



# 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 16th, 1635)

Quarterly Newsletter of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success Vol. 4 Lent 2007



## Dear Apostles of Our Lady of Good Success:

### ***Greetings during this Most Holy Season of Lent and Happy Easter!***

The photo to the left is of the face of a life size statue of Our Lord carrying His cross. It stands at the entrance of the Carmelite Monastery, Carmen Alto, in Quito, Ecuador reminding all who enter that this hallowed ground has been a place of penance for nearly 400 years. This particular statue of Christ is said to be of a miraculous nature. The story of this statue was related to me by the Mother Superior of Carmen Alto, Mother Veronica of the Holy Face, during one of our past visits. She indicated that some time ago, the local bishop upon visiting their convent saw this very statue of Our Lord. He was upset by the sorry state of disrepair it had fallen into- that is it was in need of a paint job at the very least. He ordered the statue to be discarded immediately. The sisters who had grown to love this statue were very much disappointed but obedient to the bishop’s order, they planned on disposing of it soon. The next day, upon attempting to remove this statue they found it totally repainted and restored. They called the bishop in to view it. To his surprise, he found this statue beautifully renovated! The sisters asked the bishop if they may be allowed to keep it. Without hesitation, the bishop gave his permission. **(For more on the pilgrimage turn to page 2)**

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### What’s New?

- ❖ We are pleased to be able to share with you some wonderful tools that we believe will help you in your spiritual life. Pro Multis Media is a new company dedicated to bringing your family inspirational, entertaining, and educational presentations that are high quality, family friendly and faithful to the authentic Traditions of the Church. With over thirty combined years of experience in media and apostolic work, the creative team at Pro Multis Media is working to offer Traditional Church teaching and spirituality in DVD, audio CD, and print presentations, in order to make the timeless truths of the Catholic Faith more accessible than ever before. Here is a list of what we have available through this company:

- 1 The Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary-** In this exclusive audio CD presentation, Fr. Patrick Perez recites the Traditional 15-decade Rosary accompanied by inspirational orchestral music. \$12.95
- 2 The Most Holy Rosary – Recited in Latin (our personal favorite!)** In this inspiring and enlightening audio CD presentation, Fr. Patrick Perez recites the Traditional 15-decade Rosary in Latin, accompanied by inspirational music. As you listen to Father’s impeccable pronunciation, you’ll soon find praying the Rosary in Latin like second nature. Perfect for the home or car, now the whole family can “do as the Romans do” and pray the Rosary in the Traditional language of the Church. \$12.95
- 3 The Scriptural Rosary DVD-** This remarkable new presentation combines the words of Holy Scripture and the sublime prayers of the Most Holy Rosary with a magnificent visual feast of Traditional Catholic art, accompanied by a lush orchestral soundtrack. \$22.95
- 4 The Sing-a-long Songs for Catholic Children –(our children’s personal favorite- they sing-a-long while doing little chores for Mom!) Now, for the first time, the big truths in these little songs come to DVD. Illustrated with traditional Catholic children’s art, and accompanied by on screen lyrics, Sing-a-long Songs for Catholic Children will help young children with their catechism, as well as their reading, while they sing! \$22.95**
- 5 The Way of the Cross for Children-** A combination of beautiful prayers, traditional music, and sacred images make this a perfect Lenten companion for the whole family. Ideal for homeschoolers and families with small children, this DVD provides a powerful devotional experience for the little ones.\$22.95

- ❖ **“La Dolorosa”** - We will have available badges of the “La Dolorosa” for purchasing in honor of her feast day of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 30<sup>th</sup> ( the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary are these: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, losing the Holy Child at Jerusalem, meeting Jesus on his way to Calvary, standing at the foot of the Cross, Jesus being taken from the Cross, the burial of Christ. - \$3.95
- ❖ **“Divine Light”**- This is a prayerbook for children in English . Imprimatur from the Archbishop of Brisbane-1940’s \$3.00.
- ❖ **Pilgrimage of Good Success 2007** – DVD video of the some of the highlights of the January 2007 tour. View historical Quito with all of its grand churches, monasteries and historical sites while listening to Gregorian chant background music. 1 hr. \$10.00

### Future Projects

- ❖ **Documentary on Our Lady of Good Success and Quito, Ecuador**---During the January 2007 pilgrimage, we were most happily surprised by a pilgrim who had come to visit Our Lady of Good Success hoping to do some filming for a documentary on this subject. When we learned of this we felt that our prayers had certainly been answered as we had been praying for this intention but neither money nor any knowledge of how to go about doing this ever materialized until this 2007 pilgrimage. We are told that this project will be completed sometime before the end of this year. We are very excited about it and will let you know as soon as it is made available. We feel this will be an effective tool in spreading the prophecies and devotion of Our Lady of Good Success! Please pray for the “good success” of this project. The company that is working on this project is **Pro Multis Media**. (This is the same company that we are promoting for the CD’s and DVD’s of the Rosary. Way of the Cross and Catholic Catechism Sing-a-long. The company has done a beautiful job with these materials.
- ❖ **Our Lady of Good Success Holy Cards**- We plan on developing new holy cards of Our Lady of Good Success during 2007.
- ❖ **Traditional prayers and booklets** -- We are looking for benefactors to assist us in our future printing projects. These projects are all focused on traditional prayers and booklets of different devotions that are not currently in print in English. Please if anyone would like to help us get started, call us: 262-567-0920.

### Update-The Highlights of our Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Success- 2007

- ❖ **Our son, Andres, was able to join us on our pilgrimage acting as translator and “Girl Friday”- except it was “Boy Friday”**. Andres is one of our four children that we adopted from Manizales, Colombia in 2000 after imploring Our Lady of Good Success to intercede for us in our adoption. It was in this year, before traveling to Colombia for the adoption, that my husband and I first visited Our Lady of Good Success. Andres was definitely touched by his first visit to Quito, Ecuador. He is working on writing his own article about his trip and the impression it made on him. It will be published in a future newsletter. Andres acted as our translator and right-hand man on this pilgrimage. He was a great asset to the tour.
- ❖ **Visit with the oldest Conceptionist sister at the Monastery in Quito, Ecuador**. For several years, I have requested to meet the eldest in the Conceptionist convent, Mother Francesca. I had heard that despite the fact that her hearing is very poor and her eyesight is going, her mind is as sharp as a tack. Additionally, I had been told that she has always kept the Rule of the Conceptionist order. The Mother Abbess called her a “Santa” - a “Holy One”. She continues to pray at ALL of the designated times (even Midnight) at her ripe age of 97 years. My son, Andres and I were finally given this grace on this pilgrimage. We felt that we were able to see and visit with one of the “hidden violets” that Our Lady of Good Success spoke of in the apparitions to Mother Mariana. Led by the Mother Abbess and Sr. Piedad, we entered the cell of this venerable sister who was sitting on her bed as if she expected us. This sister’s cell was very simple. It had a crucifix with an 8x11 black and white Xeroxed copy of the painting depicted the apparition in which Mother Mariana receiving the cord from Our Lady of Good Success in order to measure her for the statue over her bed. Pictures of the Immaculate Heart and Sacred Heart were the main focus in her room with a statue of St Mariana of Quito on a side table. We both observed the “odor of sanctity” in her cell – a distinct floral fragrance of roses was present but no flowers were in her room. Mother Fanny told Mother Francisca who we were and that we were helping to spread the devotion in the United States. Mother Francesca became very excited! She grabbed my hands in hers, smiled and as she had difficulty hearing, shouted in Spanish, “Keep doing this work! Never stop doing this work!” She repeated this three times. As well, she embraced us with great ardor and gave us her blessing in Spanish. She asked us to remember her as she “was going to leave here soon”. We promised that we would remember her and asked her to remember us in the next world! She promised that she would pray for us every day! Please remember Mother Francesca!
- ❖ **Our stay at Carmel**. We were allowed to stay in the Carmelite Monastery in a specially designed area designated for visitors. We both had our own “cell”. It was very pleasant to be there. It is a little piece of Heaven on earth! Since we had worked for the sisters to help them in their time of need when they were in dire financial straits due to illness, the Mother Superior allowed us to meet all of the sisters and visit with them for an hour. It was not difficult to imagine St Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face seated amongst them as their spirit was so very joyful. Their smiles lit up the room! I tried to remember the lines in “ Story of A Soul” but I could not- though I felt I was living out what St Therese described of her blessed life there in Carmel even if it was ever so brief. Upon arriving home, I was able to find one quote that sums up their holy lifestyle. In the “Story of a Soul”, St. Therese explained how she acquired the habit of overcoming her moods: “*When things that are irritable or disagreeable befall me, instead of assuming an air of sadness, I respond by a smile. At first I was not always successful, but now it is a habit which I am very happy to have acquired.*” I must admit I was filled with” holy envy” for this lifestyle because of the happiness I saw and felt when I was in their midst. We were able to meet two of the three sisters that had been ill. Sister Mercedes de San Jose was the sister who had Septicemia -which is blood poisoning. The doctors wanted to amputate the good sister’s leg. Last June, her sickness was life threatening! But although Sr Mercedes now walks with a cane, both of her legs are intact and healed! She had the sweetest smile for us when we visited and was ever so grateful for our help. I am certain she is praying for all of us in the Apostolate. For a departing

gift, Sister Mercedes spent the day before our trip, baking bread for us to take back to our family in the USA as a gift of gratitude. Sister is close to 80 years old- You can imagine what work that was for a tiny elderly sister with a cane. We were also met with expressions of gratitude from Sister Josefina de Spiritu Sancto who had contracted a terrible virus last summer. She too was back to health as well. Sister Maria Fanny de St Marianita was the only one not present. She had been called to Colombia and would not be back until after we left. We were told she was better. She was sad that she could not meet us but hoped to the next time we came to Quito. The day before our departure, I had expressed my desire for an apron that I had seen one of the sisters wearing. It reminded me of the one St. Therese wore in one of the photos of her in which she is leaning over the washing vat cleaning clothes. I was hoping that I could give a donation for one of the sister's handiwork and have it shipped up in the future. Later that day, to my great surprise, I found an apron outside my door! Another example of their extreme expressions of kindness!

- ❖ **Rosary of the Dawn Procession:** This event never fails to awe us as the likes of it we have never seen in the USA. People arriving from all over the city via taxi, car or feet (mostly via feet!) The general mood is always joyful yet serious. The local people greet you with smiles despite the fact that it is not even 5 AM in the morning!!! Before the procession, once again, we distributed thousands of holy cards and information leaflets on Our Lady of Good Success, Mother Mariana and Garcia Moreno. All was accepted graciously. We were told at least 2000 attended this event. A testimony to Our Lady of Good Success' prophetic words that because of Garcia Moreno's consecration of Ecuador to the Sacred Heart "the Faith would be sustained in these times despite the "almost total corruption of customs" was demonstrated in the fact that all of our literature was treated with the utmost respect. Many kissed the images on the holy cards as soon as they obtained them. Many would carefully place them in a purse or pocket so as not to lose them. Not one piece of our literature was found trampled underfoot during the one hour long procession. These people expressed a true love for God, Our Lady, their Catholic Faith and the Catholic Church!
- ❖ **St Mariana the "Lily of Quito"** During this pilgrimage, one of our aspirations was to obtain a special relic of St Mariana of Quito with a piece of linen we brought with us. We intend upon making relic cards with a prayer to St Mariana on it. We saw a "good success" in this as we were able to touch this cloth to many relics of St Mariana. This linen has been touched to the crucifix that became alive and would regularly speak to St Mariana. After St Mariana's death, the corpus of this crucifix had been crowned with a metal wire that had spikes on it. We were told that this wire had been one of St Mariana's instruments of penance when she was alive. St Mariana wore this around her waist. In her final illness, an attempt was made to remove it but it was found to be so deeply embedded into her flesh that it was impossible to remove it until after her death. As well, the cloth was touched to her favorite musical instrument, her Guittarre, which is kept in the offices of "La Compania" (It is said that when she played this Guittarre and sang, people thought that angels were singing) We had quite an adventure when we asked the Jesuits if we could have a cloth touched to her bones. This led us to these offices in which we were able to view her Guittarre from the early 1600's (only 2 others like it exist in the world- one in London and the other in Paris. It predates the Spanish guitar). The officials there documented our visit with papers to be filled out and photographs. Later we were escorted to a little chapel in the home for aged Jesuit priests in Quito. Outside this chapel was an elderly priest who was waiting for us. He allowed us to venerate a large bone of St Mariana in a beautiful reliquary in that chapel. Afterwards, He performed a ceremony in which he touched the linen to the reliquary and recited a prayer that made this linen a relic that can be used for the propagation of devotion to St Mariana.
- ❖ **Renovations of the Conceptionist Convent in Quito- the home of Our Lady of Good Success.** Renovations had begun already when we had visited at the beginning of 2006. However the inside of the church had not been started. As we were preparing to make plans for our 2007 pilgrimage we were told that most likely the church would be closed and no procession would take place this year. We were very delighted to find later that the church was going to be opened as renovations had progressed quicker than originally thought. We were even more pleased when we visited the Conceptionist Church for the first time this year as the restorations of the walls, ceiling altars and pieces of artwork have been tastefully accomplished without injuring the integrity of the original work. Last year we were unable to have Mass on the tomb of Mother Mariana. This year we were thrilled to be able to visit her restored tomb and attend Mass on her tomb once again.
- ❖ **Distribution of Holy Face medals and Holy Face pamphlets to both the Conceptionist and Carmelite Monasteries.** Both convents received thousands of Holy Face medals and pamphlets and holy cards on the Holy Face along with the book "The Holy Man of Tours", "The Golden Arrow" (biography of a Carmelite Sister in the 1800, Sr Pierre who worked to spread the devotion of the Holy Face – Veil) and "The Whole World Will Love Me" and the biography of the Conceptionist Sister Mother Pierina who helped to spread the devotion to the Holy Face (Shroud ) in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century . Please pray that the sisters will see the importance of this devotion in these times!

### Testimonials:

- ❖ **From Cameroon:** Happy Feast of Immaculate Conception! Here is a testimony sent to me by Madame Angline as a result of her Novena to OLOGS for the "fruit of the womb." "My name is Angline. I'm a secondary School teacher. I wish to encourage everyone who has problem to pray to Our Lady of Good Success. My husband and I had gone to many Pentecostal Pastors and even to many witch doctors seeking for a child because for 15 years of our marriage, I was not able to conceive. After several attempts, the doctor says the result is still negative. This continued for a very long period of time, until a friend took me to see Brother Paul, who gave me series of advice. After that he brought a Novena booklet entitled; Our Lady of Good Success, I started the Novena and followed as Br. Paul told me and today I want everyone to follow me and thank Jesus and Mary through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Good Success, I'm 5 months pregnant. My husband, who normally did not attend even Sunday Mass or say family prayers before, now goes to Church and prays with me. What a miracle! A very warm greeting to all of our benefactors for their prayers and support. Yours in Christ, Madame Angline.
- ❖ **From USA:** I have been trying to become pregnant for over a year and previously had two miscarriages. I am pregnant again after saying the 9 day novena to Our Lady of Good Success. I have a blood disorder called gestational thrombophilia but I know with Our Lady's intercession that all will go well. Thank you, K B

- ❖ **From Ireland: A prayerful Mother who has never given up on her son:** Dear Faithful Friends, I have been praying the Novena to Our Lady of Good Success and Mother Mariana for about 6 months now requesting them to sicken my wayward son "X" against every drink, drug and cigarette that was ever made. On 11th of December 2006 "X", aged 22 yrs. crashed his car and was very seriously injured. No one else was involved - first miracle. He was thrown out through the driver's window onto the road. He had a split kidney, lacerated liver, and ribs in bits, two collapsed lungs and damaged spleen. His shoulder was dislocated. The Staff in the intensive care said doctors would not believe he was still alive with such injuries - Divine Power being his only lifeline. He is the first one ever to walk out of the intensive care unit having suffered such injuries. He came home from hospital on 23rd. December. He has to be very careful as the spleen could bleed and if it did he would bleed to death, but I believe that when our Lady of Good Success has done so much if it be God's Holy will she will do the rest. I just feel I have won a Heavenly Sweep. I still have to go see the doctors to get the details of the injuries from their charts. I am spreading the novena all around my parish. God Bless. PS On 06/06/06 "X" [had] a black out while driving in a very busy town, he was stopped in the middle of the street with cars all around him - he could have crashed but didn't - he was taken to hospital and was o. k. His little daughter of 14 months fell out a window of a two storey house - fell on the hood of a car was in hospital for 3 days and came out with a bruised little toe. These are other answers to prayer to be taken into account.
- ❖ **Divorce Court-** Dear Friends at Our Lady of Good Success, I have a testimony. While going through an ugly divorce recently with a husband who was very bad controlling abuser and wanted me dead for insurance money. (I found out that he had been unfaithful to me for 18 yrs plus trying to drive me into a nervous breakdown. I stayed in this marriage this long trying to change him. He was heavily into pornography.) I had been praying the various novenas to B.V. M. rosaries, esp. St Joseph Never Fail prayer plus Our Lady of Good Success for many months. The divorce dragged out for a little over a year and put me in deep debt!...In the courtroom, I had two witnesses. He (my ex-husband) came with one who acted very evil! The Bailiff told him to leave the courtroom if he didn't behave. When my turn came to be sworn in under oath, I held a large brown rosary in my right hand....When I said "So help me God." Right after, I said "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost." And then the words, "Ave Maria, save us from evil!"...When my husband saw the rosary and the words I pronounced he uttered, "Oh no!" No doubt Our Lady was very offended as he was born and raised Catholic. I won the case - got the home and property but I am in very heavy debt. Please keep me in your prayers so that my lawyer fees and mortgage will be paid in full as I am disabled.

### Letters of petition, thanks and encouragement:

- ❖ **USA** - I want to thank you for keeping us informed on all the horrific news going on. Please continue to do so. I pray for the groups of traditionalists to join in spiritual battle for the One True Faith. Thank you again for all you are doing to fight the good fight for Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!
- ❖ **USA** - Thank you so very much for the Newsletter - "Star of the Stormy Sea." I have read it a couple of times - I am so glad I did because I ordered and received the OLGs Badges made by the "Sisters of the Passion and Cross" in Ohio. They are beautiful. Thank you again. However, I did not notice (how that happened I don't know) that there is a new 3rd Edition Novena and Prayer booklet which bears the Archbishop of Quito's imprimatur on it. I looked at the one I have and use and noticed it was a 2nd Edition - Bottom line - I was wondering if it is possible to still get one? I will pay the Retail price of \$6.00, for it if they are still available. Also, I want to thank you for your magnificent article in which you and your husband refute and condemn the movie "The Nativity". When I heard on a news session on EWTN by Raymond Arroyo that the film contained the Blessed Mother's birth in such non-virginal terms I was very upset, to put it mildly, but then he (Mr. Arroyo) said that the Vatican had given this movie a "Hollywood premier-type ceremony" I just about gave up. I thought to myself I wish I had some clout behind me to speak out and prayed that someone would. I knew that if I mentioned the "vile anti-Christian", anti-Blessed Virgin depiction [they] would not take too much notice. I was very surprised and upset when I heard the local Catholic School (where my grandson attends) was taking the children on a field trip to this movie. I was also very happy to see it published in the REMNANT newspaper. Thank you again. God Bless all on the staff - you are in my thoughts and prayers everyday. I pray that someday (before the Dear Lord calls me home I will be able to visit Quito and Our Lady of Good Success.
- ❖ **Yaoundé Cameroon West Africa.** : We are in need of novena booklets. Our country is facing a lot of crisis. Please send everything necessary about the apostolate for we have gone through the novena with difficulties due to lack of booklets. We are anxiously waiting. Thanks for understanding. Goodbye and God bless you.
- ❖ **News from Prisons (only excerpts are given for privacy sake):**
  1. **From one inmate:** "...But do keep me in your prayers. Your ministry to me does not go unnoticed by Our Lady of Good Success. May God continue to bless your life, family and ministry. PEACE BE WITH YOU! Yours in Jesus and Mary...."
  2. **From another prisoner:** "I would like to receive your quarterly newsletter. Would you kindly put me on your mailing list? The last one I received was the May, 2006 newsletter. Could you send me any back issues I may have missed? Also, I would appreciate any literature you could send me. Thank you! Please pray for me!"
  3. **And another:** "...Greetings my sister in Christ! Bless and thank you for the books and holy cards! ... I was beginning to think you had forgotten my note...My time here is getting short - perhaps I too may soon be able to go to Quito and give thanks to Her....May Our Lady keep you under Her Mantle of Humility and Love. Please pray for\_\_\_\_ PS Even though it was late I began the OLOGS novena!"

4. **Yet another:** "Praise be Jesus and Mary. Thanks very much for the book "Encounter With History" I read as much as possible and thank you for remembering me. Also I was very much impressed with the movie review of "The Nativity"- GREAT JOB....Enclosed are 3 small booklets for the inmates who contact you... Thanks very much for your kindness to me, I greatly appreciate your help. Be assured of my continued prayers. Please keep me in your prayers..."

### **Question and Answers on the topic of Our Lady of Good Success**

Someone forwarded this question to us via email this month. This is a question that is often asked so we decided to include it with an answer here.

**Question:** *As a matter of curiosity, is her title ["Nuestra Senora del Buen Suceso"] properly translated as Our Lady of Good Success or Our Lady of Good Fortune or does it matter?*

**This was our response:**

The actual literal translation for "Nuestra Senora del Buen Suceso" is "Our Lady of Good Events" (or Happenings) we could also say "Our Lady of Good Outcomes" These titles, however, have not ever been applied that we know of. Yes, we are aware that some have called her "Our Lady of Good Fortune" again not too popular (perhaps because it is too close to a more hedonistic occult – type name as in the term "fortune tellers").

It seems as though the Postulator for the Cause of Mother Mariana allowed this translation when one of his books, "Madera par Esculpir la Imagen de una Santa" was translated into English. This book interestingly enough did not bear the same title. It was called, "A Spanish Mystic in Quito: Sor Mariana de Jesus Torres". This book was published by "The Foundation for a Christian Civilization Inc" in New York in 1990 – This publication was printed well before Marian Horvat's books were printed. It seems as though in the designs of Heaven, Our Lady wanted the English speaking world to know her under this beautiful title. Why? I think perhaps because of the overall fixation on worldly wealth and worldly "success", Heaven knew that this phrase of "good success" would draw people to her in the 20th Century and beyond. When we are failures in our life we tend to become depressed and despair right? After all who does not want a "good success" in all of their endeavors, whether spiritual or temporal? So she appeals to us in this manner when we lack hope or have lost it completely. As well, if we read about the prophecies of Our Lady of Good Success, she speaks of a time in history (our times) when the Church will be in a state of crisis. This situation would become so precarious for those trying to remain Catholic that all hope for recovery will seem lost. However then Our Lady of Good Success says that "this will be the moment of my triumph" - it will be the time of Restoration- the fight for Catholicism and Truth will eventually win with "good success" one day! Our Lady of Good Success gives us hope even in despair. And so you see that it was neither Marian Horvat nor The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success who has translated this as such. We have followed the lead of the one who was placed in charge of raising to the altars our patroness Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres. His name: Msgr. Luis E. Cadena Y Almeida.

## **The Pilgrimage of "Good Success": Tradition visits Quito, Ecuador**

**By Kathleen Marie. Heckenkamp**

(Editor's Note: This article was first published in "Catholic Family News" 2004 edition – We have had many requests asking what it is like on our pilgrimages. This article is an abridged version for the newsletter. We hope you enjoy it!)

***"They will have recourse to me under this invocation of Our Lady of Good Success and I now ask and command that you have a statue made for the consolation and preservation of my convent and for those faithful souls of that epoch during which there will be a great devotion to me for I am Queen of Heaven under many invocations" ( Our Lady of Good Success ; Prophecies for Our Times, pg.47 )***

This [quote of Our Lady of Good Success to Mother Mariana on January 21, 1610] seemed a fitting introduction to our article here on the events that occurred during the first organized Traditional pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Success. This pilgrimage sponsored by the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success in which twelve Catholics from the United States met in Quito, Ecuador to pay homage to their Queen took place during the time of the Novena (Jan 24-Feb 2). It is important to note that the purpose for going at this time of year is due to the fact that other than the nine days previous to her feast on Feb 2 and during the months of May and October, the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Good Success is hidden from the world in the cloistered Conceptionist convent.

For those of you who are new to Our Lady of Good Success, I want to encourage you to read the wonderful books written by Dr. Marian Horvat, "Our Lady of Good Success; Prophecies for Our Times" and "Stories and Miracles of Our Lady of Good Success" and the "Novena and Prayer Booklet of Our Lady of Good Success". Dr. Horvat is one of the first to introduce the English-speaking world to Our Lady of Good Success. She gives a detailed account on the apparitions that a Conceptionist sister in Quito, Ecuador received from the Blessed Mother. The Blessed Mother appeared to Mother Mariana prophesying that the 20th century would be a time of great upheaval in the Church causing many faithful to fall away for the Catholic Faith. Our Lady asked Mother Mariana to be a victim soul for these times so that the Restoration of the Church could be effected. She accepted. These apparitions and devotions have been approved by the Church since the early 1600's.

Our Pilgrimage was to acknowledge the importance of these apparitions, prophecies, and devotions by giving honor to the Blessed Mother under this beautiful invocation as Our Lady of Good Success.

## **Brief Explanation of Quito**

Quito, Ecuador has been titled the “Sanctuary of Miracles in South America”. It has been rightly named for rarely will you see such a mystical region as this city. Every church has its miracles. Most of them are attributed to the invocation of our Blessed Mother. It is believed that when the Catholic religious came to Ecuador in the 1500’s they founded their institutions on pagan ritual sites. The Blessed Mother desiring to aid in the evangelization of these indigenous people and encourage those who performed this arduous work of proselytizing, manifested her powerful intercession in various ways--- Sometimes through a miraculous statue or picture—sometimes through apparitions or visions. To this day, despite the universal changes in the Church since Vatican II, the faith of the Catholics in Ecuador is edifying to observe. It is understandable why Our Lady came so often to Quito to help and encourage such a faithful and docile race.

This pilgrimage started on January 27th and ended on February 3, 2004. Twelve pilgrims from the USA met in Quito, Ecuador carrying with them their “spiritual baggage” and those of hundreds of others. These pilgrims were intent on unburdening themselves before the feet of Our Lady of Good Success. It was a time of intense Catholic spiritual renewal for all of those present along with all of the others who had entrusted their cares and troubles to this group of pilgrims—those who journeyed with us in their hearts and souls as they joined us in praying the Novena to Our Lady of Good Success. Though this trip was a first of its kind, the pilgrims were optimistic that they would meet with “good success” on this pilgrimage...you will soon find out that they were not at all disappointed.

## **Events of the Pilgrimage**

On first day of the pilgrimage, we visited Our Lady of Good Success. During the time of the Novena, this life size statue is venerated in the Conceptionist Church. It is placed high above the altar for all to see. Despite the fact that this Church is sadly in need of repair and renovation, when Our Lady of Good Success is present for veneration, this church is by far the most beautiful in all of Quito. The good Conceptionist sisters adorn this statue with the most exquisite of gowns. On that particular day, looking as if she was resting on a pink cloud in a garden of roses, Our Lady was a vision of elegance and grace.

Our first Mass in Quito was appropriately offered, as mentioned before, at the feet of Our Lady of Good Success. For all of us on this pilgrimage it was an extremely emotional experience to witness the return, if ever so briefly, of the Latin Tridentine Mass before the throne of Our Queen of Good Success. Many of us shed tears of joy, love, and petition that first afternoon in Quito.

In the heart of Colonial Quito is a square called the Plaza Grande. It is here where we most often met to begin the day’s tour. From this location one could see the Church of the Conceptionist convent, and the Presidential Palace where Garcia Moreno was brutally and mortally wounded. This spot is highly venerated by the devotees of Our Lady of Good Success for Our Lady prophesied that a future Ecuadorian president would consecrate Ecuador to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and would die a martyr’s death at the hands of the enemies of the Church—the Masons. This is what happened on August 6, 1875. After being stabbed Garcia Moreno dragged his torn and bloodied body to the Cathedral across the Plaza where he expired at the feet of Our Lady of Sorrows of which he was known to have a great devotion. His last words were, “God does not die!” He is buried there at the feet of Our Lady of Sorrows in the Cathedral.

We had the good fortune to visit the Monastery of Carmen Alto -the former home of St. Mariana de Jesus. In the history of Quito during the Colonial era, two “Mariana’s” were important to the Catholic Church—One Mariana was hidden until the 20th Century. She is the one which devotees of Our Lady of Good Success, know as Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres. The other Mariana is St. Mariana de Jesus Flores or “The Lily of Quito”. The Lily of Quito offered her life to Almighty God for her city when an epidemic threatened to destroy it. God accepted her offering on May 26, 1645. In 1946, she was named the National Heroine of Ecuador by the government for her heroic action.

## **The Tour of The Conceptionist Monastery**

On February 2, 1610, Our Lady of Good Success remarked,

***“There will be many who will not believe and will claim that this devotion is not pleasing to God.... A simple humble faith in the truth of my apparitions to you, my favored child, will be reserved for the humble and fervent souls docile to the inspirations of grace, for Our Heavenly Father communicates His secrets to the simple of Heart and not to those whose hearts are inflated with pride , pretending to know what they do not, self-satisfied with empty knowledge.” (Our Lady of Good Success; Prophecies for Our Times, pg 48)***

On Friday morning, we all headed off to the Conceptionist Monastery with cameras in hand. Arriving at the Monastery, we waited for the Mother Abbess. She greeted us with the customary bell in hand. She rang it as she led us through the cloister to the Choir Loft. This was to let the other sisters know that strangers were coming through the cloister and to stay away!

Upon entering the Upper Choir Loft where Our Lady of Good Success had first appeared to Mother Mariana, the Mother Abbess graciously showed us around the room pointing out and describing the various artifacts treasured by this convent. After the tour, our chaplain offered Mass on the tomb of Mother Mariana within the walls of the cloister

After Mass, we lingered awhile enveloped in the mystical presence there. As we were all kneeling in thanksgiving before the tomb of Mother Mariana, one of the pilgrims exclaims—"I smell roses!" Being a bit of a "Doubting Thomas", I edged to the tomb. I smelled it too! It certainly was not the regular type of "rose" smell but an exquisite floral fragrance I had never smelt before. We told Father. He admitted to first smelling it at the time of the Elevation of the Host. Were we favored with a miracle that day? We would like to think so. Later the Mother Abbess, when confronted, admitted that this does happen on occasion at Mother Mariana's tomb.

## **Welcome Respite**

We then traveled south of Quito for about 2 hours, arriving at an enchanting Ecuadorian ranch called "La Cienega". This ranch could be described as a South American plantation of sorts. It looked as if it could have been a stage set right out of "Gone with the Wind". It was a paradise in the Andean mountains! We all breathed a huge sigh of relief to be here in this respite for a couple of days.

Well that thought did not last too very long for that evening we looked at the chapel we were to have Mass in the next day, a 17th Century Chapel with most everything from that century intact. However, the years and the elements had done a little "work" on this place. We said the novena in the chapel that night and realized we had done a little unexpected dusting with our good clothes on the kneelers and the benches. It needed a good overhaul before Mass could be offered tomorrow. We spent most of Saturday preparing the chapel for Mass.

On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, our Latin Mass was yet another time of spiritual adoration and reflection. Perhaps it was the intimacy we shared with each other and Our Lord expressed through the long day's preparation for Mass.... Or perhaps because a truly special moment in the history of the Apostolate took place when the miniature replica of Our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Success graced the altar for the first time! Or perhaps it was due to the fact that Garcia Moreno, the martyred Ecuadorian President, was married here in this chapel on the Hacienda. Or maybe it was just a combination of the three. Nevertheless, this Mass was one of the most beautiful Masses we had on the pilgrimage.

The faith of the Ecuadorian people was remarkable to behold. It stands as a testimony of hope in this world that is so quickly witnessing the demise of the Catholic Church. One such example was the faith of a little Indian man at the Hacienda. His name was Geronimo. He is a spry 82yrs. old. He had worked on this Hacienda for 65 years. He was somewhat of a caretaker and sacristan of the rickety old chapel. He told us that a visiting priest would come once every 2 months or so to offer Mass. This dear little Indian was so excited that Father was offering Mass at this chapel. When he discovered we were going to have Benediction, there also he pleaded for Father to use what he called "La Santissima" This was his endearing term for the monstrance there in the chapel. He told Father that the local priest had wanted to throw "La Santissima" in the garbage but he had begged him not to do so. Many of us were so impressed by the devotion with which this old man knelt on the uneven ground. He resembled an adoring angel before the Sacred Species. With such humility and piety, he recited his Latin responses, as he must have done so many years ago. We knew his thoughts that day. How blessed he felt to see his "La Santissima" once more high up on the altar with his Lord and Creator regally displayed. Before we left, he begged us all to pray for his holy death—with teary eyes, we agreed and said farewell to this little kindred spirit.

We traveled back to Quito, awaiting the climax of our pilgrimage, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Success or more commonly known as The Feast of the Purification or Candlemas Day.

## **Rosary of the Dawn** **Procession on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Success**

We rose early, 3:30 AM, for the "Rosary of the Dawn Procession" on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Success. Doors were opening to the Church at 4:30AM. I did not want to miss one moment! Bleary eyed, we staggered through the darkened streets of old Quito. Reaching the doorway of the Conceptionist Church, we quickly shook off our sleepiness in the magnificent presence of Our Lady of Good Success. There she stood a wonder of exquisite beauty, adorned in a soft sky blue gown falling in cascades toward the altar below, glowing and ever so lifelike in the midst of all of the gold and light surrounding her. It was not so difficult to imagine what Mother Mariana saw in the Choir Loft 400 years before on this very day! Still in awe, I glanced around and realized that the church was half-full already with hordes of people filing in behind me. In the end, I was told two thousand participated in this event. A small 2 foot replica of Our Lady of Good Success was carried through the streets of Colonial Quito by strong young men.. The rosary was begun within the confines of the church with the men heartily leading the "Ave Maria" and the women responding with "Santa Maria". Many of us throughout the week took particular notice on how these Ecuadorians seem to chant everything they say---throughout the markets their voices can be heard conversing in a melodic, rhythmic manner. It was the same during the rosary.

People might ask if I saw a miracle that day. Well, I would have to say, yes, I did in a manner of speaking. For what I found to be a miracle was the fact that throughout this whole procession which lasted at least an hour down the main thoroughfares of Colonial Quito, no one came from their living quarters complaining to us to "shut up"—not a dog barked—not one rotten tomato was thrown. All was calm and serene in Quito except for the two thousand people reciting the rosary along these streets. Could one ever imagine such an event ever occurring in the USA?

Even, Nature, itself, esteemed the event that morning, bowing to Our Lady of Good Success as she passed. In her honor, the wind was still and the sky was clear. A single star lit the sky. A native woman whispered ever so sweetly in Spanish to us as she pointed to that star, "Look! There is the Virgin!" Then pointing to the delicate glowing beads of wax dripping softly down our candles, she said, "These are her tears!" I was touched to the depths of my soul that day. Our Lady had stolen yet another piece of my heart—there it remains in that Church in Quito. As we passed through the Plaza Grande past the spot where Garcia Moreno gave his life for the Church and Ecuador, I too wept silently with Our Lady thanking her for the great grace of allowing me to participate in this experience. It was the very first time I had ever been blessed to be on a pilgrimage. What a pilgrimage it was!

The Faith is still alive in Ecuador! Our Lady lives amongst her people there. So much of what I felt cannot be sufficiently put down on paper here. It truly must be experienced in order to be understood. This poor writer's intention is to give you just a glimpse of what she, herself, saw and experienced.

So begins the journey of Tradition back to Ecuador. Let us pray that this spark of Tradition ignites a fire in the faithful souls of all of Ecuador once again as it did in the soul of our little Indian friend, Geronimo. This is a country that despite its humble appearance seems destined to aid the Catholic Church back to Tradition through this lovely devotion to Our Lady of Good Success. (Editor's note: *As of 2007, The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success has been able to sponsor 4 consecutive pilgrimages during the novena and feast day of Our Lady of Good Success in January and February from 2004 -2007 along with other tours during the months of May and October- Please pray that Tradition may continue to visit Quito yearly until we see the Restoration of the Catholic Church!*)

**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 member's own testimonials. We are asking a \$10.00 donation annually. *Please remember it is not 2007- we really need your donations to keep this newsletter going! Thank you for your continued support! Donations are accepted, greatly needed and appreciated!* The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success -1288 Summit Ave. Suite 107 Oconomowoc, WI 53066, USA Phone: 262-567-0920  
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