the IVE Fulton Sheen House of Formation allowed our seminarians and sisters in formation to hear from preeminent Biblical scholars. This year the Conference hosted the following guest speakers: Dr. Mark Zia, Benedictine College, Atchison, KS; Fr. Frank Matera, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC; Dr. Joseph Atkinson, Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington, DC; and Fr. Frederic Manns, OFM, Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Jerusalem.

To come to a fuller understanding of atheism in order to give voice to the truth, our priests, seminarians and sisters prepared the annual Thomistic Studies on the philosophical roots of atheism as delineated in *God in Exile: Modern Atheism* (1964), the work of the 20th Century Thomist Cornelio Fabro. The guest speakers were Rev. Dr. James Schall, S.J., Georgetown University, Washington DC; Dr. William E. May, Professor Emeritus of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington DC; Dr. Paul C. Vitz and Dr. Michael Pakaluck, both of the Institute for the Psychological Sciences, Arlington VA; and Dr. Patricia Pintado, Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus OH.

"According to our own charism, we strive to orient all our studies for the evangelization of the culture, for which we will spare no efforts or ways. We do not content ourselves with a superficial knowledge of Philosophy and Theology incapable of understanding in all its depths the contemporary drama of atheism and therefore incapable of giving remedy." -Constitutions, 259



“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS . . .”

On the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of the IVE Religious family last March, Fr. Buela promised 25 new tabernacles, or missions, from each branch of the family.



These are the latest foundations of the Servidoras in fulfillment of the promise:

- **Habarovsk , RUSSIA, July 2009:** Our first mission in Russia's Far East region—north of Japan, east of China;

- **Lipa- Batangas, PHILIPPINES, July 2009:** New formation house to serve vocations from throughout Asia;

- **Ushetu, TANZANIA, August 2009:** Our first mission in Sub-Saharan Africa: a medical clinic, day-care center, work in catechist formation;

- **Seville, SPAIN, August 2009:** Home for elderly priests;

- **Philadelphia, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, August, 2009:** Convent in North Philadelphia, serving in the IVE parish of St. Veronica's;

- **Vanimo, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, August 2009:** “Our Lady of Lujan Home for Teenage Girls,” our second mission in Papua and a long-desired apostolate to assist adolescent Papuan girls in completing their high school education and preserving them from various risks of their environment;

- **Asti (Aosta), ITALY, August, 2009:** Elementary school in the Italian Alps;

- **Stukkishólmur, ICELAND, August, 2009:** Convent dedicated to apostolate with Polish immigrants, and the parish catechism program;

- **Narvarre, SPAIN, September 2009:** Community working in a school, assisting disabled children, and serving in IVE parish;

- **Burshtyn, UKRAINE, September 2009:** First contemplative monastery of our sisters in the Byzantine Catholic Rite;

- **The Hague, NETHERLANDS, October 2009:** Our fourth foundation in the Netherlands, praying and working towards the re-evangelization of Europe;

THIRD GENERAL CHAPTER



Our Third Ordinary General Chapter begins this coming June 29, 2010. A general chapter is convoked ordinarily every six years for thirty days to discuss topics related to the defense of the patrimony of the Institute, to evaluate the fulfillment of past goals and to project the future. Attending the General Chapter will be our founder, Fr. Carlos Buela, members of the General Council, all Provincial Superiors, all Juniorate superiors and delegate sisters elected from each Province.

The Chapter includes a week long silent retreat, the election of the new General Superior, plenary presentations every morning, and afternoon meetings of the various committees. A special event during the Chapter will be attending an audience with the Holy Father.

This General Chapter is a great gift to our Institute and we ask for your prayers that all of the members of the Religious Family may remain faithful to our founding charism.

- **Chiquibamba, PERU, November 2009:** Home for Boys, a special response of our sisters to the unique needs of the growing boys of our Home for Children;

- **Tunis, TUNISIA, December 2009:** Our second mission in Tunisia, a residence for young Christian women completing their university studies;

- **Baghdad, IRAQ, February 2010:** Community dedicated to visiting the residents of the diocesan home for elderly, and to serving in pastoral work at the Cathedral.

If you are interested in learning more about our missions or in lay missionary opportunities, visit our website: www.ssvmusa.org.



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“Young people of America and of the world, listen to what Christ the Redeemer is saying to you! ‘To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become Children of God’ (Jn 1:11-12) The World Youth Day challenges you to be fully conscious of who you are as God’s dearly beloved sons and daughters.”

John Paul II World Youth Day, 1993, Denver, Colorado

Madrid is host to the next World Youth Day in 2011! If you are interested in going on pilgrimage in Europe with the IVE Family on our way to see the Holy Father in Spain, email wyd2011@ive.org or call:

301-773-3635 / 202-543-1179.

Tentative itinerary (subject to change):

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|------------------------|--|
| July 25th | leave NYC-USA |
| July 26th – 29th | Portugal: Fatima |
| July 29th – August 4th | Spain: Santiago de Compostela, Oviedo, Covadonga, Sto. Domingo |
| August 4th – 7th | France: Lourdes, Carcassonne |
| August 7th – 9th | Spain: Barcelona, Barbastro, Zaragoza |
| August 10th – 21 | WYD activities in Madrid |
| August 22nd | arrive in NYC-USA |



The total cost of the trip is \$2500. First payment: April, \$200; 14 following payments of \$165