



# Star of the Stormy Sea

“... When your souls suffer temptations and are immersed in grief ...turn to her with confidence and say,

*‘Star of the stormy sea of my mortal life, May your light shine upon me so that I do not stray from the path that leads me to heaven.’* (Taken from “The Testament of Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres” January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1635)

**Quarterly Newsletter of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success Vol. 3 Christmas**



***Dear Apostles of Our Lady of Good Success:***

***We wish to extend to you a Blessed Season of Advent and Merry Christmas!***

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a holy card of one of our loveliest photos of Our Lady of Good Success with the words of Mother Mariana at the beginning of Advent of her last Christmas 1634 inscribed on it. Meditate on these words, as they are so important for our materialistic and hedonistic world where people now wonder if they dare to whisper “**Merry Christmas.**” May this meditation bring abundant graces and blessings to you and your families!

**In this issue you will find:**

- ❖ Testimonials of our members
- ❖ Thank you letter from the Carmelite Prioress
- ❖ Letters of encouragement and promised Masses and prayers from priests who love Our Lady of Good Success
- ❖ Letters of correspondence from all over the world
- ❖ A Christmas Novena

**We support the following charities in Quito:**

- ❖ **Conceptionist Medical Clinic** as it offers extremely low cost or free medical care to the poor of Quito.
  - ❖ The Carmelites who have been in dire need of financial aid due to serious illness of the sisters.
  - ❖ The Unwed Mother’s Home in Quito for maintenance.
- ❖ **The Orphanage of the Missionary Sisters of the Children in Quito**
- ❖ We attempt to minister to underprivileged not only in Quito but around the world. We try to regularly send packages of sacramentals, and good Catholic books to Third World countries such as Cameroon, India and South America, Slovenia and other countries as well.
- ❖ **Prisoners** write to us asking for our books, holy cards and sacramentals.

(One prisoner, this year, in gratitude for our help, actually sent us a \$10.00 from her earnings at the prison. Her letter on why she wanted to help us is included in this newsletter.)

We are most happy to do this work but we need your help! We need **rosaries, scapulars, traditional books from like companies from Tan or old books printed before 1960.** Right now we have nothing to send them. **Shipping costs to Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America are astronomical.** We pay for this out of our own pocket but we cannot continue to do so if we do not have any donations from people. Donations are imperative to keep our work alive and the Apostolate expanding. **We thank you for your continued support!** We are hoping that you will consider a gift to one of our charities in Quito or a donation to help us defray costs of shipping or purchasing sacramentals or good books for the missions or the poor, unfortunates that cannot afford to pay us. Please help us to spread the true Catholic Faith by acts of charity and remember us this Christmas. The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success

(We have printed here below an excerpt from a book written by the postulator for the Cause of Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres, Mgr. Dr. Luis E. Cadena y Almeida --now gone to his eternal reward -RIP . The book is entitled “Madera para Esculpir la Imagen de una Santa” ChapterXI pg132-133. We translated this as we wished to share what he wrote about Mother Mariana’s last Christmas with her sisters as this is a wonderful example of the true meaning of Christmas which has been lost in our present day. (Her words are also printed on the holy card we have sent to you enclosed in this newsletter). She died, three weeks later, on January 16, 1635, at the age of 72.)

### Mother Mariana's Last Christmas on Earth

“At this moment, the path to her true Mother country [Heaven] was short for the Mother Mariana ... And naturally, the closer to the end [of her life], the more impetuously fervent was the fire of her love for God. Her heart though physically depressed and shaken was spiritually an ember of love of God and of the Blessed Mother and her neighbor. In every gesture, every word, every movement and every manner could be observed a total overflowing of charity, tenderness and kindness; her prayers more vigorous, her counsel more constant, her vigilance more strict, her observance more exemplary.

The human creature transformed into that of one angelic. The eyes of her nuns were focused on her; counting the joyful minutes that they had yet of her presence; and, as they were diminished, their grief welled up in their throats and yet, so as to maintain blessed harmony, held there until their grief was converted into uncontrollable weeping.

Mother's [Mariana] blue eyes, overcome with gratitude for so much love, shown like rivers of hope ...and with a sweet sounding voice she said:

*'My Daughters so beloved, do not fear. Although the parched oak of my body will be separated from you, the flame of my spirit will be your constant company. Let us take advantage of these days of my fleeting presence to be united together in the love of God, in the generous oblation of our lives that we give to Him and prepare our hearts to receive to the Infant Jesus. Already we know that our community must be dressed in our best garments to celebrate the Birth of the Lord, adorning the manger of Bethlehem with the light of virtues, with the straw of mortification, with the delicate purity of the angels, with the joy of the shepherds and with the delight of Mary and Joseph - each one of us in humility, desiring to improve ourselves through the faithful fulfillment of the Divine Will.'*

By Her words and her example, she made that Christmas of 1634 with the novena and the Feast Day unforgettable. In the novena, how much enthusiasm, fervor, mortifications, pleas, canticles and effusions of sanctity! And on the Feast [of Christmas], how much heavenly joy overflowing with divine happiness! New habits were distributed to the whole community. A Christmas of splendor and beauty! Many times, she would take her harp upon her lap to strum with great skill and a melodious voice, taking the principal part in the song, perhaps much like the swans that sweeten their voice when they have a presentiment of their death, or, better yet, like those rehearsing to unite their rhythmic pitch of their arpeggios to the choir of the angels.”

### What's New?

- ❖ **Quarterly Newsletter** – In 2006, we started the project of a periodical to help spread the devotion to Our Lady of Good Success through the Apostolate members own testimonials. We are asking a \$10.00 donation annually to receive **Star of the Stormy Sea**.
- ❖ **NEW! We are offering Our Lady of Good Success Badges made by the Sisters of the Passion and Cross in Ohio Cost \$3.95 each- Great sacramental that can be worn as a Sacred Heart Badge is worn under clothing. This is a wonderful pledge of love to Our Lady of Good Success**
- ❖ **New 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Novena and Prayer Booklet** Last year, by the grace of Divine Providence, we were given an older version from 1941 of the novena by the sisters of the Conceptionist convent which advantageously bears the Archbishop of Quito's imprimatur on it. Due to the fact that this is an important piece of history and also answers the question if this devotion, itself, has been approved by the local bishop, we chose to insert this into the novena booklet on our 3rd edition. 5500 novena booklets have been distributed since 2003.
- ❖ **In order to spread the devotion of Our Lady of Good Success, we are offering a SPECIAL- until January 1 ,2007 if you order the Novena and Prayer Booklet ( Retail price \$6.00)**
- ❖ **Quantity discounts: Up to 25 booklets @ \$4.00 each 26- 49 booklets@ \$3.00 each 50 or over booklets \$2.50 each**
- ❖ **A tape cassette is available of the original 1958 recorded message given by Fr Howard Rafferty O.Carm. Entitled “My Visit With Lucy, Seer of Fatima”.** Although Fr Rafferty's meeting was over 56 years ago, Fr Rafferty's 1950 interview with Sr Lucy is even timelier than when it was recorded in 1958. This tape rejuvenates the message of Our Lady of Fatima by reminding us of the **5 conditions** of the Fatima message which includes the **Brown Scapular**, the calling into question the **7<sup>th</sup> appearance of Our Lady of Fatima that is yet to come** and finally during this very exclusive and intimate interview **Sr Lucy promises to pray every day a special prayer for those who listen to this message.**
- ❖ **New Book on Gabriel Garcia Moreno- Extension on Early Bird Special** We are proud to announce that the Apostolate through the generous donation of a benefactor will be able to publish the book by Dr Francisco Salazar Alvarado “Encounter With History” in English. We published this book in Quito in Spanish in 2004. Due to editorial and printing complications we are extending our **Early Bird Special still in effect thru December \$10.00 Retail \$16.00. Those of you who ordered our book already will receive an extra copy for the inconvenience. We are truly sorry for the delay! Now in Production EXPECT BEFORE XMAS!!!**
- ❖ **Anyone trying to go to Quito to see Our Lady of Good Success in the upcoming months should consider first checking if it is possible to see her as the monastery is undergoing extensive renovations.**

### Testimonials:

#### Our Lady of Quito watching over her children... Spring 2006

Five years ago in 2001 my loving husband Vern retired, and during the Lenten Season of that year he decided to memorize the Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother. Sharing with me this beautiful devotion, we decided to add it to our evening prayers from that time on.

January of this year, Vern and I ventured to Quito Ecuador with 21 other folks on a Religious Pilgrimage. Our main focus was to visit Our Lady of Good Success, but as well to visit the most revered and miraculous picture of “La Dolorosa” or in English, Our Lady of Sorrows (aka: Our Lady of Quito). At that time we were able to venerate the picture, as well as touch our Rosaries, scapulars and medals to the sacred image. This most precious image is housed in the Jesuit College of San Gabriel.

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the first day of our Pilgrimage, we were able to participate in a “Rosary at Dawn” in honor of The La Dolorosa, through the streets of Old Colonial Quito. Due to the love and devotion that the local Catholics have for Our Sorrowful Mother, this Rosary will forever be one of the fondest we ever prayed. The

“Rosary at Dawn” is prayed every month on the 20<sup>th</sup> in honor of The La Dolorosa. (For on April 20<sup>th</sup> 1906 Our Lady opened and closed her eyes for more than twenty minutes before the amazed gaze of forty students of the College of San Gabriel.)

March 20<sup>th</sup>, started as any other Monday in Lent, however with a number of exceptions...it is the First day of Spring and Vern’s younger brother’s birthday. And in Quito the “Rosary at Dawn” had already taken place. That evening Vern and I were hosting our local square dance beginner’s class at our home. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dance was about half over when Vern commented that he was going to sit down for a while.

After the completion of the dance Vern waved me over to his side, and told me; “I think I am trying to have a Heart Attack....”

As Our Blessed Mother ALWAYS provides...one of our dear friends who was in attendance is a retired RN of better than 35 years! John knew just what to do; “....give him an aspirin, and let’s get to the hospital!” While the Doctors and staff were working on Vern, Johns’ support, assurances and Traditional Catholic strength kept me “all in one piece”. As the minutes wore into hours, it became evident that Vern had experienced an “event” and not a heart attack. Thanks to the warning Our Blessed Mother had provided, the Doctors would have enough time to do the appropriate tests to determine the correct method of repairing his heart.

After the tests were run and read, it was decided that open heart triple by/pass surgery would be the best method of repair; the surgeon had the first slot open on the morning of Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

As it happened the 24<sup>th</sup> was the Feast of Archangel St. Gabriel, one of the Pilgrims had offered to organize a community Rosary to be said in the Hospital Chapel during the time when Vern was to be in surgery. We were still in prayer when it was reported by the head operating nurse that the Doctor had “just cracked open his chest”. And once again Our Lady provided....our Assistant Parish Priest had offered to lead the Rosary. Upon his arrival, he unpacked and placed next to the Crucifix, for all to meditate upon, the picture of Our Lady of Sorrows.....Father had no way of knowing that Vern had a very special devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, and why he chose to bring THAT picture...only Our Lady knows!

In counting our many blessings....our son Dean has been a fisherman in Alaska for the past 17 years, he returns home every spring for a few weeks. He came home this year the first week of March.....just 2 weeks before his dads “event”. In 17 years, he has NEVER been home this early from fishing.

Our friend and tour director in Quito Ecuador kindly placed flowers at the miraculous picture of The La Dolorosa and at the feet of the miraculous statue Our Lady of Good Success in petition of a successful surgery and recovery. As well as contacting three communities of Sisters to pray for Vern!

A dear friend shared with me that the evening before Vern’s surgery a Priest friend stopped by their home while traveling in the area. His day had been spent traveling and he needed to offer The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In the past the Priest has ALWAYS had the Mass intention already spoken for, however this evening he had no intention! Our dear friends requested that the Mass intention be for Vern’s successful surgery that was to be the following morning.

In looking back over the last days and weeks of our lives, we see plainly the graces that were bestowed upon us. The night charge nurse in the ICU is a member of our Traditional Catholic Church, being in his care on the evening of surgery was surely a great blessing!

Another wonderful opportunity that comes with retirement is that Vern started attending Holy Mass on First Fridays. And once again, Our Lady of Sorrows would show Her servant her continued love and support. The First Friday of April was the Feast day of Our Lady of The Seven Sorrows. This Feast day always falls on the Friday proceeding Palm Sunday. Only this year it was as well First Friday, and the first day that Vern attended Holy Mass since his most successful surgery just 14 days earlier. Through your Holy Masses, Rosaries and continual prayer, Vern and I have received many-many graces over the past month. Our prayer for each of you is that Our Lady of Sorrows will reward you as she has rewarded Vern; her servant.

My “patient-patient” is doing very well, getting stronger by the day. His Doctor is pleased with his recovery so far, and cautions him not to do too much in the near future! THANK YOU ALL once again for the love, care, concerns and prayers that were offered in our behalf.

Your brother and sister in Christ and His Loving Sorrowful Mother, Vern and Sal

PS: Six Months later (9/24/06): We are in Alaska, Vern is hunting!

### **Fears of Cancer Allayed**

My husband JPC had been a smoker for 30 years. A routine X-ray and follow up CAT- SCAN verified a mass on his upper left lung close to his shoulder. The 2 doctors did not see any mass on the three year old X-rays taken a few years back so must be cancer....

We asked for prayers. A 54-day Rosary Novena to Our Lady of Pompeii as well as a daily 9-novena to the Infant of Prague and Our Lady of Good Success (short novena). Our children were making a rosary and novena to Our Lady of Lourdes. We kept the daily Tridentine Mass and rosary even on hospital days. Intention of prayers: There is no sign of cancer, no need of surgery-biopsy; we were able to join planned pilgrimage to Fatima Lourdes etc.

PET SCAN, Brain MRI, Respiratory functions were done. All results were fine but not diagnostic. Surgery-biopsy still stands. Surgery had to be scheduled but JPC asked for and got repeat CAT SCAN just 6 weeks after the previous one (should be 12 weeks) I think the Blessed Mother had a hand in this.

The Miracle: Surgeon told us to finalize pilgrimage for there is no sign of cancer and no need for surgery-biopsy. The radiologist who studied three old X-rays, new S-ray, CAT – SCANS concluded that the same mass is found on each of the three old X-rays, new one and 2 CAT SCANS so it is NOT CANCER! The 2 doctors failed to see these.

We immediately went back to church for thanksgiving prayers for intention of everyone who prayed /still praying for us. They will always be in our daily prayers and masses MSC

P.S. Pray for the three –fold intentions in front of the Blessed Sacrament saying the hourly novena to OLOGS, I noticed a strong aroma of roses on the altar. It reminded me of the beautiful roses at the feet of Our Lady of Good Success in Quito Pilgrimage. Thank you so much Blessed Mother for the comfort, love, and sign of your help in our dire needs. We love you! We are leaving on a thanksgiving pilgrimage to Quito on Oct 25. We are remembering this apostolate in our prayers. God bless you-

### **Letters from our members:**

#### **Letter of Thanks from the Mother Prioress of our dear Carmelites of Carmen Alto in Quito**

Praise Be Jesus Christ! How are you? We are trusting in the grace of God that you are well since your Carmelites are praying and petitioning for everything for you. Through this letter, I want to send our sincere gratitude for your help and collaboration in this critical moment we’ve been through with the sickness of our sisters. Sr. Maria Fanny sick with cancer has been treated in the hospital and has had to attend to certain debt of \$6,000. Therefore with this help [from the Apostolate] she has not had any difficulties in attending to this debt. As well, the debt increases with every examination and treatment. Sr Mercedes is sick with Septic Arteritis on the same leg that was almost amputated. Sr. Beatriz has a pulmonary malfunction so that she has to use oxygen daily. All of them in general offer up their pains, limitations and effort as a thankful offering to God and for all of you who have given us an opportune hand.

Thank you to the members of Our Lady of Good Success through their intervention we have been able to keep going. For that we wish to manifest our most sincere gratitude and at the same time assure you of our prayers for all of your intentions and of your families as well. Tell them that we have them as members of our family and

not to forget to pray for us as we have many needs and our mission is to be hidden in God in order that we may implore the Divine Heart for graces and mercy for the entire world especially for those who have confidence in us. Fraternally yours, Mother Veronica of the Holy Face, Prioress

**Monthly Mass for members** I did see the intentions that you've posted; be assured they're included in the monthly Mass on the 2nd of every month-Fr X.

**November Requiem Masses** + PAX Peace and Good. A Novena of traditional Masses (as many as possible Requiem Masses) will be offered for the souls of the faithful departed of Our Lady of Good Success community and their beloved departed ones. In Jesus and Mary, Fr. D W

### **Tridentine Mass Altar dedicated to Our Lady of G.S. and the Child of Pichincha in Eastern Europe**

Our Tridentine Altar is in our Kitchen Chapel. We have not the Holy Sacrament because a room cannot be separated from a kitchen nearby where I live and work. Above the Tabernacle, you see a framed picture composed from three pictures: Our Lady of Good Success, in the middle is Crucified Jesus [of Pichincha] I made this picture from a book of Dr. Horvat. I colored it myself so it doesn't have the right colors as it should have....On the right side is a picture of St Philomena. I proposed St Philomena to my faithful girls and women as a model of sanctity as I proposed Blessed Martyr Jose whose pictures are at the left and right side to my faithful boys and men to be their role model of courage and sanctity. On the very Altar are pictures of the Holy Face from the Shroud of Turin and of the Merciful Jesus. There is also a small picture of St Padre Pio and St Anne on the Tabernacle and two small statues of St. Michael the Archangel and St. Joseph. In the middle of them is a Cross with a small medal of the Sorrowful Immaculate Heart of Our Lady which is a memory of my grandmother. On the right side of the altar is a chest with a small statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In the battle of Lepanto in the year 1571 a big painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe was on the flagship of the Genoese Admiral, Giovanni Andrea Doria which Philip II of Spain had sent to him. And Philip II had received it from the Archbishop of Mexico. Before sending it he touched it to the original image. As you know Our Lady was victorious at this decisive battle for God's glory and for the immortal souls of Europe. Under the banner of Our Lady of Good Success now we are waging another decisive battle in this apocalyptic time....I pray for you and your family and the Apostolate every day! In Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Rev. Fr. Podrzaj Vidko- Slovenia

### **Our Contact in Cameroon, Africa**

Praise be Jesus and Mary! I received the 2 boxes today at 3pm but I'm yet to open them because I was going to catch up a Rosary Prayer in Parish which was to start at 4pm.

Many people's lives had been changed through the books you send to me. One of such person is Madam Grace N who had received abundance of graces through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Remedy. There are reports of children passing their exams through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Success. People's faith is being revived. I will get back to you again. Hope those we been praying for are informing you of their latest situation. I mention those prayer requests in my poor daily prayers. May Jesus, Mary and OLOGS grant all your desires.

### **Prison inmate who sent a donation thanking the Apostolate for sending books and holy cards to her:**

Good to hear from you. I wrote a couple of times with no response and thought you were at Quito. I assume you still direct the pilgrimages. That holy card you sent on the Virgin Mary of Lady of Our Sorrows was so realistic. A very unique holy card. So thanks. It is true we make very little but I am a firm believer in giving even out of poverty. Especially to those ministries who feed us spiritually. You are one who has fed me or at least the ministry you are led to direct to increase the devotion to Our Lady of Good Success. You have ministered to me by the materials you have sent. You have my prayers. Keep me in yours....But anyway I love to read so I would cherish any book you may be able to send. I hope the place in Quito for unwed Mothers is still doing well....Thanks for your ministry to me and your prayers. Yours in Jesus and Mary, K

### **Our Lady of Good Success protested the Da Vinci Code in May 2006**

Apostolate member, Barb Taaffe, sent us a news article from the Times Union. The article read, "...About 19 protesters, gathered together on Madison Ave, hit the Latham Circle Mall earlier in the day and planned to show their disapproval at a handful of other theaters over the weekend. "As Roman Catholics, we should be out there defending the truth," said Barb Taaffe, of Albany, who held up a large poster of a woman with sad eyes that read, "Our Lady of Good Success, Star of the Stormy Sea."

### **Captain grateful for email list messages**

Please continue the good work you are doing by sending us these inspiring msgs., personally it gives me a small break in the midst of my work to thank god for all that he has given me., and also for people like you to take time to spread the good news in spite of other preoccupations you may have., *Warm Regards-Capt Allan Couto*

### **Apostolate Member has article published in diocesan paper**

In Massachusetts, Patricia O'Connell wrote a great article on Our Lady of Good Success. It was published in the Catholic Free Press, in the Diocese of Worcester on May 26, 2006.

**Prayer requests:** We were recently contacted by a man who sold his small business in order to make a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Success to ascertain what he should do with his life. He was successful in his pilgrimage traveling 7232 miles. I ask that you remember him in your prayers and ask Our Lady to reward him for his most courageous effort to visit her. Please remember all of the intentions of our fellow Apostolate members as well as the soul of Marcie who died this November and all of our dearly departed members and friends of the Apostolate.

### **The St. Andrew Christmas Novena**

Here is a beautiful Christmas Novena that is to be started on November 30th, the Feast of St. Andrew, and to be ended on Christmas Eve. This Novena should be prayed **15 times each day** for a family intention, or for an individual's own special favor requested. The Novena is:

***"Hail, and blessed be the hour and the moment in which the Son of God was born, of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother. Amen.***

*We thank you for allowing us to do this work for without your help, we would not exist. It has been truly a great grace to work and fight with all of you under the banner of Our Lady of Good Success.* **The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success**, 1288 Summit Ave, Suite 107, Oconomowoc, WI 53066 USA  
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