



Star of the Stormy Sea

Quarterly Newsletter of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success --- Spring, 2012

“... 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)

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is a newly translated novena booklet in honor of Our Lady of Good Success. This novena was found in Quito in 2008 when researching numerous library archives. It originally was published in 1937 in Spanish. The local bishop of Ecuador, Bishop Daniel, in conjunction with several priests gave their official approval at that time.

This particular novena has become a favorite to many as it pertains so well to the current problems of the Church, Her Faithful and the world. It is a good reflection on the prophecies of Feb 2, 1634, when Our Lady of Good Success appeared after the sanctuary light was mysteriously extinguished in the church. Our Lady then gave Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres **five reasons for the snuffing out of that light** which pertained to our era:

- The **precious Light of Faith and sanctifying grace** would be extinguished in many souls by an almost complete corruption of customs due to heresies that would be propagated.
- The **spiritual light of vocations** would be reduced. As a result many authentic vocations would perish.
- The **radiance of pure and virginal souls** would be almost completely put out, only to be found in monasteries and cloisters.
- The **brilliance of the innocent souls of children** would be deadened by the devil, corrupting the hearts of children, causing many vocations to be lost during this time. Of those who will have vocations, many will lose their way as their Divine Compass will be obscured.
- The **flame of zeal, love, dedication and devotion to the Church** would be obliterated from the hearts of men allowing the Church to be persecuted and oppressed. Allowing evil to triumph, the indifferent Catholics would be the cause of the Name of God to be silenced by not employing their wealth to defend God.

It is during this vision that Our Lady exhorts:

*“Pray insistently without tiring and weep bitter tears in the secrecy of
your heart, imploring our Celestial Father that, for love of the*

Eucharistic Heart of my Most Holy Son and His Precious Blood shed with such generosity and by the profound bitterness and sufferings of His cruel Passion and Death, He might take pity on His ministers and quickly bring an end to these ominous times sending to this Church the Prelate who will restore the spirit of its priests.”

It is not hard to imagine that through the person of Mother Mariana - Our Lady is speaking to Catholics in these times. As another decisive phase in world events is rapidly approaching with the upcoming Presidential election, we cannot and must not remain indifferent to Our Lady's plea. She warns that those hard-hearted Catholics, who do nothing, are thus refusing to aid in the restoration of the Church and hints that their salvation may be at stake. Instead – let us hear Her voice and desire to be counted as one of:

“the small number of souls who, hidden, will conserve the treasure of the Faith and the virtues will suffer an unspeakably cruel and prolonged martyrdom. Many of them will succumb to death from the violence of the suffering, and those who sacrifice themselves for the Church and decisive Country will be counted as martyrs. In order to free men from bondage to these heresies, those whom the merciful love of My Most Holy Son will destine for that restoration will need great strength of will, constancy, valor and much confidence in God. To test the faith and confidence of the just, there will be occasions in which everything will seemed to be lost. This will be, then, the happy beginning of the complete restoration.”

It is with these thoughts in mind that this booklet was translated and now sent as a gift to all of our faithful Catholic friends who are striving to “fight the good fight and finish the race.” Please let us band together and “pray insistently” as Mother Mariana did for us – four hundred years ago for an end to these ominous times. Let us pray for each other that we may obtain the graces necessary for perseverance.

As the Apostolate believed that getting this novena booklet out and into the hands of each household was of utmost importance, this gift is in lieu of a longer issue of “The Star of the Stormy Sea” newsletter. Copies of this novena are \$2.50 until the end of the year. Then, in 2013: \$5.00.

Please continue to pray for us! The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success appreciates all of your prayers, sacrifices and wishes that have been and continue to be extended to us in the past 10 years. God bless you all! We will send another newsletter in late summer or early fall.