

## Relive the Fatima Experience

### Fatima, A Special Morning

Sunday morning was a special moment, especially for 1 of us in our delegation, Angelique.

The CVX Cuba was supposed to be incorporated into the world community, but only Father Alejandro Repulles Y Benito, S.J. managed to secure exit visa. The other 2 delegates were not. Father Benito asked EXCO to delay the introduction to wait for the other delegates; after all, it is a lay community. But somehow they managed to arrive in Fatima last night.

The assembly burst into joy when Daniela announced that the Cuban delegation was here in full and we could move to incorporate them. Elena Lopez, Vivian Luna Godoy and Father Benito introduced the Cuban community and retold the story of their journey. CVX Cuba existed as Solidarity before Castro took over the country on that New Year Day of 1959. Since then, the community was cut off from the rest of the world. But they kept their faith in Sodality because Elena said, "That was all we had." They got words that Sodality was renewed by the Church and now has the name CVX – it was desire and hope. They eventually asked CVX Mexico to sponsor them. Now, they were here in Fatima. An incredible journey of hope, desire, persevere in darkness!



*The rough sea: political situation.  
The sail: CLC under the wind of the Holy Spirit.  
The star: Christ.*

The symbol that they chose to present to the assembly is simply clear of their journey to this day of becoming a part of this apostolic body of the Church. There was a sense of joy in Elena voice as she retold their story to the assembly. There was also a sense of amazement of the reality being in Fatima and finally being embraced into this body. There was also a sense of rush like the Cuban secrete police would suddenly appear at the door and take them back home without giving the chance to complete what their community had sent them here to do.



*From left: Mauricio Lopez Oropeza of CVX-Mexico, Vivian Godoy, Father Benito, S.J., Elena Lopez, and Roberto Gutierrez of CVX Mexico.*

After they finished their story, the assembly was called into session to vote and it was a thunderous yes. Then people just rushed up to hug them. It was just an amazing unfolding of living as one body, apostolically. Angelique, tears streaming down on her cheeks, had to fight her way to her Cuban compatriots to hug, to say “wow” – I think ☺ - to share the joy and to cry.



*Angelique in joy, tearful joy!*

Cuba is still not a free country. After the days in Fatima, Elena, Vivian and Father Benito would go back to the reality of Cuba. But I am sure that they would have a wonderful grace to share with their community, the living experience of living and being part of an apostolic body in the Church. I am sure that the Holy Spirit would do wonder with whatever that they would bring home.

Dear friends, here in this free country of ours, no one persecutes us for living the grace of CLC. No one forces us to go underground for our choosing of the CLC way of life to live out our faith, and yet it seems that we are quite uncertain about being identifiable and visible. Are we? It is the Church who renewed Solidarity into a new creation called CLC? Does our Church have an aspiration, a dream for us? What is our Church calling us to be?

In Christ,  
Liem