



# The Flame

December, 2011  
Volume 18 Issue 12

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

## Year One: A Special Journey

Article by: Jessica Mendez

November is a month of anniversaries for my husband and me. The first week of November in 2005, he came to his first Macho Man retreat. We also were married on November 4, 2006. The most recent anniversary is that of our moving to the ministry, we have been here for one year. I believe our journey can be summed up in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "How can we become holy friends of God? We can first give a negative answer to this question: to be a saint requires neither extraordinary action nor the possession of exceptional charisms. Then comes the positive reply: it is necessary first of all to listen to Jesus and then follow him without losing heart when faced by difficulties."

Over the last year we have undergone many difficult changes, trials and persecutions. We each lost grandparents who were very dear to us, we've had a new addition to our family, and too many other experiences to name, but the Lord has given us the grace that we have needed to endure and adjust. I personally am still continuing to learn what it means to listen and be obedient to the Lord. In the beginning being at the ministry was extremely difficult for me. I was accustomed to running away from inconvenience and because of this was extremely impoverished in friendships and wisdom. I can't count the times I threatened Ralph that I was going to leave in the first couple of months that we were at the ministry. Everything was out of my control and I couldn't stand it! I had to realize fairly quickly that living in community is about being a team. Well, my favorite sport growing up was always track because I didn't have to rely on anyone to win, it was all about me. You can imagine the difficulty I had learning to be a team, or part of a community. However, the Lord did give me the grace to accept this, and I thank him because I now realize how important the Body of Christ is and how much we all really need each other in order to continue our spiritual growth.

My husband on the other hand, did not struggle with the team concept. He always says, "It is awesome knowing that we are a part of something bigger than our own petty problems." His main struggles were dealing with his anger and saying no to his wants. Before we moved to the ministry, any little thing was cause for him to become frustrated and angry. Thanks to Henry and Howard



Ralph Mendez & daughter, Anastasia

he is now learning how to use other methods in disciplining our children. Before, he was using his anger in order to be respected by me and the children, but now that he has stopped doing that, the kids and I respect him out of love and not out of fear. He also had a very difficult time saying no to his wants, to the point that a lot of needs were neglected. Being at the ministry has helped him to see the needs of our family, and of the community before his

wants.

Because of the grace the Lord has blessed us with to change a lot of our old habits, our relationship with each other has grown and we are so much closer as a couple. Because of some advice I received from my spiritual mother Mary, I was able to stop assuming that my husband can read my mind. I began expressing my needs and wants to him in a loving manner, which has opened up a line of communication between us that I thought was impossible to attain. He also has learned to express his ideas with me without having to fear that I will criticize or judge him. We are truly a team now. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways. Even after I had Bernadette, I was dreading the post partum depression because I have experienced it to a greater degree with each child I have had. However, after I had Bernadette I did not experience it in the least! If anything, I can say I have experienced joy and satisfaction in giving birth to another soul and being blessed with the privilege to care for another one of God's children. My recovery time after giving birth has to be one for the record books! I was out of the hospital within 24 hours, and only took a couple of pain pills once I was out. I experienced the least amount of pain possible; we were truly blessed with a special grace. I am so grateful the Huntzingers allowed us to carry the relic of St. Bernadette during the last few weeks of my pregnancy and also during labor; I know that she was praying for us in a very special way. I can't imagine how difficult it would have been had the Lord not blessed us with all of these special graces.



Jessica Mendez & Baby Bernadette

We are in awe with the Lord everyday that we are here. He continuously surprises us with something new, whether it is in the form of spiritual, financial or physical health, the blessings come every day. They are not always obvious, sometimes they come in the form of a trial; however, He always gives us the grace to get through. We are grateful beyond words that the Lord called us to this ministry! We are so extremely grateful that God has us on this journey.... The journey to sainthood. Thank you Mama for calling us to be disciples of mercy! Thank you for taking time to read this article. I believe that the Lord is also calling you on a journey to sainthood. I hope that you will join us in our learning and sharing at the upcoming retreat, so that you may also receive the awareness of what God wants to do in you and through you. I continue to pray that the Blessed Mother will cover you in her mantle and bring you out of the darkness and into the light of her son, Jesus Christ.



The Mendez kids



**December Birthdays!**  
**We thank God for the day you were born!**  
**December's Birthday Drawing Winner**  
**for a free Retreat:**  
**LUIS SILVA!**

Happy Birthday to: FRANCISCO PINON, NINA TORRES, LUIS SILVA, ARLENE MARTINEZ, RAFAEL CALDERON, ELIASER PEREZ, SR., TERRI SINGER, JAIME KEITH, DUSTY MCNEAL, SILVA ESQUIVEL, FERNANDO AGUILAR, NOEMI PEREZ, JOE MICHAEL OCHOA, CRYSTAL MORALES, ECTOR GONZALEZ, ERIC GUTIERREZ, ROSIE AGUIRRE, TRAVIS PENNELL, CELIA BARRON, TOMMY SAUSEDA, MARY WHITE, JOSE PEREZ, ANA (PATI) AGUIRRE, JOHN CONNOLLY, ISSAC CONSTANCIO, DORA FLORES, AND ILDA CUEVAS. We pray birthday blessings on all celebrating birthdays this month!

Must be at least 18 years old to win. Board members and members of their family are not eligible. The certificate is good for all retreats except the Intergenerational Healing Retreat, and would only be for 1/2 the Marriage Retreat (or payment for one person of the couple). Certificate must be used within 1 year of your birthday, and must be used by the person named on the certificate.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**THE MACHO MAN RETREATS START FRIDAYS @ NOON— AND END SATURDAY @ 10 P.M.**



**Starting and Ending Times for Retreats!**

*Starting January, 2012, we will return to our standard retreat schedule, beginning Fridays @ 7, ending Sundays about 1 p.m. With one exception...*

**The Macho Man Retreats will continue starting Fridays @ noon— and ending Saturday @ 10 p.m.**



**HEALING through the CRUCIFIED CHRIST**  
**January 13-15, 2012**

*A New Year – A Free, Joyful You*

**Possible Retreat Topics Include:**

- How to Forgive from the Heart: *So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.* Matthew 18:35
- Eliminating Past Hurts & Moving Forward in Freedom
- Receiving Deeper Healing
- The Mystery of Christ Crucified for your Sins
- How to Trade My Sickness & Sorrows for the Crucified Jesus
- Healing with the Crucified Jesus through the Eucharist

*Having trouble forgetting the past?*

*Can't forgive those who hurt you, including yourself?*

*Tired of carrying blame, guilt, and regret?*

Galatians 2:19-20 (NAB)  
*I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.*

**Registration: \$165.00**

***Macho Men of God Retreat***  
***January 27-28, 2012***  
***Still Fri.@noon-Sat @ 10 pm!***

Possible Topics Include:

- Why prayers are not answered
- Leading your household to victory
- Feeling the Love of God the Father
- Building a new foundation
- What pleases God
- Getting healed and passing it on
- Overcoming Addictions
- Understanding the plan God has for your life



*This retreat has been designed to bring men back to the basics that were lost and forgotten; the basics of understanding who they are in God's eyes, what their duties and authority are in life.*

**Retreat starts Friday @ Noon! Ends Saturday @ 10 pm!**  
 The cost of this retreat is \$165.00 per person



**THE MARRIAGE  
 RETREAT**  
**FEBRUARY 17-19, 2012**

- Communication:** Is your spouse getting angry when you communicate?
- Intimacy:** Has romance left your marriage and bitterness set in?
- Forgiveness:** Do you have a hard time forgiving your spouse because you think things won't change?
- Prayer:** Do you want to know why your prayers are not being answered?
- Interference:** Are people, jobs, in-laws or other things interfering in your marriage?
- Children:** Are your children controlling your marriage?
- Ex-Spouses:** Do you feel your spouse loves ex-spouse's children more than yours?

The cost of this retreat is \$275.00 per couple A deposit of \$137.50 is needed to secure your reservation. No Walk-ins.

**Grandma, Mom & Daughter's  
 Women's Retreat**  
**February 10-12, 2012**



**Attention:**  
**All Women, Mothers  
 & Your Daughters,  
 Aunts & Nieces,  
 Grandmothers & Granddaughters!**

**Minimum Age 7 yrs.**

"All of you mothers who bring pleasure to My Heart, the merit of your work is no less than the deeds of the priest in the highest office... To this, your responsible work, I give My special blessing."

*Message from our Lord Jesus  
 Theresa Fleischman , Messenger*

**The cost of this retreat for ages 14-16 is \$ 82.50**  
**Age 7-13 Free**  
**for Ages 17 + \$165.00 per person**

**Healing the Physical  
 Body Retreat**

**February 24-26, 2012**

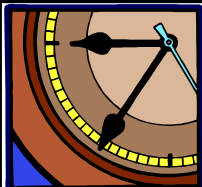


- Tired of being sick?**  
**Doctors can't find what's wrong?**  
**Tired of paying the doctor to manage your sickness?**  
**Body won't heal?**  
**Can't keep your healing?**

**Possible Topics to be covered:**

- ◇ Spiritual root of physical sickness
- ◇ The brain and heart connection
- ◇ Toxic effects of Anger, Unforgiveness, etc. on the Body
- ◇ Retraining Your Brain
- ◇ Rejecting Fear of Family Illnesses, Death
- ◇ Learning to Accept & Love Yourself the Way God Made You
- ◇ Living to Your Fullest Potential for God's Purpose

**The cost of this retreat is \$165.00.**



# New Starting and Ending Times for Retreats!

## Retreat Registration Form - 2012

Full Registration      Deposit Only      +      Private Room

2012—Note new Retreat Times for 2012

Healing Thru Crucified Christ Retreat	January 13-15, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 82.50	<input type="checkbox"/> + \$125.00
Macho Man of God Retreat	January 27-28, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 82.50	<input type="checkbox"/> + \$125.00
Grandma, Mom, & Daughter's Retreat*	February 10-12, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 82.50	<input type="checkbox"/> + \$125.00
*AGE (Please Check one) 7-13 <input type="checkbox"/> FREE	14-16 <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 82.50	17+ <input type="checkbox"/> \$165.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 82.50	<input type="checkbox"/> + \$125.00
Marriage Retreat (registration is per couple)	February 17-19, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$137.50	<input type="checkbox"/> + \$125.00
Healing the Physical Body Retreat	February 24-26, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 82.50	<input type="checkbox"/> + \$125.00

**TO REGISTER:** You can register by sending in this form and deposit to: *AFM, PO Box 1707, Shallowater, Texas 79363-1707*. Please make checks payable to AFM.

The Ambassadors of the Flame of Mercy is a non-profit, tax-exempt Christian organization. **The cost of this retreat includes a bunk bed (dorm), meals, snacks, and retreat materials.** Deposit is refundable up to seven days prior to the retreat.

**Please bring your own towels, sheets and pillowcase.** We'll supply your pillow and blankets.

Also please bring your Bible, comfortable clothes, and toiletries. **Check-in for 2012 retreats starts at 5:30 p.m. on the day the retreat begins. Unless otherwise stated, 2012 retreats start at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and end Sunday at 1 p.m.**

**THE MEN'S RETREATS will start Friday @ noon and end Saturday @10 p.m.! Check-in starts @ 10a.m. Friday.**

**Flying to Lubbock:** please plan your arrival prior to 10 a.m. on Friday, and plan your departure on Sunday. For more information see our website at [www.flameofmercy.com](http://www.flameofmercy.com) or call us at (806) 832-4243 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. CDT.

- Check       Visa       MasterCard  
 Discover       AMEX

Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday Mo \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Card Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Age :  16 - 20       21-35       36-50       Over 50

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  Handicap

Register online: [www.flameofmercy.com](http://www.flameofmercy.com)

2012 Retreats start on Friday at 7 p.m.,  
and end Sunday at 1:00 pm.  
**EXCEPT THE MEN'S  
RETREATS!**

*The Ambassadors of the Flame of Mercy*

P.O. Box 1707  
6927 Hwy 84,  
Shallowater, Texas 79363

**Weekday Hours:**

10:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. CDT

Phone: 806-832-4243

Email: [Admin@flameofmercy.com](mailto:Admin@flameofmercy.com)

Website: [www.flameofmercy.com](http://www.flameofmercy.com)

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## Back in 2012!

### Bring a Friend to a Retreat and Save!

Don't just tell someone to come to a retreat at AFM, bring them as a show of support. When you bring a friend and they pay the full regular price of the retreat, you will receive a blessing of 50% off our retreat registration fee.

- ⇒ You both must attend the same retreat. One person must pay full registration price.
- ⇒ Only one discount deal for every one person paying full registration price.
- ⇒ Half price discount must be used for that same retreat only.
- ⇒ Not good for the Intergenerational Retreat.
- ⇒ The full registration payment cannot be combined with any other deals such as scholarships or discounts.
- ⇒ Discount is only available after full registration cost is received.