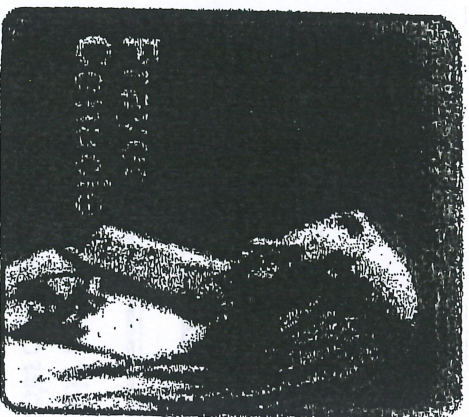




What are 'Cenacles' of the Marian Movement of Priests?

"Cenacle" is a word for the "upper room," where Jesus and His followers shared the Last Supper and the first holy sacrifice of the mass, and where Jesus instituted the priesthood of the New Covenant. (Lk 22:1-38)

It was also in the cenacle (upper room) that Jesus' followers gathered in fear and prayed after His crucifixion and death, and where Jesus appeared to them to announce His resurrection. (John 20:19-29)

It was also where Jesus' followers were gathered together in prayer with Mary, His Mother, when the Holy Spirit descended on Pentecost and the Catholic Church was born. (Acts 2:1-41) It is this Pentecost cenacle that is commemorated, replicated and experienced in the MMP cenacles of prayer with Mary.

These Pentecost cenacles are special to MMP; they are its "proper activity." And to multiply them everywhere and nurture them carefully is a unique mission of the MMP.

As we know, there are many kinds of fervent and fruitful prayer meetings; and many of them are Marian prayer meetings. Rosary groups, Medjugorje groups, Blue Army Cells, Family Apostolate Meetings, etc. Each has its own particular purpose, content, structure, and "flavor," and each attracts some of the infinite variety of Mary's devotees.

The Pentecost cenacles of the MMP have their own purpose: to bring together two or three- or more- Christians consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to experience the same dynamics and results as the first Pentecost cenacle in Jerusalem.

Before He ascended to the Father, Jesus told His followers, "Stay in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high." (Lk 24:49) "So from the Mount of Olives they went to Jerusalem... and when they reached the city they went to the cenacle and [Upper Room] where they were staying." (Acts 1:14)

Then "... all these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." (Acts 1:14)

They continued to pray in the cenacle together with Mary, as Jesus had directed. Then, "When Pentecost day came around they had all met in one room [cenacle], when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven..." (Acts 2:12)

We know what happened next. "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:4) They were "clothed with the power from on high" just as Jesus had promised. They went out from that cenacle of prayer with Mary driven by the Holy Spirit to evangelize the world.

The structure of these cenacles is simple: 1) invoke the Holy Spirit; 2) pray the rosary (at least 5 decades); 3) read and meditate on Our Lady's messages contained in the book, *To the Priests, Our Lady's Beloved Sons*; 4) pray for the Holy Father; and 5) renew your consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It is the core content of the MMP cenacles that make them so very different from other Marian prayer meetings. At the heart of these cenacles is the reading of Mary's messages, meditating on them and sharing insight and reflections. By doing this we receive, both as individuals and as a group, an ongoing formation and spiritual direction from our Mother to mold us in the image of Christ.