

GARCÍA CORTESE, AIMEE (1929–)

The activist religious leader, García Cortese was born and raised in the South Bronx, New York City. Motivated by her Christian faith in the Pentecostal denomination, she engaged in street evangelism at an early age, becoming a pioneer in Christian ministry with her ordination in 1962. García Cortese worked alongside her husband Joseph Cortese in the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team in Latin America. She served as a delegate to the First Congress on Evangelism in West Berlin, Germany in 1966. A community activist, she worked to provide health services to the needy, and participated in the political arena as an aide to her brother, then New York State Senator, Robert García.

García Cortese was ordained in the Spanish Assemblies of God Pentecostal Denomination in 1974. She served as the first female chaplain for the New York State Department of Corrections. With the English language Assemblies of God Church, García Cortese formed Crossroads Tabernacle Church in the Bronx. A dynamic speaker, she continues to provide pastoral services and community leadership.