

Star of the Stormy Sea

Quarterly Newsletter of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success Spring -2014

**“... 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)

What’s New?

- Booklet: **“The Importance of the Holy Face Devotion in the 21st Century”** is enclosed in this mailing. Please read and discover how it is meant for our times! It is now available for distribution; just call for more copies! **Printed in thanksgiving for favors granted!**
- Article on the devotion to **“The True Letter of Our Lord Jesus Christ”** and a few testimonies
- In Print: **Special Ed. Chiesa Viva #381: “A New Church Dedicated to St. Padre Pio – A Masonic Temple?”**
- Update on the 2013 Fundraiser for the Conceptionists in Quito, Ecuador
- Would you like to help us to reproduce Holy Face Protection Crosses for the Carmelites?

Dear Members and Friends of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success,
A Blessed Easter Season to you and yours!

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, 1623, Our Lord revealed to **Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres** that the 3 mainstays of religious vocations were devotions to: the Blessed Eucharist, Our Lord’s Passion, and Our Blessed Mother.

Most recently, we discovered an enlightening retreat given by **Archbishop Sheen** – one of the talks given was on the topic of the devil. At the end of his sermon, he stated that there are three devotions that the devil hates which should be used as weapons against him—they are:

- **the Holy Name of Jesus,**
- **Precious Blood of Our Lord**
- **Devotion to Mary** (example: devotion to the Holy Rosary).

One can see a comparison between the advice of Our Lord to **Mother Mariana** and what **Archbishop Sheen** mentioned in his retreat. For in the devotions that we are going to recommend to you – you will find that these devotions to **Our Lord’s Passion, the Blessed Eucharist, the Holy Name and the Precious Blood of Our Lord** are all intertwined. One can imagine how these devotions can be applied most especially for all of us in these dire times of the Church in order for our salvation and that of our loved ones.

On several occasions, Archbishop Sheen has been found to be rather prophetic and one could suggest that even on this subject, perhaps, he foresaw that, in the near future, the need for these devotions would become most necessary in order to keep the Faith alive and well among Our Lord’s true disciples in these dangerous times for the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church—perhaps because one day we might find ourselves without ready access

to the sacraments.

One devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus for our times is the devotion to the **Holy Face**. One might ask how can the devotion to the Holy Face be a devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus? In the 1800’s, Our Lord expressed His wishes to Sister Marie St. Peter, a Carmelite nun in Tours, France, that there be an actual devotion to his Holy Face. **Our Lord desired this to make reparation for blasphemies against Him and His Holy Name** in addition for the profanation of Sunday (when people engage unnecessarily in commerce and other such labors and chores on Sunday, a day meant for rest and reflection on God). In August of 1843, He dictated the **Golden Arrow Prayer** to this sister. He also gave her promises to those who would honor His Holy Face (the prayer and the promises can be found in the booklet that we have included in this mailing).

Additionally, we find both the image of the **Holy Eucharist** and Our Lord’s Suffering Countenance as seen on Veronica’s veil on the medal of the **Holy Face of Jesus**. We know that by just devoutly gazing upon that suffering Face of Our Lord we are performing an act of love and worship to Him.

We can also surmise as well that by having a devotion to the **Precious Blood of Our Lord**, one cannot help but have a devotion to the Passion of Our Lord since His Blood was completely spilled out for us during **His Passion**.



Both these dedicated souls--**Mother Mariana and Archbishop Sheen**--agreed that a devotion to Our Lady is essential in the life of a Catholic – that is, in order if one wants to be a good and faithful Catholic. We know that Our Lady has appeared so many times most recently in the last 200 + years imploring mankind to say the rosary over and over again. She also appeared as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at Fatima suggesting that we all don the Carmelite habit of the **Brown Scapular** as a sign of our dedication and devotion to Her.

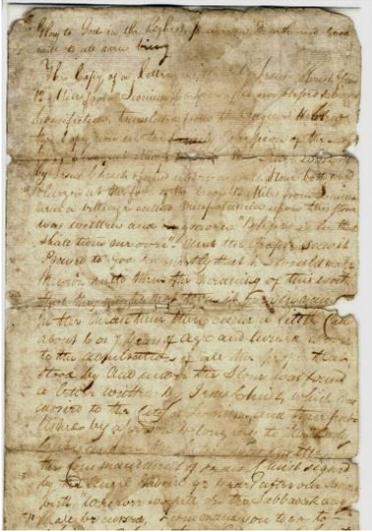
We would like to share three personal testimonies of protection that we have witnessed via these devotions. We feel as if we have been spared from several very potentially precarious and tragic events:

1. During our first adoption in Bogota, Colombia, in November, 2000--while our four adopted children and I were at the Colombian embassy finalizing our adoption papers for travel to the USA--my husband and 16 yr. old son were attacked by six Colombian men with machetes on a rural mountain overlook. My husband was assaulted with a knife at his throat and his abdomen as my son plunged down the mountain cliff with one of the men, with a machete pointed at him. Both escaped with their lives and only very little was stolen from them: a video camera, regular camera and my husband's glasses. It is interesting to mention despite the armed robbery the assailants failed to realize that my husband had all of our passports, credit cards and \$10,000+ cash on his person (under his shirt). Both my husband and son have been faithful to the **scapular and rosary**. As well, I think it is good to mention that before we left for Colombia for the adoption we visited the shrine of **Our Lady of Good Success in Quito, Ecuador** invoking Her protection. We are certain She was the one who spared them from any serious harm.
2. In May, 2012, we were on our second adoption trip to Bogota and a car bomb exploded in a major intersection that we had driven through just 10 min. before detonation - injuring about 50 people and killing several. Additionally, during our 2 month stay, our daughter was rushed to emergency and it was feared she had spinal meningitis...as she had been bitten my fleas in our apartment. Lastly, we had been trying to wrap up our adoption but with the Colombian governmental departments' and courts' continuous striking, the paperwork for the finalization kept being delayed. We were getting quite desperate to get home for so many reasons- i.e. Laura's deteriorating medical condition, dwindling funds etc. We had almost maxed out our credit card when someone sent me an email on the topic of "**The True Letter of Our Lord Jesus Christ**" which contains information on how to have devotion to the **Precious Blood of Our Lord** (information follows this article). We had received this prayer in an email on July 3- only a day after the **Feast of the Precious Blood** and we followed the instructions on how and what prayers we were to say and made copies of these letters having all of our family members place a copy of it on their person. Early on the morning of July 4th, we were amazed to receive a frantic phone call from our adoption agent there in Bogota anxiously instructing us that we needed to get to the government offices in Bogota in a ½ hour to sign the final adoption decree which would then allow us to make plans to go home to the USA. We had a harrowing drive through heavy traffic via a wild taxi cab driver but we were able to sign the papers on July 4th and by July 11th we were back home- safe and sound!
3. Lastly, we would be remiss in not recalling the most recent and dramatic of our testimonies to our devotions to **the Holy Name of Jesus** (as can be recognized in the **Golden Arrow Prayer**), **His Most Precious Blood and Our Lady!** As many of you know, our daughter, Laura, had been sick with Lyme disease for over 2 years after getting bitten by a tick in the summer of 2010. Other events exacerbated her condition – such as the adoption trip to Bogota, being bit by fleas, being given numerous drugs –strong antibiotics, a spinal tap that caused nerve damage to her leg and back and the development of numerous and mysterious food allergies which caused such violent reactions that merited several trips to the ER here in the States. We did end up traveling to Germany for a cure in 2013 and there her journey back to health began. During our lengthy stay in Europe, we managed to visit the incorrupt body of St. Bernadette in Nevers, France and the tombs of St. Anthony of Padua and Fr. Luigi Villa in Italy - so we are not certain if her cure was solely from the naturopathic medical treatment we received there, a miraculous cure or a combination of both, but nonetheless, she began to improve - so much so, that by December, 2013, she was quite a different young lady.

In early December of this past winter, Dan decided to take the younger children out on the lake to skate a little. We knew that the lakes were not completely frozen over, but as he had promised me they would stay by the shore, I agreed. However, I was a little worried so I coaxed the 2 older girls to go skate with their dad as well- for safety's sake. The older girls did not feel like going, but I insisted and so they went. I was left at home with Valentina when I got a sudden sense of foreboding and regretted I had so easily conceded to this skating venture. I suggested to Valentina that we go and check on the skaters. I put on my coat and was just about to open the back door when Dan came stomping into the house. I did not recognize at first what had happened and wondered why he had come back so soon. Upon closer scrutiny, I realized he was dripping wet! With only ½ of the clothing he had left with, he stood by our fireplace shivering... Shocked, I cried: "You fell in! And then added: "Where are the children?" He shivered back to me: "Oh, they're ok! They're just skating!" I was stunned! I grabbed my car keys and left him standing there by the fire. Valentina shouted to her father to get in the shower immediately to avoid hypothermia- which to him sounded like a great idea. When I reached the lake, we found Laura skating in a frozen snowmobile suit with the 3 younger ones in tow. We rushed all of them home and asked them to tell us what had happened. From the girls, we discovered that Dan had been skating and said: "Follow me!" absentmindedly gliding onto black ice – with those words, he fell through the ice about 150 ft. from the shoreline. Their father was desperately trying to get a grasp to hoist himself out of the ice but the ice was so thin that it kept breaking. The girls watched as their father went under twice and he called for girls to help him. Laura immediately got down on the ice and crawled on her stomach to where he was and managed to pull him out after almost slipping into the icy waters herself. Now, remember this was the deathly ill girl of 2010-2013 who at that time was weighing in at 98 lbs. and is under 5 ft. tall. Her father's weight at that time of the submersion totaled over 200 lbs. with the wet clothing and skates. How could she have managed to pull him out of the water? Upon hearing this story, a priest told us he was convinced it was a miracle and

immediately began to keep the "True Letter of Our Lord Jesus Christ" on his person as well for I had told him that I had that prayer sewn into all of our scapulars for protection after having received such a wonderful response to our prayers in Bogota Colombia.

A TRUE LETTER OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



Handwritten copy of the True Letter from 1880's

Consecrating the Drops of Blood which Our Lord lost on His way to Calvary.

A copy of a letter of the Oration found in the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, preserved in a silver box by His Holiness and by the Emperors and Empreses of the Christian Faith.

St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary, with St. Matilda and St. Bridget, wishing to know something of the Passion of Jesus Christ, offered fervent and special prayers, upon which there appeared to them Our Lord Jesus Christ Who spoke to them in the following manner:

I descended from Heaven to the Earth in order to convert you. In olden times people were religious and their harvests were abundant; at present, on the contrary, they are scanty.

If you want to reap an abundant harvest you must not work on Sunday, for on Sunday you must go to Church, and pray to God to forgive your sins. He gave you six days in which to work and one for rest and devotion and to tender your help to the poor and assist the Church.

Those people who brawl against My religion and cast slurs on this Sacred Letter, shall be forsaken by Me.

On the contrary, those people who shall carry a copy of this letter with them shall be free of death by drowning and from sudden death. They shall be free from all contagious diseases and lightning; they shall not die without Confession, and shall be free from their enemies and from the hand of wrongful authority, and from all their slanderers and false witnesses.

Women in peril at childbirth will, by keeping this Oration about them will immediately overcome the difficulty. In the houses where this Oration is kept, no evil thing will ever happen: and forty days before the death of a person who has this Oration about him or her, the Blessed Virgin will appear to him or her - So said St. Gregorius.

TO ALL THOSE FAITHFUL WHO SHALL RECITE FOR 3 YEARS, EACH DAY, 2 PATERS, GLORIAS and AVES, IN HONOR OF THE DROPS OF BLOOD I LOST, I WILL CONCEDE THE FOLLOWING 5 GRACES:

- 1. The plenary indulgence and remittance of your sins.**
- 2. You will be free from the pains of Purgatory.**
- 3. If you should die before completing the said 3 years, for you it will be the same as if you had completed them.**
- 4. It will be upon your death the same as if you had shed all your blood for the Holy Faith.**
- 5. I will descend from Heaven to take your soul and that of your relatives, until the fourth generation.**

Be it known that the number of armed soldiers were 150; those who trailed me while I was bound were 23. The executioners of justice were 83; the blows received on my head were 150; those on my stomach, 108; kicks on my shoulders, 80. I was led, bound with cords by the hair, 24 times; spits in the face were 180; I was beaten on the body 6666 times; beaten on the head 110 times; I was roughly pushed, and at 12 o' clock I was lifted up by the hair; pricked with thorns and pulled by the beard 23 times; received 20 wounds on the head; thorns of marine junks, 72; pricks of thorns in the head, 110; mortal thorns in the forehead, 3. I was afterwards flogged and dressed as a mocked king; wounds in the body, 1000. The soldiers who led Me to the Calvary were 608; those who watched Me were 3, and those who mocked Me were 1008; the drops of blood which I lost were 28,430.

BENEDETTA DA SS., POPE LEO XIII, IN ROMA 5 APRILE 1890

The following list of miracles and promises or warnings attached are published here, but with the caution that we do not know if the approval of Pope Leo XIII was for this portion as well.

MIRACLES ACCOMPLISHED BY THE SACRED LETTER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

A second and similar copy of this Letter has been found in a place called "Pursit," three leagues from Marseilles, written in golden letters, and believed to be of supernatural origin. It was found by a boy 7 years old of the same town. With it is an appendix and declaration of the 2nd of January, 1750, which says: "All those who work on Sunday, will be cursed by me, for on the Sacred day you must rest, go to Church, attend all Divine Services, so that you and your generation will be blessed.

If on the contrary you do not believe this you will be chastised, and to your children I will send pest, famine, war, spasms and heartaches; to show you My anger, you will see signs in the sky, thunders and earthquakes.

Those who do not believe that this letter is written by Divine workmanship and dictated by the Sacred Mouth of Christ, and who will keep it hidden from other persons, will be cursed by God and condemned on the Day of Judgment. To those who will publish it, if they have many sins and are truly repentant for having offended Me, even though they have done some injury to their neighbors, when they ask pardon I will cancel their sins. Those who will copy this, or read it, or who will induce others to read it, will be free from all temptations."

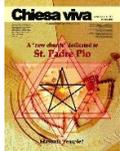
A certain Spanish Captain traveling by land near Barcelona, saw a head severed from the body, which spoke to him as follows, "As you are bound for Barcelona, my good man, for God's sake send hither a Priest so that I may confess myself. It is already three days now that I have been attacked by robbers, and I cannot die without first confessing myself." The Captain brought the Confessor to the place; the living head confessed and then expired. On the body from which the head had been severed, the present Oration was found. On that occasion it was approved by several Tribunals of the Holy Inquisition and by the Queen of Spain. The said Paters, Glorias and Aves can be recited for the benefit of any soul.

At the time of the terrible earthquake in Northern Italy and in France, a girl from Nice named Nathaline was caught under a fallen house and remained 3 days buried alive. When unearthed, a copy of this Letter was found on her! She was illiterate and uneducated. When found she was sleeping, untouched by the devastation of the earthquake!

On March 12, 1821, many emigrants from S. Giovanni Incarico, in the Province of Caserta (Italy) sailed for America to look for work. During the trip they were caught in a most terrible storm, which threw their ship into collision with a warship. This caused it to sink. The event occurred on the 19th, St. Joseph's Day. Out of the 667 people on board, only 9 were saved. Every one of them had a copy of this Letter of Christ in his possession. The survivors were found almost naked, wearing only their vests, in the pockets of which the Letters were found, dry and not even wrinkled!

Two of the survivors from the same town, named Luigi Ceccaccio and Francesco Nero, furnished ample and substantial proof of the miraculous event.

Another miracle of the Sacred Letter of Jesus Christ was revealed at the Island of Iri, also in Italy. A man was peacefully sleeping in his bed, when a mysterious hand shook him abruptly and a voice thundered: "Get up in haste, and save yourself, in a corner of the house!" Promptly complying with the divine warning, the man rose and reached, pale and trembling, a remote corner, just in time to see the floor whereon he had lain in bed, sink into a deep abyss. This Letter saved him. For more testimonies go to: <http://www.catholictradition.org/Christ/true-letter.htm>



Fr. Luigi Villa's Spec. Ed. Chiesa Viva #381 "A New Church Dedicated to St. Padre Pio – A Masonic Temple?" is now in our office. We have sent out our backordered issues to those that we had listed as needing a copy but if anyone who ordered one over the last couple of years and has not receive one, please contact us and we will send one out ASAP.

Update on the ongoing Fundraiser for the Conceptionists in Quito, Ecuador

Since the beginning of 2013, after receiving a desperate plea from the Conceptionist Sisters for a substantial donation for a new property title for their Monastery Property demanded by the local government, we had been collecting and sending donations to help them. In January- February 2014, we visited the Conceptionists. Greeting us with smiles, the Mother Abbess and another sister informed us that all of the issues with the title to the convent had been resolved and they thanked us most graciously for the donations of this past year in achieving this goal for a new title. Of course, we know that Our Lady promised that this convent would always be protected and survive until the end of time- as well as ensuring that this Monastery would contain victim souls to offer sacrifices to make reparation for this guilt-laded world that we live in until the end of time. **She asked that we thank all of you for your generosity and that Our Lady thanks you as well.**



Would you like to help us to reproduce Holy Face Protection Crosses for the Carmelites in Brooklyn, NY?

The good sisters at Carmel in Brooklyn, NY were in dire need of Holy Face Protection Crosses as their supply was running out. They called us in desperation asking us to assist them in acquiring new crosses for their growing apostolate of the Holy Face. We immediately gave them an answer in the positive knowing full well that Heaven will assist those who want to help spread this most beautiful of devotion to Our Lord. The cost for this project was almost \$3,000. God bless all of you who will help us! Thank you! We have done extensive printing for them in the past – Golden Arrow prayers, chaplet brochures etc. – we also have been asked to do their leaflet on the Holy Face Oil as well. To help the Carmelites send a donation with a memo titled "For Holy Face Protection Crosses" Thank you!

The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success -1288 Summit Ave. Suite 107, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, USA Phone: 262-5670920 Website: www.ourladyofgoodsuccess.com Quarterly Newsletter – In 2006, we started this project of a periodical to help spread the devotion to Our Lady of Good Success through the Apostolate members own testimonials. Currently, we are asking a \$10.00 donation annually. We do not send out reminders to our members to send a donation. If you are not interested in this publication, please contact us to remove you from the mailing list. We even mail to inmates in prisons across the USA when requested! Thank you for your continued support! Donations are accepted, greatly needed and appreciated!