



“Behold I Send My Angel and He Shall Prepare the Way before My Face”

[From the Epistle on The Presentation and Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Candlemas Day- February 2nd, Malachias 3, 1]

By Kathleen Heckenkamp

In discovering the devotion to Our Lady of Good Success, upon traveling to Quito in 2000 and in the subsequent visits, I encountered another devotion that has connections to the Conceptionist and the Carmelite orders at their heart- that of the devotion to the Holy Face. I was immediately drawn by the two images of the Holy Face- one of the Veil in the Carmelite Monastery and one of the Shroud in the Conceptionist Monastery. It is due to their presence there and the devotion of my father to the Shroud and my brother-in-law’s devotion

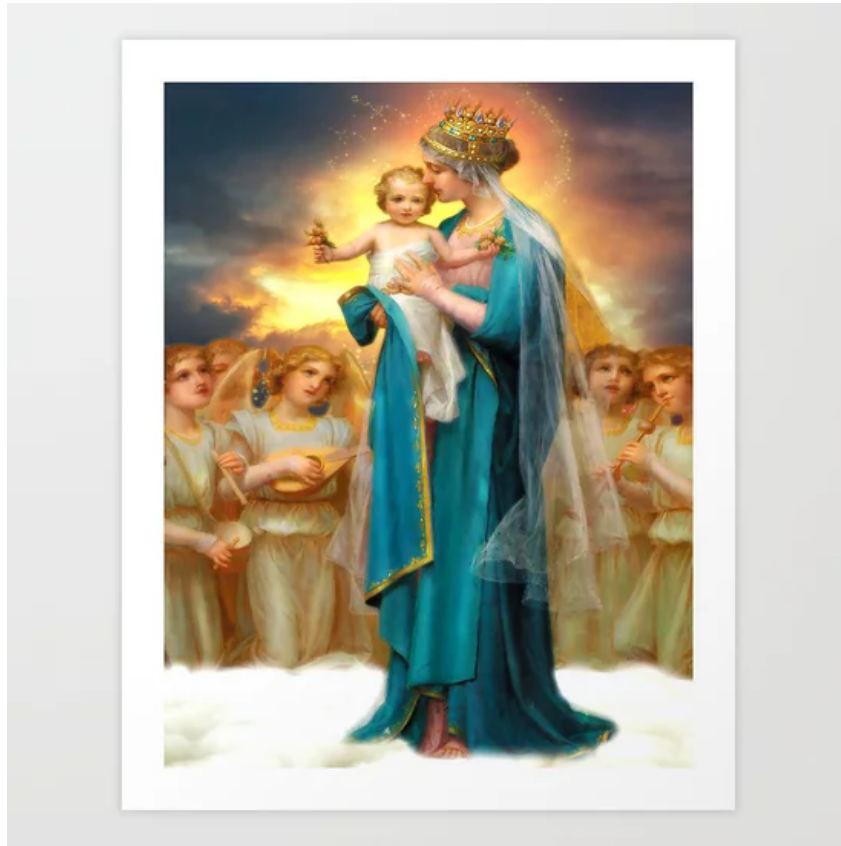
to the the Holy Face that eventually led me to not only studying their origins in these monastic orders and begin my own devotions to the Holy Face but then, some years later to spread it.

In this article I wish to support the connections between the devotion of Our Lady of Good Success and the Holy Face by the following points:

- Our Lady, Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres and Sr. Marie St. Peter were all victim souls for our time.
- The Presentation and its connections to these two devotions have reparation for the grave sin of **blasphemy** at its core.
- These devotions show that the grave sins of **blasphemy**, heresy, and impurity most especially committed by religious souls cause grievous wounds in the hearts of Our Lord and Our Lady. Thus, not only was Our Lady’s heart was pierced with a sword at the Presentation, but the victim souls of Mother Mariana and Sr. Marie St. Peter were wounded in a similar manner.
- These devotions to honor Our Lord and Our Lady with the feast of Candlemas, Our Lady of Good Success and the Holy Face are pleasing to God as they are meant to be used to make reparation for the sins of **blasphemy**, heresy and impurity. Thus, with these weapons along with the rosary, we can effectively wage war against the enemies of God and the Church. These devotions are directed toward the positive outcome of the eventual Triumph of the Church. Therefore, we must not only take care to instill these devotions in ourselves and our children but also spread it to others to help give consolation and strength in these times.

Historical and Biblical Account of the Feast Day of the Presentation of Our Lord and

the Purification of Our Lady also known as Candlemas Day.



The Feast of Our Lady of Good Success on February 2 which is the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple/ Purification of Our Lady and also known as Candlemas day is known as the official day in which Our Lord was presented to His Heavenly Father as a sacrifice for the sins of men and secondly to Humanity via the arms of Our Lady placing Her Son in the adoring arms of Simeon and the rejoicing of the voice of Anna the Prophetess for the arrival of the Messiah. As it is articulated in the *Antiphon for the Feast of Candlemas*:

“Adorn thy bridal-chamber, O Sion, and welcome Christ the King: embrace Mary for she who is the very gate of heaven, bringeth to thee the glorious King of the new light. Remaining ever a Virgin in her arms she bears her Son begotten before the day-star, whom Simeon receiving into his arms, declared unto all the peoples to be the Lord of life and of death, and the Saviour of the world.” ¹

In the *“Mystical City of God Volume II – The Incarnation”* by Sr. Maria de Agreda, we learn about that magnificent day in which the Holy Family processed to the temple with these beautiful words: **“On the next morning, the Sun of heaven being now ready to issue from its purest dawning, the Virgin Mary, on whose arms He reclined, and being about to rise up in full view of the world, the heavenly Lady, having provided the turtle-dove and two candles, wrapped Him in swaddling-clothes and betook Herself with saint Joseph from their lodging to the temple. The holy angels, who had come with them from Bethlehem, again formed in procession in corporeal and most beautiful forms, just as has been said concerning the journey of the preceding day. On this occasion however the holy spirits added many other hymns of the sweetest and most entrancing harmony in honor of the infant God, which**

were heard only by the most pure Mary. Besides the ten thousand, who had formed the procession on the previous day, in numerable others descended from heaven, who, accompanied by those that bore the shields of the holy name of Jesus, formed the guard of honor of the incarnate Word on the occasion of his presentation.”²

Thus, we can observe that on this day that Our Infant King for the first time in the history was publicly presented to the world as Its savior. His Sweet Countenance was observed by all and revered, venerated and adored by the prophets, Simeon, and Anna along with Mary and Joseph in the temple. He was recognized as the long-awaited Messiah. Secondly, we can see a significant angelic demonstration in Defense of the Holy Name of Jesus, the Infant King, and Savior of the World, by the Heavenly Hosts in the form of a shielding spiritual army. Perhaps only the Holy Mother of God was aware of this spiritual army but nonetheless it is written that there was in fact one present. When I read the account of the fourteen thousand angels and some even carrying **the shields of the holy name of Jesus, forming the guard of honor of the incarnate Word**, I could not help but recalled the words: **“Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array?”** [Canticles (Song of Solomon) 6:9] Was it not most appropriate for this woman to have an army of angels accompanying her and her Child to the temple?



In the Gospel of the Feast of Candlemas, it is also written in Luke 2, 22-32:

“And behold there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Ghost was in him: and he had received an answer from the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. And he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when His parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he also took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said: Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace; **because my eyes**

have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.”³

As we meditate on these words, we can ascertain that with the words “see” and “had seen” there is a special grace that the Holy Ghost promised Simeon. He had prayed to “see” the Savior and that he did! Therefore, he asked, and he received the gift to “see” but he also received more than that.

Mary of Agreda continues and gives proof to the public presentation/manifestation of the Infant King-Messiah: *“Simeon, addressing himself to the most holy Mother of the Infant Jesus, then added: ‘Behold this Child is set for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted. And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed.’ Thus saint Simeon; and being a priest he gave his blessing to the happy parents of the Child. Then also*

the prophetess Anne acknowledged the incarnate Word, and full of the Holy Ghost, **she spoke of the mysteries of the Messiah to many, who were expecting the redemption of Israel. By these two holy old people public testimony of the coming of the Redeemer was given to the world.**" ⁴

Thus, one can see that this feast not only **honors the Name of Jesus** but it also **reveres the gentle and most pure and Holy Infant Face of Jesus Christ** that Simeon and Anna prayed to behold before they died.



There is yet another mystical aspect to this historical event that we celebrate on Candlemas which was explained by **St Alphonsus de Ligouri**. It is the premise that **Our Lady acted as a victim soul or Co-Redemptrix officially beginning at the**

Presentation when Simeon pronounces these words: "And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that, out of many hearts, thoughts may be revealed."[Luke 2:35]

Saint Alphonsus writes in **"The Glories of Mary"**:

"Thus, Mary not only offered her Son to death in the Temple, but she renewed that offering every moment of her life for she revealed to St Bridget that the sorrow announced to her by the holy Simeon never left her heart until her Assumption into heaven. In the Presentation how much more deeply did she submit to God's will and repeat 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to Thy word'" (Luke 1:38)

St Alphonsus goes onto say: **"The wills of Christ and Mary were then united, so that both offered the same holocaust; she thereby producing with Him the same effect, the salvation of the world."** ⁵



"My daughter, will you sacrifice yourself for the people of this time?"

[Words of the Eternal Father to Mother Mariana]

With the history of the devotion of Our Lady of Good Success and the apparitions given to Mother Mariana in a Conceptionist Monastery in Quito four hundred years ago, this mission of victimhood for the salvation of Mankind was offered to her by Our Lady herself. Mother Mariana accepted this mission for us in these times and she thus shared in the sufferings of both Our Lord and Our Lady as a victim. One can ask this question: "With the continued transmitting of this beautiful story of a victim soul for our times, is Heaven extending this offer to us as well?"

A brief outline of the most important aspects of these apparitions and prophecies is given here below in order to demonstrate the similarities of the two

devotions to: Our Lady of Good Success and the Holy Face in a harmonized relationship with the Feast of the Presentation.

- This mission of reparation and expiation for future sins is exemplified in the **visions beginning in 1582**. Mother Mariana was praying at the feet of crucifix telling Our Lord of a particularly bitter situation in the Monastery and begging Him for fortitude. At that moment, she heard a tremendous sound, and saw that the whole Church had become immersed in darkness caused by dust and smoke.
- Then, she beheld Our Lord agonizing on the cross and she heard the Eternal Father say: **“This punishment will be for the 20th century!”** Then, she saw three swords over the head of Our Lord. On each was written: **“I shall punish heresy,” “I shall punish blasphemy,” “I shall punish impurity,”** and she was given to understand all that would take place in the 20th century. The Holy Virgin, who stood at the foot of the cross, continued: **“My daughter, will you sacrifice yourself for the people of this time?” “I am willing.”** Mariana replied. **“My Spouse, choose one of these crowns.”** ⁶ She was given a choice between the glory of Heaven or the glory that would be hers if she would return to earth to suffer as a **sacrificial victim to placate the Divine Justice for the heresies, blasphemies and impurities that would be committed in the 20th century**. Reassured by the Virgin of her promise to assist her, Mariana agreed, and she embraced this vocation for over 50 years not unlike Padre Pio.
- Early in the morning on **February 2, 1594**, while Mother Mariana was praying in the upper choir beseeching Our Lord, through the intercession of His Blessed Mother, to stop the turmoil in the Monastery and for an end to the many sins being committed in the world, she sensed she was no longer alone. She was fearful, but a sweet voice called to her. She then saw a beautiful Lady, who carried the Child Jesus in her left arm, and in her right, a polished gold crosier adorned with precious stones. With her heart filled with joy and happiness, she said:

“Beautiful Lady, who art thou and what dost thou want?...”

The Lady answered: **“I am Mary of Good Success, the Queen of Heaven and Earth... I have come from the Heaven to console your afflicted heart...I am the Queen of Victories and the Mother of Good Success, and it is under this invocation I desire to be known throughout time for the preservation of my Convent and its inhabitants... Now, I desire to give you strength and encouragement. Do not allow suffering to discourage you. For you will live a long time on this earth for the glory of God and His Mother, who speaks to you now. My Most Holy Son desires to give you every type of suffering. And to infuse you with the valor that you will need, I take Him from my arms. Receive Him in your own. Hold Him to your weak and imperfect heart!”** ⁷

- Then, on January 21st, 1610, Our Lady of Good Success appeared to Mother Mariana to explain why this devotion was important. ***Our Lady herself confirmed the reasons for the promotion of this devotion for she herself showed Mother Mariana the future and then told her: “Thus, I make it known to you that from the end of the 19th century and from shortly after the middle of the 20th century, in what is today the Colony and will then be the Republic of Ecuador, the passions will erupt and there will be a total corruption of customs, for Satan will reign almost completely by means of the Masonic Sects... In this supreme moment of need of the Church, the one who should speak will fall silent!... They will have recourse to Me under the invocation of Our Lady of Good Success, whose Statue I ask and command that you have made for the consolation and preservation of my Convent and of the faithful souls of that time, an epoch***

when there will be a great devotion to Me, for I am Queen of Heaven under many invocations. **This devotion will be the shield between Divine Justice and the prevaricating world to prevent the release of God's formidable punishment that this guilty earth deserves."** ⁸

- On February 2, 1610, at 1:30 AM, Mother Mariana was praying meditating on the humility of Mary the Most Holy in the sublime mystery of the Purification. When she was concluding her prayer, suddenly she felt herself overcome by a joy intermixed with fear, and immediately found herself in the presence of Our Lady of Good Success, who was looking at her with amiable severity without saying a single word. To the worries of Mother Mariana, Our Lady said: **"...With the making of my Statue, I will favor not only you and my Convent, but also the people – and the general public – through the centuries. Since this Convent is a fortress, it will bring salvation for many souls, drawing them from the abyss of sin in which they find themselves. God will be glorified in those souls. How many conversions it will bring about!... During that epoch the Church will find herself attacked by terrible hordes of the Masonic sect, and this poor Ecuadorian land will be agonizing because of the corruption of customs, unbridled luxury, the impious press, and secular education. The vices of impurity, blasphemy, and sacrilege will dominate in this time of depraved desolation, and that one who should speak out will be silent.... A simple, humble faith in the truth of my apparitions to you, my favoured child, will be reserved for humble and fervent souls who are 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 or infatuated with empty science."** ⁹
- On February 2, 1611, the official consecration of the statue by the bishop of Quito and her title given as: **"Mary of Good Success of the Purification, or Candlemas."** The bishop blessed her and said: **"Dear Lady, I deliver to Thee the Church."** Then, he placed the Crozier in Her right hand, saying: **"Dear Lady, I deliver to Thee the government of this Convent and of my flock in general."** Finally, he placed the Keys in the same hand holding the Crosier, saying: **"Dear Lady, and my Mother, I deliver to Thee my soul. Open the doors of Heaven to me, for the time remaining to me in this life is quite brief. Watch over this Tabernacle and these cloisters of your daughters with care and affection. Defend them always and conserve in them the religious spirit that should characterize the spouses of thy Most Holy Son."** ¹⁰
- This above mentioned idea of St Alphonsus that Our Lady holds the title of Co-Redemptrix is affirmed **on February 2, 1634, Candlemas Day,** as Mother Mariana was being prepared by the Blessed Trinity to receive the greatest of all of her apparitions. In this vision much was revealed to her about the mysteries of the Blessed Trinity, Eucharist, Christ's sacrifice to save Mankind and one quote greatly supports the belief that Our Lady acted as Co- Redemptrix for it is written: **"She understood how the Blessed Virgin was preserved from original sin "anti praevisa merita"[in prevision of the merits] of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so that this most beautiful and immaculate Creature could carry out the Divine Will without obstacle or personal resistance in the great work of the Redemption and salvation of souls. She saw the Immaculate Virgin also as Queen, Mother, and Protectress of the Catholic Church, founded by Christ Our Redeemer with such great sufferings, and that it would be preserved by means of the protection and support of this Sovereign Queen and embellished by the blood of martyrs, who would never be lacking in any epoch."** ¹¹

- ***This apparition of February 2, 1634, in particular described the events that were highlighted aspects of the Loss of the Faith in our times.*** On this date, less than a year before her death, Mother Mariana was given reasons why the sacramental Sanctuary Light would be extinguished in the Church. It would be caused by the jealousy and anger of the devil against God and His Faithful who would use Masonic sects to infect and infiltrate into the Church. She saw that her fellow **“countrymen would work to oppress the Church in their assemblies... for they would have already entered the party of Satan by becoming members of the Masonic Lodges...Our Lord showed her how the hideous and pestiferous wild boar of Masonry would enter the beautiful, flourishing vineyard of the Church, leaving it destroyed and in complete ruins...the Masonic Sect, having infiltrated all the social classes, will be so subtle as to introduce itself into domestic ambiances in order to corrupt the children, and the Devil will glory in dining upon the exquisite delicacy of the hearts of children.”** ¹²

In this apparition, five reasons were outlined by Our Lady of Good Success for the extermination of the Sanctuary Light:

1. Propagation of heresies and corruption of customs.
2. Loss of vocations caused by bad formation due to lax and corrupt superiors.
3. Impurity would reign and almost no virgin souls could be found.
4. Masonic sects will have infiltrated into all aspects of society and thus, the innocence of children would be destroyed.
5. Those having wealth would not assist the Church in Her dire need. Our Lady revealed: ***“The fifth reason for the lamp being extinguished is due to the laxity and the negligence of those who possess great wealth, who will indifferently stand by and witness the Church being oppressed, virtue being persecuted, and the triumph of evil, without piously employing their riches for the destruction of this evil and the restoration of the Faith. It is also due to the indifference of the people in allowing the Name of God to be gradually snuffed out and adhering to the spirit of evil, freely delivering themselves to the vices and passions. Alas! my chosen daughter! If it were given to you to live in this tenebrous era, you would die of sorrow to see all that I have revealed to you here take place. Most Holy Son and I have a great love for this land, our legacy, that we desire that even now the application of your sacrifices and prayers to shorten the time of such a terrible catastrophe!”***^{13h}

There it is before us! ***“Due to the indifference of the people in allowing the Name of God to be gradually snuffed out,” we will no longer have the glow of the red sanctuary light in our churches!*** Alas, I would even be so bold to suggest that many churches no longer have a sanctuary light lit for obvious reasons of combining parishes and even a disbelief in the True Presence in some priests besides a host of other reasons.

In November 1634, Our Lord informed Mother Mariana that the **indifference of the clergy** would cause their vocations to be lost thus effecting an abandonment of many souls with the extreme result of calling down terrible chastisements upon nations due to their sins. ***“My priests and religious will fall into a fatal indifference. Their frigidity will extinguish the fire of divine love, afflicting My loving Heart with these small thorns that you see... And this suffering is caused by the lack of correspondence to the deluge of graces with which I inundate My priests and religious and, consequently, by the sins that they commit! Know, moreover, that Divine***

Justice releases terrible chastisements on entire nations, not only for the sins of the people but for those of priests and religious persons. For the latter are called, by the perfection of their state, to be the salt of the earth, the masters of truth, and the shields to hold back Divine Ire. Straying from their sublime mission, they degrade themselves in such a way that, before the eyes of God, they increase the rigor of the punishments..."¹⁴

In conclusion, Mother Mariana spent her whole entire victimhood defending God, His Holy Name, His Church and Her members most especially those she was asked to suffer for in the Twentieth Century in secret. Her mission was thus finally realized and recognized by the Church in Quito in the Twentieth Century as prophesied. She stands as a model of Catholic charity to all Catholic Faithful in these times to pray and offer penances to make reparations for these terrible sins - most especially those of **blasphemy**, heresy and impurity committed during this time.

In 1987, Mons. Dr. Luis E. Cadena y Almeida, Postulator for the Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God Mother Mariana Francisca de Jesus Torres y Berriochoa. Quito, on March 1, 1987, confirmed this by composing a beautiful prayer written: **"Solemn Pledge to Mother Mariana..."** Here are a few excerpts from it: *"Blessed be Mariana Francisca de Jesus Torres! Thy warnings of justice have struck our very bones... by the example of thy life, resplendent with virtues; by the fulfillment of thy prophecies and the Divine message that thy hands placed in our consciences; by all the marvels of sanctity, love and graces worked by God to form thee, educate thee, and perfect thee; and by thy sacrificial and permanent self-surrender for our conversion and salvation; for these and all that we owe thee, we offer to thee our undying gratitude..."¹⁵ The prayer affirms the idea that Mother Mariana was indeed a victim soul for all of the world in the Twentieth Century and beyond.*

Moreover, may I be so bold as to go further even than Mons. Cadena to suggest that after meditating on these Divine mysteries of the Presentation - Candlemas, and the apparitions of Mother Mariana, we might imagine that Our Lady of Good Success not only had special designs upon Mother Mariana's good heart and humble soul that desired to imitate her, but also on other future souls. Additionally, then, it could be suggested that not only is this a feast of the commemoration of Mary's courageous sacrifice of Her Infant Son to His Heavenly Father in reparation for sinful Mankind, but also a feast in which Our Lady and Christ asked Mother Mariana to partake in a victimhood of reparation. And finally, as we witness the Church's passion and deathlike state in these times, perhaps we can assume that they are asking others to imitate and share in this mystery, each in their own way, by offering their life with all of its joys and sorrows in union with our Blessed Mother and Our Savior. By imitating them, may all work toward that day of the Church's Resurrection- Her Restoration and Her Triumph!



"My name is everywhere blasphemed, even children blaspheme it." ¹⁶

[Our Lord to Sr. Marie St. Peter August 26th, 1843]

The connection between this victimhood of February 2 and the Work of Reparation for the grave sins of blasphemy, heresy, and impurity will now be examined and will appear evident.

Let us remember that the devotion and the prophecies surrounding Mother Mariana's apparitions were unknown to the world since Our Lady of Good Success promised Mother Mariana that her name would remain hidden until the 20th century when it would become synonymous with hers. They would only be revealed after the following events that will be mentioned in this next section were brought to light.

St Alphonsus de Ligouri is quoted by Abbe Janvier in the biography, *"The Life of Sr. Marie St. Peter."* His inspiring words help to breach the timeline from the

apparitions of Our Lady of Good Success and those of Sr. Marie St. Peter from Our Lord-the Holy Face, Himself for he lived in the 1700's..

From the book, *"The Life of Sr. Marie St. Peter,"* Abbe Janvier writes: *"On this of subject [Blasphemy], St. Alphonsus de Liguori says: "Blasphemy, so widespread in our days, is an abomination to the Lord. It is the most deadly of all sins; and is ordinarily unpardonable, for it is a crime of the highest magnitude that can be committed against the Divinity; a crime which attacks God openly and directly; a crime therefore which God rarely pardons."* (Tauney's life of St Alphonsus V. IV. Ch. XV.) In his last years speaking of France, he says: *"Blasphemy is the cause of maledictions on the earth. Unfortunate France! how I pity thee and thy millions of poor, innocent victims who will be involved in thy disgrace!" ¹⁷*



Thankfully, Heaven has been patient and has forgiven us thus far. Accordingly, it has continued to warn the people to repent, do penance, truly love God and beg them to return to the correct path to Heaven. As sin has increased in intensity and number, all the more God also increases His efforts in intensity and number. Thus, Our Lord decided to appear to a **French Carmelite Sister, Sr. Marie St. Peter in Tours, France beginning in 1842**. Due to the tearing down of Catholic ideals by the French Revolution, a restoration and rejuvenation of the Catholic Faith was needed. Once again, Our Lord took pity on France and visited Her with His Holy Face as the object of devotion and reparation.

When one starts to investigate these revelations, one can see **that the devotions to the Sacred Heart and Holy Face are intertwined**. It appears as though in our refusal to collectively acknowledge the reign of Christ the King and

His Sacred Heart, Our Lord takes even more pity on us and once again makes a plea for us to once more “look on him whom they pierced” in hopes of our conversion.

He knows that we cannot have one without the other for as we gaze upon the suffering visage of Christ, we cannot help but recall His great Love for Mankind contained in His Most Adorable Heart, as it is manifested from His battered and bruised Face. We can even see the sorrow of His Heart emitted from His features, most especially in His closed eyes of Veronica’s veil. As one meditates on this image, one wonders what His look would be upon us if He would but open His eyes to gaze upon us. Our own hearts can only feel love, sorrow, pity and shame for sins committed. Sr. Marie St. Peter said herself: ***“The Holy Face is a picture of the Divinity outraged by the opprobrium, of blasphemers, as the Sacred Heart is a picture of the immense love of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.”***¹⁸

In reading the words of Our Lord to Sr. Marie St. Peter, it becomes clear that He wishes us to focus on the totality of His



sufferings perhaps even more on the spiritual, psychological, and emotional anguishes of Our Lord revealed to us through meditation on His Holy Face.

In 1842, she explains: *"He made me understand that the intelligence of man cannot conceive the heinousness of the affronts offered God by the sin of **blasphemy**. This crime pierces his Sacred Heart and covers him with wounds like another Lazarus. He pointed out the compassionate dogs who consoled poor Lazarus by licking his wounds and invited me to render him a similar service, employing my tongue every day to glorify the Holy Name of God despised and blasphemed by sinners. I never stopped to consider whether this exercise would give me interior consolation or not; it was sufficient to think that I soothed his divine wounds and gave him some relief. It seemed that he also said: Do all in your power to have this Work established; I shall enrich you with my merits that you may obtain it from My Father. Ask in My Name and it shall be granted you. Here terminates the first account of the sister, relative to the Reparation in general; she concludes with the following declaration: **"It is in the Sacred Heart of Jesus that I have found this Work; it is also in this Divine Heart, burning with zeal for the glory of his Father..."**"*¹⁹

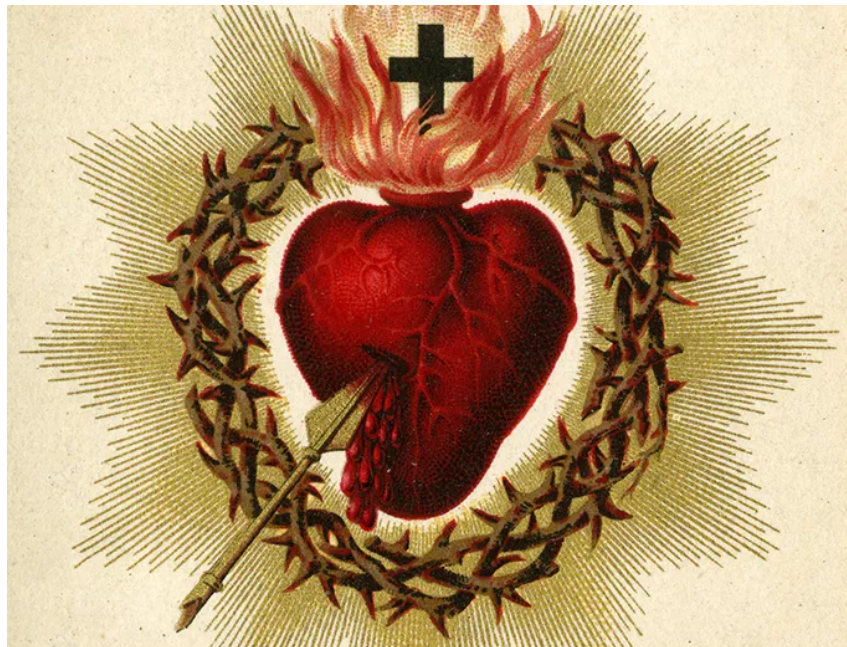
Before going further, it is worth noting a few things that tie this devotion of the Holy Face to the devotion of Our Lady of Good Success as you can see Our Lord tells Sr. Marie St. Peter that this grave sin of Blasphemy is in need of souls to make reparation to stop Him from chastising the world. Looking back to the words of the Eternal Father in one of the first apparitions to Mother Mariana, He tells her that He is ready to punish the world in our time due to the sins of blasphemy, heresy and impurity. Heaven asks for reparation for the future in the sixteenth century from Mother Mariana in the form of her victimhood and now again in France in the Nineteenth Century from Sr. Marie St. Peter. They were called, as the Blessed Mother had been, to help make up for what was lacking in Our Lord's immolation on the Cross. However, in the case of Sr. Marie St. Peter, Our Lord will later come to ask for a "militia" to fight against the enemies of God and the Church on the Feast of Candlemas.



It is also important to realize that in all of these dates even back to the Feast of Candlemas, a sword or dagger is used to relay the victimhood of all of them i.e. Our Blessed Mother, Mother Mariana and Sr. Marie St. Peter. In other words, they would make reparation even unto death as Our Lord did on the Cross and was the proof of consummation was the piercing of Our Lord's heart with a lance. In these instances, though wounded in their hearts, the Lord sustains them and keeps them alive to carry on with their annihilation until the amount of reparation deemed necessary is fulfilled. Our Lady's perfect oblation continued from the Presentation until the Assumption, Mother Mariana's from her acceptance in 1582 until her death in 1635 and Sr. Marie St. Peter offering on Christmas 1843 until her death in 1848.

On August 26th, 1843, Sr. Marie St. Peter had the first of many visions from Our Lord about the work of reparation against **blasphemy**. Our Lord spoke these words to her as He unfolded his Heart: *"My Name is everywhere blasphemed, even little children blaspheme it. And he made me understand how that dreadful sin pierced and wounded his Heart, aye, more than all other crimes. By **blasphemy**, the sinner outrages him to his face, attacks him openly, and pronounces upon himself his own judgment and condemnation. **Blasphemy** is an empoisoned dagger, wounding his Divine Heart continually; he told me that he would give me a golden dagger with which to wound him delightfully, and heal the poisonous wounds caused by sin."* ²⁰

Sr. Marie St. Peter writes: *"The following is the prayer which Our Lord dictated to me, notwithstanding my unworthiness, for the reparation of **blasphemy** against his Holy Name: he offered it to me as a golden dagger, assuring me that every time I said it, I would wound his Heart most lovingly."*



THE GOLDEN DAGGER [aka ARROW] PRAYER.

"May the most holy, the most sacred, the most adorable, the most unknown and the most inexpressible Name of God be adored, praised, blessed, loved and glorified, in heaven, on earth and in hell, by all creatures formed by his sacred hand, and by the loving Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ in the most Blessed Sacrament of the altar. Amen." ²¹

On November 24, 1843, Our Lord spoke the following words to Sister Marie de Saint-Pierre:

"I have as yet revealed but a part of the designs of my Heart; today, I desire to show them to you in their fullest extent. The earth is covered with crime! The sins against the three first commandments have provoked the wrath of my Father; the Holy Name of God blasphemed, and the profanation of the Lord's Day fill to overflowing the measure of iniquity ; this sin has mounted even to the throne of the Most High, and has aroused his wrath, which will burst forth over mankind in an impetuous torrent, if his justice be not appeased ; in no other time has iniquity reached such a degree. I most ardently desire the formation of a society well approved and properly organized, to honor the Name of my Father..."²²



On the eve of the Immaculate Conception, 1843, another vision:" Our Lord declared to me during this morning's meditation. He deputed me to relate it all to my superiors without fear of having been deceived, I shall do so in all simplicity. **Our Lord having recollected the powers of my soul in his Divine Heart, manifested his anger against France saying, that he had sworn in his wrath to be revenged, if reparation were not made to his heavenly Father for all the blasphemy of which she is guilty. He declared to me that he could no longer dwell in this sinful France, which like a**

viper gnaws away at the bowels of his mercy. He suffers patiently all the affronts against himself, but the outrages committed against his Divine Father provoke his just indignation. France has suckled the breasts of mercy even unto blood, for this reason shall mercy cede to justice. "At these words, I was so terrified that I cried out: My Lord and my God! permit me to ask you, if this reparation which you demand, be offered you, will you pardon France once more? And he replied: **I shall pardon her, but remember, only once more. As this sin of blasphemy is publicly committed everywhere in the kingdom of France, the reparation must likewise be made throughout the nation in every village and in every hamlet; woe to those who do not make reparation!**"²³

What was these sins of blasphemy that were so great that Our Lord compares France to a "viper"? Almost two hundred years ago Abbe Janvier explains the anger of Our Lord. One can only shudder to see that this scourge of France has spread around the world universally. He writes: *"The reproaches of the Saviour were, alas! but too well merited, for her guilt is glaringly palpable. From every rank of society **blasphemy** issues forth with frightful impetuosity, attacking the Godhead openly, and wounding him as if with a poisoned arrow. To the vile **blasphemy** of the common people is added the **doctrinal blasphemy** of the freethinker. From the streets and thoroughfares of the city, it has succeeded in gaining entrance to the public-room, to the schools, even to the family fireside; it enthrones itself in our theatres, in our club-rooms; it parades itself unblushingly before the public; it is to be heard in ordinary conversation ; it forces its way into our books, our pamphlets, our newspapers, and in short, into the multitudinous collection of periodicals with which our literary market is daily inundated. It disguises itself under every possible form to suit every taste, but by preference adopting the tone of jest and pleasantry, o natural to the French character; it provokes the mocking laugh; by turns it can be philosophical or commonplace yet is always influential on the multitude. It attacks, first of all, the dignitaries of the Church, those most worthy of respect and the most elevated, then dogmatic teachings, aye, the very existence of Christianity itself; yet more, it hesitates not to attack God himself, to deny his nature, his rights, nay, his very existence. This it*

is that "fills the measure of iniquity to overflowing," and cries to heaven for vengeance. **France, among all other nations, is named as the most guilty, because she is the one most favored by heaven, the Beloved of Christ, and the Eldest Daughter of the Church. Blasphemy impedes her from fulfilling the providential role assigned her; she places at the service of the impious of all other nations, the influence and ascendancy which her wonderful resources and the natural genius of her people place at her disposal. Through the spirit of revolution of which she has become the centre and the most active agent in Europe, and the practical atheism which she professes both in her government and in her laws, she plays the part of a universal proselytizer as baneful to the individual as to society at large. Need we be astonished that she in particular has been threatened with the wrath of God.**"²⁴

On February 2, 1844, Candlemas Day, Our Lord asked that a militia be formed, of which He would be the commander-in-chief, to fight with the arms of His cross against the enemies of the Holy Name of God. This militia would be known as **"The Defenders of God's Holy Name."**

*"Our Lord gave me to understand that the association which he wished to establish in France had two objects in view: first, the Reparation of **blasphemy** uttered against God; second, the sanctification of his Holy Name on the Lord's Day; consequently, the extirpation of **blasphemy** and the prohibition of manual labor on Sunday. **Blasphemy** and the violation of the Lord's Day are the principal sins which provoke the anger of God against France."*



*"I beheld this association under the figure of an army of valiant soldiers, hastening to join their Chief, to defend the glory of his Father. He wished that their name should correspond to the nobility of their undertaking, and for this reason, that they should bear the title of, Defenders of the Holy Name of God. He also gave me to understand that each member should wear a badge in the form of a cross, bearing on one side **"Sit nomen Domini benedictum,"** and on the other **"Vade retro, Satana."** That he would give to this heavenly device a secret virtue to combat against the demon of **blasphemy**; that every time a member heard a **blasphemy** uttered, he should repeat the words written on this cross, and in this manner to wage war against Satan, thus glorifying God." "Our Lord manifested to me, that the devil would make use of every means in his power to crush this work from the beginning. I felt as though I could shed even the last drop of my blood for so holy an association. Our Lord told me also that he had said nothing to me for a long time, because it was not necessary; **that he did nothing undesignedly, but that it was expedient to give me this information today.**"²⁵*

A few weeks later, Our Lord lamented:

"...my friends and my faithful children! Behold if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow! My Divine Father and My cherished spouse, the Holy Church, are despised, outraged by my enemies. Will no one rise up to revenge me by defending them against those enemies? I can no longer remain in the midst of an ungrateful people: behold the torrents of tears that flow from my eyes! Can I find no one to dry them, by making reparation of honor to the glory of My Father, begging of Him the conversion of the guilty?"²⁶

During Lent 1844, speaking about the sins of blasphemy of the revolutionists of the time, the archbishop of Tours, Msgr. Morlot, explained: *"On the one hand, we behold open revolts and scandalous outrages committed against the divinity of God; on the other, lukewarmness, nay more, total indifference in the fulfilment of duty. These provoke the wrath of the Most High, whose justice, though patient and long suffering, is, nevertheless, inevitable ; whose vengeance, though tardy, is certain : for God has no need to punish day by day ; His power is eternal and not to be confounded with the justice of man, intimidated by the number of the guilty, and which, beholding the multitude to be punished, lets the sword fall powerless from its hand. It is not thus when God wishes to punish, **it is not the number of the guilty which arrests his hand, he then counts but the just, and when these have disappeared from the face of the earth, his arm falls mercilessly.**"* ²⁷

In March 1844, Our Lord told Sister Marie, **"Oh, if you only knew what great merit you acquire by saying even once, 'Admirable is the name of God', in the spirit of reparation of blasphemy!"** ²⁸

Though Sr. Marie St. Peter had offered herself as a victim at Christmas 1843 as mentioned previously, it was also suggested by her Archbishop after she presented him with the wishes of Our Savior. She was so averse to speaking with this Prince of the Church that she suffered a silent interior martyrdom in which she could not even eat until she met with this prelate.

Upon receiving her message in person on June 17th, 1845, regarding the Monsignor's part in the completion of the Work of Reparation, the prelate replied:

"My child, I desire with all my heart, to establish this Work, and to give it all the publicity it merits; but this is an undertaking of some difficulty; you cannot see all the obstacles. If at present there is so much difficulty in obliging the people to perform their obligations of precept, what would be said of me if I were to propose practices of piety hitherto unheard of? Would not the wicked be excited to blaspheme God more than ever? Commend our present embarrassments to God and pray fervently for me; ask for new lights; if the Lord deign to enlighten you further, you must make it known to me. " He added, as if to tranquillize her with regard to her interior dispositions: **"My child, that which you experience bears not the impress of an illusion; no, sister, quite the contrary; I recognize therein the hidden workings of God. We have made inquiries and have ascertained that many persons have had the same inspiration as you on the subject of this Work of Reparation, which now exists in Italy, and there is a movement in its favor in many dioceses of France. It is my desire that pious souls embrace this devotion, but that you in particular, should offer yourself to God as a Victim. Offer your penances and all your works as a sacrifice of Reparation for the Church and for France; unite yourself to our Lord Jesus Christ in the most Blessed Sacrament of the altar, to render through him honor, praise, and glory to the three divine persons of the adorable Trinity; endeavor to stay the arm of the Almighty, that it may not fall heavily upon us. Address yourself to the Sacred Heart of Mary, and offer to the Eternal Father, through the hands of this august**



Mother, the most Precious Blood of her Divine Son, his sufferings and all his merits; and I hope we shall thus appease the anger of the Almighty."²⁹

On October 27th, 1845, receiving another vision from Our Lord, Sr. St. Peter wrote:

"I understood that as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the visible object offered to our admiration to represent his immense love in the most Blessed Sacrament of the altar, likewise, in the Work of Reparation, the Face of Our Lord is the sensible object offered for the adoration of the associates, to repair the outrages of blasphemers who attack the Divinity, of which it is the figure, the mirror and the image. In virtue of this adorable Face, offered to the Eternal Father, we can appease his anger and obtain the conversion of blasphemers. " Abbe Janvier follows with this explanation: "The co-relation existing between the devotion to the Sacred Heart and that of the Holy Face, could not have been better expressed. The Holy Face is a picture of the Divinity outraged by the opprobrium, of blasphemers, as the Sacred Heart is a picture of the immense love of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist."³⁰

Our Lord expressed to Sr. St. Peter that it was his wish to gain more repairers of blasphemy that would console His Heart and soothe His wounded Face:

"I seek for more Veronicas to console and adore my Divine Face, which has but few worshippers. "...To you I give My Holy Face as a recompense for the services you have performed for Me... I offer you this gift of My Holy Countenance ...By My Holy Face you will work wonders!"

Abbe Janvier then continues: "She understood that this precious gift was not for herself alone, but that it was to become the distinctive symbol of the projected work." She said, ***"For my Divine Master manifested his desire to see his Holy Face offered as the appropriate object of devotion to his children, the members of the Association of Reparation for Blasphemy, and he seemed to invite me to reveal his adorable Face under this aspect."*** She undoubtedly felt, at the same time, the excellence of the grace accorded her by Our Lord. " It was, he told me, the greatest grace he could have given me after that of the sacraments, and for which he had prepared and cultivated the soil of my soul by the interior trials which I had suffered a short time previously."³¹

In 1846 as Sr. Marie St. Peter seems to have doubts about her revelations and wrote this in regard to new revelations of how Our Lord is outraged by the sins of **blasphemy**. She is called upon to imitate Our Lady and explains this with these words: ***" My poor heart,"*** said she, ***"is wounded by a sword of sorrow. Our Lord directed my attention anew to the contemplation of his sacred head crowned with thorns, and to his adorable Face outraged by the enemies of God and of the Church."***³²

As Sr. Marie St. Peter climbed the ladder of sanctity, her mission seemed to become more detailed and specific. There was definitely a targeted enemy that was at the heart of the spread of universal blasphemy taking place at that time. Abbe Janvier dedicated a whole chapter on "Communists" in the biography of "The Life of Sr. Marie St. Peter. It becomes clear at this point that Our Lord had destined this devotion to be a weapon against this odious congregation of blasphemers, profanatory enemies and atheistic adversaries of God! It would be good to remember that while Freemasonry was organized officially in the 1700's, Communism was formed in the 1800's.

Here is just a little excerpt from this section: On March 29th, 1847 [approx. one year from her death] she writes: ***"God has imposed on me a new mission, at which I would be disturbed were I of any consequence, but as I am nothing but a feeble instrument in his all-powerful hand, I am not alarmed. He***

has commanded me to cross swords with the Communists who, as he told me, were the sworn enemies of the Church, and of his Christ. He gave me to understand that the greater number of these renegades were born in the bosom of the Church of whom they now declare themselves the most bitter enemies. Then he added: I have already made known to you that I hold you in my hands as an arrow, now I will shoot forth my arrow upon my enemies. To combat them, I give you the arms of my Passion, my Cross, of which they are the enemies, as also all the other instruments of my sufferings. Wage war against them with the simplicity of a child but with the courage of a valiant warrior. For this mission be signed with the blessing of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.” ³³

In order to get a full understanding of the intensity of which Christ bestowed this mission upon her it would be well to read this whole chapter titled: “Communists” because Abbe Janvier understood well that behind the Communist hid the Freemasons for, he writes the opening words of this chapter in this way:

“Secret societies, the scourge of the French people and the sworn enemy of the Church of God, had long been plotting their destructive machinations. The entire world has been more or less poisoned by the pernicious influence of both political and religious sects, diametrically opposed to all law and order. France, unhappily, has been the centre, and the most active agent in the formation and encouragement of these diabolical institutions. It is from her midst, Paris especially, that the revolutionary and anti-social spirit has spread all over Europe, assuming different names at different epochs to suit the caprice of the moment; at one time styling themselves Socialists, then Liberals, and again Nihilists.” ³⁴



To Sr. Marie St. Peter Our Lord emphasizes who the enemy at that time was and still is:

“Well, my daughter, it is the Communists who have dragged me from my tabernacles, profaned and despoiled my sanctuaries, and have even dared to raise their hands against the anointed of the Lord, but their designs shall be frustrated. Have they not committed the crime of Judas! Have they not sold me for silver! This knowledge should not remain sterile in your soul, for I give it you to help you in the combat. Be actuated with a spirit of simplicity, for if you reason too much, you will not be a fit instrument in my hands. Think rather of the glory which the heavenly court will render me for having made use of so worthless a creature in so noble a cause!” ³⁵

On the February 26th, after having received Holy Communion, our Carmelite was much consoled, the

Lord having said these words relative to the Community: ***“Fear not, little troop, thou art reposing under the salutary banner of my Name. No evil shall befall thee, for all power is in my hand, and I will not suffer thee to be wrested from my grasp.”*** “Verily,” cries out the pious virgin, “the Lord will recognize and protect all those who invoke his Holy Name; it is an all-powerful rampart, shielding our house, for the members are united by the bonds of charity.” “Our Lord gave me to understand that the clergy, likewise,

will be spared; troubles and vexations will doubtless arise, but the hierarchy will not be openly persecuted; the blood of priests will not be shed as in because he has not as much reason to complain as in those unfortunate times. I am confident that the Church of France will be protected in virtue of the Holy Name of God." 'Holy Father, keep in thy Name those whom thou hast given me.' This is the prayer which we must continually recite for the Holy Church, in union with our Lord Jesus Christ.

I give you again the chief and most important member of my sacred person to offer to my Father in order to appease his divine justice. Oh! if you knew how efficacious, how full of virtue is my divine Face! I have taken upon my head the sins of mankind, that my members might be spared. Therefore, offer my Face to my Father, for it is the sole means of appeasing him." He adds: "I desire this Work of Reparation, rest assured that it shall be established, but the fruit has not yet reached maturity." ³⁶

So, in conclusion, both these devotions 1. To Our Lady of Good Success and 2. To the Holy Name of Jesus are heaven-sent, given to us to fight the enemies of God and His Church with the weapons of devotion to Her and Her Son. Additionally, through this article, it has been affirmed that the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord/ Purification of Our Lady also known as Candlemas is not only the principal feast for the devotees of Our Lady of Good Success but also for those who have taken up the shield of the Holy Name of Jesus to war against the enemies of God and the Church aka the Defenders of the Holy Name of Jesus.

In Mother Mariana's Last Will and Testament, she bids us to have recourse to Our Sorrowful Mother at the foot of the Cross that Holy Mother who gazes on the Holy Face of the Divine Victim, Her Son with these words:

"When the Divine Master was hanging from the ignominious gibbet of the Cross, on which He expired amidst His almost infinite sufferings and torments, the fourth word, or testament, that He gave to redeemed humanity was to leave us His left His Mother as our own. Addressing His Virgin Mother, He said: 'Woman, behold your son,' the beloved disciple. And, He said to John: 'Behold your Mother.' I make the fourth word of my dying Spouse, my own. I, your dying Mother, who directs my last words, to you from my deathbed tell you, my present-day daughters and those throughout time until the end of the world: Behold your Heavenly Mother, Our Lady of Good Success. She will always give you good successes." ³⁷



We then must have confidence that Our Lady will come to our aid and assist us in the battle and give us "good success." These enemies that Heaven warned about to both Mother Mariana and Sr. Marie St. Peter are inspired from the very pit of hell and can only be dispelled with the weapons of God.

Toward the end of Sr. Marie St. Peter's life, she perceived that this army that is to fight against these forces would be led by the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. She writes: *"...we must address ourselves to the glorious Virgin Mary with a boundless confidence. Beg her to place herself at the head of this holy army, she the **General of the armies of the Lord, more terrible than an army set in array...**" She was inspired to call her: **"Our Lady of the Holy Name of God"** ³⁸ and truly she is that!*

In our present time, the late Fr. Luigi Villa after reading and studying the history of Our Lady of Good Success shared with us that he had asked her to lead his battle against Freemasonry in the Church as his General of this mission which was a spiritual battle. He wanted her to lead his spiritual crusade to save souls. Fr. Villa had a life-size photograph in his official headquarters where he worked and an image on his desk to remind him of her presence in the battle. Unfortunately, his life ended in 2012 after a prolonged illness. Before he died, he told his faithful collaborators to **“Keep going and fight to the end!”** So, Our Lady continues to lead the battle!



The miraculous statue of Our Lady of Good Success in the Conceptionist Monastery in Quito, Ecuador demands a definitive authoritative and monarchical respect as she asked to be depicted as governing with her crosier. She appears as such for not only the sake of the sisters in the monastery in Quito to remind them that she represents the spiritual head of the monastery, ruling there until the end of time, but she also reveals herself in this manner to remind the faithful souls throughout time that she reigns on high over all the universe under the gaze of the Blessed Trinity. This fact is evidenced in one of the last apparitions to Mother Mariana, the Archangel Gabriel pronounces while handing the scepter to Our Lady: *“Take, o Lady, in thy sovereign right hand this crosier, which Divine Omnipotence has placed there so that, as Empress of Heaven and of earth, Thou might govern the universe and always quash the diabolical strength of the proud, tenacious Satan who, filled with furious envy, employs al his cunning for the perdition of souls. He will, however, always be conquered and humiliated by Thee, the*

Mother of the Divine Word.” ³⁹

In regard to the crosier, it can be found in the Catholic Encyclopedia these words: *“The crosier is symbol of authority and jurisdiction... borne by prelates to signify their authority to correct vices, stimulate piety, administer punishment, and thus rule and govern with a gentleness that is tempered with severity....”*

And so, this is the symbol that Heaven bestowed upon Our Lady, and one that she would hold until the end of time. Did Heaven allow such a depiction to display to the troops on the battlefield that we could trust and depend on Our Lady to lead the Church out of these tumultuous times as in the Canticle of Canticles- **“Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array?”**

The words of the **Bishop D. Salvador de Ribera** of Quito at the time of the official consecration of the statue in 1611 bears repeating as they are particularly poignant. This bishop was told that he only had a short time on earth and Heaven had told him in a dream that one of his last accomplishments in the world was to make sure that this statue of Our Lady of Good Success was made and consecrated.

His words to Our Lady seem to indicate that he wished her to be in command until the end of time. And this commandeering seems to be not only for the Conceptionist Monastery, but also Quito, Ecuador and the entire Church! With tear-filled eyes, He fulfilled the consecration on February 2, 1611, and as he placed her crown upon her head and bestowed the crosier and keys into her hands, he said these words:

"My Lady, I deliver to Thee the Church."

"My Lady, I deliver to Thee the government of this Convent and of my flock in general."

"My Lady and my Mother, I deliver to Thee my soul. Open to me the doors of Heaven, for the life remaining to me is quite brief. Watch over this tabernacle and this cloister of your daughters with care and affection. Defend it always and preserve in it the religious spirit that should characterize the spouses of Thy Most Holy Son." ⁴⁰



A fitting ending to this article is a prayer composed by Sr. Marie St. Peter as Our Lady of the Holy Name of God.

Prayer to Our Lady of the Holy Name of God

"Most holy and most worthy Mother of God! Most powerful advocate of Christians! I place the cause of the Holy Name of God into thy hands. "Holy Virgin! deign to receive this new title for thou art really Our Lady of the Holy Name of God, since thou art the Daughter of the Father, the Mother of the Son and the Spouse of the Holy Ghost, and that thou dost thyself proclaim that he has done great things unto thee and that his Name is holy! Verily, Blessed Virgin Mary! Thou art the honor and glory of the Holy Name of God, for thou art the masterpiece of his hand, of him who has operated such wonders in thee. Amen." ⁴¹

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