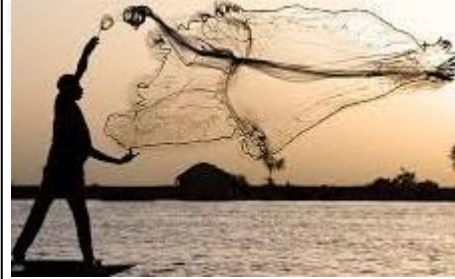


# Cast Your Net Over the Right Side

*By Jessica Mendez*

Have you ever had a dream that was unfulfilled? Are you still hanging on to that dream? When Ralph and I began discerning our move to this ministry we were a newlywed couple with many dreams and expectations. There were two couples who saw that we belonged here long before I had even considered it. I am grateful that they were bold enough to plant those seeds in us, even though my dreams were totally different. Part of my dream was that Ralph and I would be active in the Cursillo Movement together where I was already well known, loved and admired, also, my grandma would think that we were the best couple ever. I dreamed that one day my family would be able to see what awesome Cursillistas my husband and I were and they would all be inspired to be active in the movement because of our super Cursillista-ness. Everyone who ever thought that I wouldn't amount to much would look at me and say, "Man, we were really wrong about her. She turned out great! We should have never doubted her awesomeness!" Mostly though, I thought that my parents would see how wonderful I had turned out and regret not being a bigger part of my life and suddenly decide that they needed to make up for all the lost years. Because I already had these dreams, it was difficult for me at first to accept the calling that God had given us. The Lord kept pointing big giant arrows, which for the most part we saw, but I ignored. Until one day, on my way to mass, the Lord showed me that we belonged here. He showed me all the rejection that we would endure and I realized that my dreams of being acknowledged as The Cursillista of the century would never come true. Later that night, Ralph and I began to pray together about this decision and this is the scripture that the Lord gave us, "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." (2 Corinthians 5:1-5) Right at that moment, it was as if our eyes had been opened to God's purpose for our lives. We knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that God was calling us to leave our "earthly tent" and come to the Sanctuary of Grace. From that moment on the Lord set everything in motion for us to come and live at AFM ministry down to the point of asking the Blessed Mother if this is what she wanted. Her response, which was revealed by the power of the Holy Spirit, still rings in my soul, she told Henry and Mary that she wanted them to disciple "Her family." She referred to us as **Her** family! Now that over eight years has gone by, I realize that all of the dreams that I had were to glorify myself. I thought that I needed to build myself up, when I really needed to be taken down a few notches (or down to ground level). Through this ministry, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit through the Queen of Mercy continue to help me in rebuilding the dreams that God had for me when He created me. I have realized that the dreams that I had were made through my own knowledge and not out of God's wisdom. Isn't that what we usually use to build our dreams? We use the knowledge that has been given to us or that we have learned through another's example? In the Gospel of John 21:1-19, Jesus revealed himself to the disciples after a long night of fishing. These men were professional fishermen. They knew all about catching fish and



where to find them. I guess one could say that as they went out to fish they dreamed or expected to find fish. After no success, they see a man on the shore who calls out, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" to which they

disappointingly and probably feeling a little embarrassed reply, "No." What Jesus does next is test their obedience by saying, "Cast your net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." This is the part that surprises me...they actually did it! They didn't question him or hesitate. I can only imagine that if it was me in the boat I would have responded, "We have been fishing all night. WE have tried every side of the boat, we already looked there." I would have dismissed this man on the shore calling out to me. How could he know where the fish are? He isn't even on the water with us. Then I would have proceeded to disobey and lose the blessing. This is how we were called to this ministry, and with God's grace, we cast our net, not knowing what was going to come up.

Just as the disciples, we may have all the knowledge about something and we may think that we know what we are doing, but Jesus is calling out from the shore, "Cast your net over the right side of the boat." Or to me, "Let go of your dreams of being a Cursillista Rockstar, there is so much more growth for you at the Sanctuary of Grace." He knows that your current dreams and expectations will come up empty. He wants to fill your net to overflowing. What dreams do you need to let go of? What expectations do you need to surrender to the Lord? It sounds simple, just surrender all your knowledge just as the disciples did, just toss that net over to the other side. It is simple, but it is not easy. As Jesus said in Mark 5:36, "Fear is useless; what is needed is trust," but that's another article.

When we were at rock bottom, God sent us to this ministry in order to reconstruct us and rebuild the dreams that He had placed in us through this ministry. When we came here, unlike the other ministers on this property, we came empty-handed. We hadn't succeeded in the world, we didn't have any professions or special skills, we didn't leave anything behind except a giant mess. We had nothing to offer except more burden and lots of stress. In the world's eyes we were worthless. I still don't know why God chose us, but He did. I don't know why God chose to build us from the ground up at this ministry, but He did. We didn't earn anything that God has provided, but He has. What am I saying? God can do whatever He wants, how He wants, when He wants. We shouldn't limit His ability to our knowledge because more times than not, He goes way outside of what we think we know.

Thank you for taking time to read these words, may God the Father and Blessed Mother Queen of Mercy be with you and reveal your unfulfilled dreams and expectations in order to help you cast your net over to the right side. Until our eyes meet again, may God bless you on your journey towards Him.





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**"I have seen persons come to a retreat broken, hurt, lost or confused. But when it's time to go home at the end of the retreat, you see the transformation in them that you know in some way God touched their hearts to get closer to Him and/or received some kind of healing - physical or spiritual. Highly recommend this place!" Nina Torres August 31, 2018 (from Facebook)**



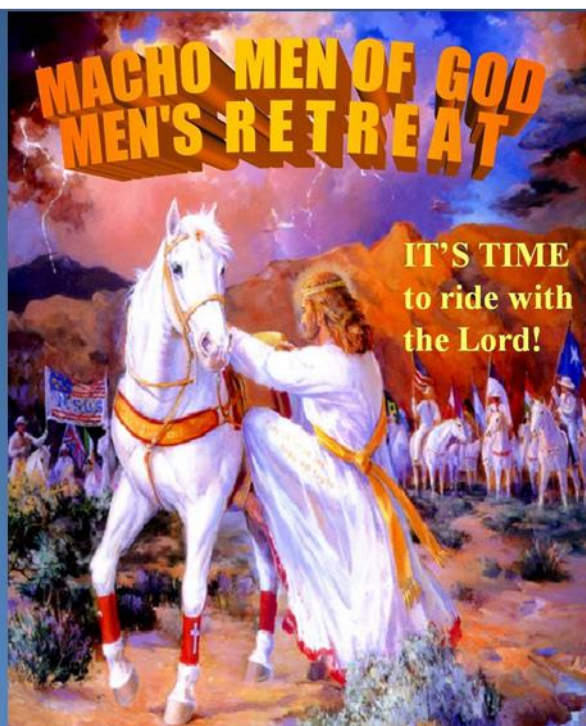
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**Celebrate with us August 14 - 15, 2019**

(Wednesday and Thursday)



***The 31st Anniversary of the Queen of Mercy  
Prayers! Praise! Food ! Talks by Mary Constancio!***

**Come share and enjoy a day filled with  
prayers, blessings, food, and praise.**

**Food will be served between 3:00 p.m. and  
5:00 p.m. August 14 (Love offerings are  
appreciated)**

*This event is unlike any other we hold here at the Ambassadors of the Flame of Mercy. This is not a retreat, but a full celebration of our Blessed Mother's Feast Day. Freely come and go as you please, as there is no formal retreat schedule. Bring your lawn chair, share fellowship, receive personal prayer. You may want to pray the rosary while walking through the garden or visit our gift shop, and enjoy the festivities of the day. Many make a pilgrimage to St. John Neumann Church in Lubbock to attend mass and visit the beautiful grounds there.*

*On the actual day of the Feast, August 15, you may want to come as early as 9:00 a.m. to prepare to say the rosary in honor of our Blessed Mother's Feast Day. You are welcome to browse through our gift shop and choose a special gift to remember the day.*

*Whatever you decide, be ready for a miracle, and be ready to love. Come with an open heart ready to be filled by our Mother and our Lord. We look forward to your visit with us.*

***Accommodations are available for \$35/person/night. If you'd like to stay with us, please call Carolyn @ 806-773-5147 or 806-445-1440 Kathy Gloria (Spanish speaking) to make a reservation.***



Henry and Mary Constancio during the rosary on the Feast of the Assumption



Come join us as we celebrate our Mother's Feast of the Assumption

*For more information visit our website at [www.flameofmercy.com](http://www.flameofmercy.com)*

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**DATE OF DRAWING: TO BE DETERMINED**

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Drawing AT RETREAT • Winner Need Not Be Present

Maximum of 600 tickets will be sold.

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 or by calling Kathy Gloria at 806-445-1440, Eleaser Perez @  
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**RETREATS FOR 2019**

- |   |                               |   |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| ♦ <b>Resurrection of the Self Image Retreat</b> | July 12-14, 2019              | Registration Fee: \$175.00                    |
| ♦ <b>Feast of the Assumption Celebration</b>    | August 14-15, 2019            | Celebration Free. Dorm Fee: \$35.00/night/bed |
| ♦ <b>Macho Men of God Retreat</b>               | August 30 - September 1, 2019 | Registration Fee: \$175.00                    |
| ♦ <b>Women of Power Retreat</b>                 | September 20-22, 2019         | Registration Fee: \$175.00                    |
| ♦ <b>Macho Men of God Retreat</b>               | November 1-3, 2019            | Registration Fee: \$175.00                    |
| ♦ <b>Women of Power Retreat</b>                 | November 15-17, 2019          | Registration Fee: \$175.00                    |

**Register today online:** [www.flameofmercy.com](http://www.flameofmercy.com), Email: [Admin@flameofmercy.com](mailto:Admin@flameofmercy.com),  
 or call Carolyn @ 806.773.5147

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