

¡Adorada sea la Santa Faz de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo!

IGLESIA CRISTIANA PALMARIANA DE LOS CARMELITAS DE LA SANTA FAZ

Residence: "Finca de Nuestra Madre del Palmar Coronada", Avenida de Jerez, Nº 51,
41719 El Palmar de Troya, Seville, Spain
Apartado de correos de Sevilla 4.058 — 41.080 Seville (Spain)

One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and Palmarian Church



SACRED DECREE ON CANONIZATION

We, Peter III, Sovereign Pontiff, Vicar of Christ, Successor of Saint Peter, Servant of the servants of God, Patriarch of Palmar de Troya, *de Glória Ecclesiæ*, Herald of the Lord God of Hosts, Good Shepherd of souls, Aflame with the Zeal of Elias and Defender of the Rights of God and of the Church.

We, as Universal Doctor of the Church, by virtue of Our Apostolic Authority:

On the 27th of March in the year 2025, in the Cathedral-Basilica of Our Crowned Mother of Palmar, during the celebration of the Most Solemn Pontifical Masses, We proceeded to the solemn Canonization of a Nun, raising her to the Glory of the Altars:

Mariana of Jesus Torres. Declared Venerable Servant of God on the 13th of March in the year 2025.

With great jubilation, We communicate to all the faithful of the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and Palmarian Church, the most happy event of the raising to the Glory of the Altars of this Saint, so that you may imitate her heroic virtues and invoke her in your needs:

Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres, pray for us!



We have canonized Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres not only for her life of great sanctity, heroic virtues and amazing miracles, but also for her revelations and prophecies, which are principally for those who live in these Last Times, since they show us the way to salvation amid the corruption of today's world and encourage us to continue on as faithful within the Holy Church of Christ, praying for the salvation of souls with the firm hope that God and His Most Holy Mother will display Their power and mercy, and put all evil to rights when the moment arrives.

Today, the 15th of May 2025, We have conferred the following titles on Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres: "Virgin, Religious, Missionary, the Great, Doctress, Foundress, Spiritual Martyr, Great Mystic, Victim Soul for these Apocalyptic Times, special Protectress of the Pope." Let us show gratitude to this Saint who did so much for our benefit, and let us trust in her intercession to win for us the virtues we need to live in holiness and persevere to the end in these times of great dangers.

We shall now give a biographical sketch:

SAINT MARIANA OF JESUS TORRES

Preamble

The Conceptionist Nun Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres y Berriochoa (1563-1635), Abbess and a Foundress of the Immaculate Conception Royal Monastery in Quito, Ecuador, is a complete model of holiness, heroism and sublime love for God as shown in His creatures. Her life is extraordinary for the heroic practice of virtue, but also for the Messages that Heaven entrusted to her. The revelations and prophecies she received for our times from 'Most Holy Mary of the Happy Event' make her a specially transcendent Messenger. What particularly distinguishes these apparitions is the petition of the Blessed Virgin to the seeress to pray and offer herself in

holocaust as a victim of atonement for mankind of the XX century. The great warning of these extraordinary Marian apparitions, which began in the XVI century, was that the time of darkness, the time of great apostasy prophesied in Holy Scripture is precisely the XX century. The urgent and preventive intervention of Heaven, unprecedented in Ecclesiastical History, is justified: it was necessary to announce this XX century crisis and consequent spiritual renewal of the Church in order to warn Catholics. Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres and Berriochoa was a precious instrument in God's Hands showing the authenticity of the Palmarian Church as a continuance of the Universal Church whose See, then in Rome, was translated to El Palmar de Troya precisely in the XX century.

Sometimes it might seem strange that her message seems to refer only to her own locality but, examined carefully, it can be seen that it really speaks to every individual and is valid to the ends of the earth, something similar to certain passages in Holy Scripture. The Apparitions, reviewed then in depth in their time with the presence of eyewitnesses and abundant documentation, received every official Church approbation, yet by a mysterious disposition of Divine Providence, up till now the knowledge of them has remained reduced to circles of interested persons. The devotion they produced in Ecuador and particularly in Quito did not spread widely to the whole Catholic world. The declarations mentioned in this account are in the archives of the monastery, whose chronicle was found on January 8th 1922.

In her life on earth, our attention is specially drawn to her three deaths and two resurrections, faithfully testified; also to her heroic charity in accepting to suffer in her soul for five years the pains of hell in order to save the soul of a rebel nun; and above all to the fact that she was a victim of atonement precisely for the sins of the XX century. The revelations which she received over many years show the desolate scene of the moral decline of the XX century. And owing to that chaotic and critical situation, which invaded the Church of God and spread as a deluge over all mankind, a painful purification became necessary, shown to her in vision.

Revelation is an extraordinary gift or charism of the Holy Ghost that is not at man's disposal. Exceptionally the Holy Ghost grants these extraordinary gifts or charisms, whether by way of one or several persons, to whomever He wishes, however He wishes, whenever He wishes and wherever He wishes, according to the needs of the Church, and regardless of the merits or demerits of the subject who receives them. To proceed to a canonization there are different ways: the ordinary way, with the verification of the heroic practice of virtue; the way of martyrdom; and other exceptional ways. However, as in the life of Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres there is such a profusion of important revelations and messages, some are included in her life; and at the end, on account of their teaching, various messages are added at greater length.

The crisis provoked by the infiltration of enemies into the Catholic Church in the XX century rapidly affected all of humanity. As the Universal Church is Guide, Mother and Teacher of Society, when she gave entry to heresies, she herself became a seedbed of heresies and moral corruption, with the exceptions of some honourable and saintly Priests and Bishops, and especially Popes Saint John XXIII and Saint Paul VI. It was imperative to purify the Church, so that it might again fulfil its role as Guide, Mother and Teacher, and with Her Prayers and Sacrifices offer reparation to God for so much damage. The punishments announced by Saint Mariana of Jesus require that the Holy Church of God, by the XXI century, be faithful to Orthodoxy, and a zealous bulwark of Purity, since God Himself, or via His Vicar, was to eradicate heresy, blasphemy and impurity from it. That is what happened, the process started in the XX century. And the events were very painful, the woman with birth pangs of the Holy Bible: "The dolorous clamour of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, as Mother of the Church, in Her apparitions at El Palmar de Troya, Spain, calling everyone by means of heavenly messages to enter the true sheepfold, which was to have its See in that Sacred Place, and which would be made up of the remnant drawn from the apostate roman church of those faithful to true teaching. This rebirth of Christ's Church would also involve the most dolorous birth of a man child to rule her."

For its importance, we anticipate the short description of the vision that led Saint Mariana of Jesus to her first death. At the moment of the vision, she knew in all its evil the torrent of heresies, sacrileges and impurity reigning at that time. For that loving soul, feeling in her own being the pain of the infinite offence to God and the future struggle of that purification, was the cause of her first death in 1582. We briefly include the vision, according to the most reliable source, that of Father Souza Pereira.

Saint Mariana of Jesus "was kneeling, and amid the darkness of the church, saw the altar very clearly as if it were daylight. Suddenly the Tabernacle opened and Our Crucified Lord appeared, nailed to a Cross of natural size; with the Blessed Virgin sad with tears in Her eyes. Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Mary Magdalen were at Their feet. Seeing Jesus' agony, the humble virgin prostrated herself on the ground with arms outstretched in the form of a cross, crying out: 'Lord, punish me, but forgive Your people!'... She saw the Blessed Virgin who said to her, 'The sinful world is guilty.' At this the Lord began to agonize and she heard the Voice of the Eternal Father saying, 'This will be the punishment for the XX century.' She saw three swords over the head of the Divine Crucified. On the first sword was written: 'I will punish heresy'; on the second: 'I will punish blasphemy'; on the third: 'I will punish impurity.' Mother Mariana of Jesus knew, then, everything that would happen. The Blessed

Virgin continued: ‘Do you, My daughter, want to sacrifice yourself for those people?’ To which she answered: ‘My will is disposed.’ And immediately the swords were withdrawn from the Divine Crucified and thrust into the heart of Mother Mariana, who fell dead from the violence of pain.

These three swords summarize the purification of the Catholic Church that took place after the death of Saint Paul VI, they explain perfectly the transfer of the Apostolic See to El Palmar, and describe with amazing fidelity the Palmarian Church, thus announcing its existence and authenticity as the continuance of the true Church of Christ, the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic, and now Palmarian, owing to the apostasy of Rome and the translation of its See to El Palmar de Troya.

The first sword, against heresy, was wielded by Christ Himself. At the holy death of the last Pope in Rome, Satan ruled there, by way of the masonic lodges and other enemies of God. It was not possible to leave the Papal See in Rome. According to Our Lord’s promise to succour his Church, He cut out the evil by consecrating the then Bishop Father Ferdinand as Pope with the name Gregory XVII, ‘De Glória Olivæ’, in Santa Fe de Bogotá, whereby the See of the true Church was translated to El Palmar de Troya. By this stroke of the Divine Sword, most people who considered themselves Catholic, ceased to be so, becoming apostates. By Christ’s *Habemus Papam* in one instant heresy was eradicated, as an evil cancer, from the bosom of God’s Church.



The second sword, against blasphemy, was wielded by the *Caudillo del Tajo* (Caudillo of the Sword-Stroke), Pope Saint Gregory XVII the Very Great, on July 30th 1982, at 13:30 p.m. At that moment “from all priests and bishops outside the true Church, One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and Palmarian he withdrew all power to confer or produce any valid sacrament; and also withdrew the sacred character from all relics, images, objects used in worship and so forth”.

With this sword-stroke, the world was purified of countless irreverences, sacrileges and desecrations, comprised in the word blasphemy. It is worth recalling that a few hours later, on that same day, Saint Gregory XVII had a vision of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and of a great multitude of Angels and Saints, all with swords drawn, including the Lord and the Virgin Mary. The Lord spoke to him: ‘My beloved Vicar: it was high time a Pope knew how to use the powers he possesses. The whole Celestial Court expresses today its joy and jubilation for your firm sword that cuts out the evil at the root... This very day, humanity has received the greatest of scourges. Behold the manifestation of My justice. I bless you.’

The third sword, against impurity, was brandished by Saint Gregory XVII from the beginning of his glorious Pontificate, in the XX century, by way of his inspired and crystal-clear Pontifical Documents, culminating in the Decree on the Norms of Christian Decency, imposed in 2004, the XXI century already begun, under pain of excommunication. This is the third sword-stroke that defines the Palmarian Church. Each stroke meant for each soul in particular the conscious decision to be with Christ or against Christ. The Universal Church, though reduced to a minimum of faithful, continued on, for it encompasses all truths, is for all peoples and for all times, which is the meaning of ‘Universal’. But hidden and protected in the desert by Divine Will.

Isaias’ prophecy on the Messiah, the Pippin of the Lord says, “And it will come to pass that, of the remnant of Israel’s children, those who remain faithful in the New Jerusalem and live grafted into the Pippin of the Lord, will be saints.”

It is noteworthy that before punishing men according to the magnitude of their crimes, God’s Infinite Mercy provides them with a Holy Church, a Church that efficaciously implores forgiveness and mercy, a Church that sincerely and generously resorts to her Divine Mother to shorten punishments as far as possible and make them truly an occasion for repentance and salvation for the greatest number of souls. This message of love and hope of the XVII century given by the Blessed Virgin ‘of the Happy Event’, refers to the ‘the Happy Event’ of the XX century, namely the spiritual purification or renewal of the Universal Church. God himself opened this ‘Gate of Heaven’ for us, He himself gave us His Mother, Our Crowned Mother of Palmar, and gives Her to us again, because more than anything He wants our salvation.

The principal revelations of Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres related to our times are included, sometimes with brief commentaries in the succinct account of her life, that we wish to make known, because the life of the Saints is an admirable compendium of the wonders of God in the supernatural order. It is a visible act of the Love He has for mortals, proposing to us their imitation. For in these creatures like us, God profusely pours out His divine graces. This happens to any soul who voluntarily surrenders to Him without reserve, faithfully responding to His holy inspirations. This is what occurred with Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres.

For clarification: When Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres was fifty-five years old, in 1618, and was superioress of the Convent of the Immaculate Conception, as she was for eighteen years in six triennials, in the same colonial

city of San Francisco de Quito was born Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, who was later to be canonized and venerated as the 'Lily of Quito' (1618-1645). Her parents knew the Conceptionist Mother Mariana of Jesus and it was after her that they chose their daughter's name. The 'Quiteños' had the grace to house in their city at the same time these two souls privileged by the grace of God, exemplary in their heroic correspondence to Divine Love and called by the same name: Mariana of Jesus.

Childhood of Mariana Frances Torres y Berriochoa

Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres and Berriochoa, Spanish, was born in 1563 in the Lordship of Vizcaya, linked to the Spanish crown since 1516 by Saint Charles I of Spain and V of Germany almost fifty years previously. Her parents were Don Diego Torres y Berriochoa Cádiz and Doña María Fernández Taboada y Reig. She was the eldest of three children and was baptized Mariana Frances in one of the churches of the parish, adjacent to her parental house. The child was the delight of her parents for the singular beauty with which Heaven had endowed her, for her clear intelligence, docility, sweetness of character, and especially for her inclination to virtue, since from childhood she fled from games with children of her age, retiring discretely to the church beside her home, where her virtuous mother often found her at the foot of the Tabernacle.

One day while the Priest was absent, the sacristan went to his farm, leaving abundant oil in the sanctuary lamp. They say there was a slight earth tremor, and the cords that held up the lamp broke, causing a fire. Flames came out of the church and help was needed; the sacristan's relatives and the neighbours came out, and in vain tried all possible means of putting it out. A Priest, the maternal uncle of the child, who was on a visit to the family home, came out when he heard the commotion and, seeing the fire out of control, entered fearless into the church, picked up the Tabernacle and the Host used for Exposition and went out quickly; the fire respected the Lord's Minister. Behind him, first the Altar fell and then the Church.

The Torres and Berriochoa family followed the Priest who was bearing the precious burden and, in tears, accompanied him to a neighbouring parish church where he deposited the Sacramental Species. Mariana Frances had accompanied her Divine Lover moaning, desolate and heartbroken at the absence of her only Love.

Since the family house was adjacent to the church, it was also affected by the fire. The vineyards were destroyed and the building partly ruined. The devout and fervent owners realized when they returned. Like Saint Job, her parents, prostrate on the ground with their three little children, thanked the Lord for losing their property in helping to save the Sacramental Species.

Young Mariana suffered deeply seeing her virtuous parents supporting the poverty which was now their lot. But the greatest pain she experienced was the absence of her Beloved Sacramented Jesus, since when she had Him as a neighbour, it was easy for her to make pious escapes to worship Him in the Tabernacle; but now the distance did not allow this, and she felt lonely and abandoned by her Lover, who began to exercise her in cruel absences and desolations.

Mariana Frances, like a sunflower, was opening her delicate petals to the refulgent rays of Sacramented Jesus and, unable to stay day and night at the foot of the Tabernacle to adore Him frequently, began to weaken, as though in agony longing for Eucharistic union.

In the face of the precarious economic situation in which the fire had left them, the child's parents were forced to leave Vizcaya, and they moved with their three children to Santiago de Compostela. There she came into contact with the Nuns of a Convent of Conceptionists – one of them, Mother Mary of Jesus Taboada, the Abbess, was her maternal aunt.

The Order of the Immaculate Conception had been born more than a hundred years previously through a direct inspiration from the Mother of God to the young Beatriz de Silva, to whom she appeared in Tordesillas. Mother Beatriz de Silva (1424-1491), Foundress of the Order of the Immaculate, was beatified by Saint Pius XI the Great in 1926, canonized in 1976 by Saint Paul VI, and declared Doctress of the Church by Saint Gregory XVII the Very Great in 1996. She was able to live and transmit to her daughters her founding charism, giving the new Order her spirit and as a habit the one Our Lady wore in Her apparition. The account of the Virgin's Apparition in Tordesillas was decisive for the iconography of Mary Immaculate, dressed in white with blue mantle. It is interesting that in such a distant epoch there existed that firm conviction of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, several centuries before the dogmatic declaration of Pope Saint Pius IX the Great.

First Communion and Betrothal

Once established in Santiago de Compostela, it was easy for the girl Mariana to go to Sacramented Jesus. On one occasion when she was prostrate at the feet of the Tabernacle, her heart was so inflamed with loving desires to unite to Jesus in Holy Communion, that with a delirious voice she cried out: "Oh, my Love! When will be the day that I will unite with You in Holy Communion?" At that same moment she heard a Voice coming from the Tabernacle: "On the day you wish, dear daughter, for your heart is prepared." This was the first time she heard with her senses the sweetest accent of Sacramented Jesus.

One day she prostrated herself at the feet of a Franciscan Priest opening up to him her candid soul. Understanding that the girl should receive Holy Communion, the Minister of God himself began to prepare her. At that time, in 1572 - a few months earlier the Dominican Pope Saint Pius V the Great had died and Saint Gregory XIII the Great was already reigning - First Communion was not received before reaching the age of twelve. However, with the support of the Franciscan, on December 8, 1572, Mariana, at nine years of age, received Holy Communion for the first time.

Such was the torrent of Divine Love in her heart at that first embrace she received from Jesus that, unable to resist it, she fell into an ineffable ecstasy. In this she saw our Immaculate Mother who gladdened her with Her presence and explained to her the greatness of the vow of virginity, telling her how the Queen of Heaven Herself had made it at the moment of Her Immaculate Conception, and ratified in the Temple of Jerusalem at three years of age. She taught her what such a vow consisted of, ordering her to make it soon, as she had destined her to be a religious of her Immaculate Conception. There in Her Order she would give much glory to God, committing her from that moment to cultivating the ineffable mystery of Her Immaculate Conception. For this purpose, the Blessed Virgin instructed her on how she should make the vow, and even dictated the words she should pronounce. Mariana Frances then made a vow of chastity, according to the formula taught by Our Lady, to give herself entirely to the Divine Lover of her soul.

At that moment, in the Tabernacle she saw the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity and that the Second, that is, the Divine Word in His Most Holy Humanity, taking the form of a Child, wanted to espouse her. She also saw Saint Joseph, Most Holy Mary's Virginal Spouse, appear, and that the Most Holy Mary and Joseph would be the godparents of the celestial espousal. She pronounced the solemn Vow of Chastity according to the formula taught by Our Lady. When she finished, the Eternal Father blest the union of his Only Begotten Son made Child with the girl Mariana. Without knowing, her soul was adorned with the sublime degree of prayer of quietude; she was but nine years of age.

Those versed in ascetic and mystical theology distinguish different categories in human relationships with God: prayer, sometimes considered strictly only as vocal prayer; meditation; contemplation and prayer of quietude. Prayer is generally an elevation of thought to God, to converse with Him. Vocal prayer is a form of prayer expressed in words, whether written or spoken. Meditation or mental prayer is the application of the understanding to some supernatural truth (for example, to the Life, Passion and Death of Our Lord, to his teachings, to death in general, to the destiny of the soul after death, etc.) to penetrate its meaning, to love that mystery, and to practise the virtues it proposes, with God's grace and for His glory. The next level in the spiritual path is contemplation, which is defined as the simple, loving and prolonged observation of God and divine things through the gifts of the Holy Ghost and a special actual grace that takes possession of us in a passive way. The prayer of quietude is the advanced form of contemplation, in which the soul experiences, with an ineffable sweetness and delight, the presence of God consciously. The last two belong to mystical theology and the first two to ascetic theology.

In the first ecstasy that Mariana had in her First Communion, the Beloved Spouse made her enter the path of sacrifice and love, noting that from that moment on she did not exist or live except to love Sacramented Jesus. She came out of the ecstasy and began a life more angelic than human because she had not lost her baptismal innocence; her confessor guided her skilfully, making her observe in her home the austerities of monastic life, allowing her to receive Holy Communion twice a week.

This child only knew sin to avoid it and weep for the offences of sinners, for, from her childhood, she practiced an innocent life of penance. From the moment the Blessed Virgin told her that she should be a religious of her Immaculate Conception, her soul was inflamed with an ardent desire to fulfil the order; letting herself be carried away by the impetus of her fervour, she omitted no sacrifice or prayer until she had satisfied her yearnings. She dedicated herself to the exercise of prayer, contemplation, interior and exterior mortification, and other religious virtues, living in her home as in a monastery and serving her parents and siblings, until she obtained permission from her parents to go to the convent of the Immaculate Conception, where her aunt, Mother Mary of Jesus Taboada was the Abbess, though, due to her youth, she could not be considered a postulant.

The Royal Monastery of the Immaculate Conception of Quito. The call from abroad

As the noble ladies of Quito in union with the City Council had humbly petitioned the King of Spain for the foundation of the first convent of the Immaculate Conception in that colony, the king himself appointed a group of foundresses, placing Reverend Mother Mary of Jesus Taboada at their head. She was Mariana's aunt. The girl understood that it was the Voice of her Beloved calling her.

One day, upon receiving Holy Communion, she saw in her soul the Divine Jesus saying to her: "My spouse, it is time to bid an eternal farewell to your homeland, to your parental home. And for Me, longing for your beauty, to take you as Mine, where within strong walls you will live far from flesh and blood, hidden and forgotten by all human creatures, your inheritance and patrimony being, like Me, the Cross and suffering. Strength and courage

will not fail you; I only want your will to be always ready to do Mine.” Mariana accepted from Jesus Christ all that He gave her and, like Him, offered herself up in holocaust.

The day of farewell to her parents and siblings arrived, which was moving for all who witnessed it; hard and bitter for her parents and relatives, and bitter also for the candid girl, as her innocent heart had no other love on earth than that of her parents and relatives; but also sweet because she gave God a sure proof of her love, suffering the martyrdom of filial love. At the same time, God consoled her with the ineffable comforts that He knows how to give at moments of sacrifice.

As soon as they embarked, a terrible, unprecedented storm arose at sea. The ship was already sinking, the sky suddenly darkened. The frightened sailors knew not what to do, and said that the storm was already their doom. In the midst of such bitterness, Mariana Frances, confused in her humility, believed herself to be the cause of this terrible storm and said to her aunt: “Aunt, am I the cause of this storm and, like another Jonah, should I be thrown into the sea for it to calm down?” “No, my child,” says the aunt, “for that we have prayer that penetrates the Heart of God,” and taking the girl in her arms, she pressed her to her heart.

Mother Mary of Jesus Taboada and the girl of a sudden saw a monstrous seven-headed serpent in the sea, which moving from side to side sought to destroy the ship. Faced with this horrible vision, Mariana Frances screamed and fell as if dead. The Mother, frightened, fearing at every moment the death of her niece, directed this humble prayer to God: “You know, my God, that we do not go on this foundation of our own will, but out of obedience to the king, my lord. If it is Your Will that a monastery of the Order of the Immaculate Conception be founded in this colony, make this tempest, this darkness disappear and calm the storm.”

Oh wonder! As soon as Mother Mary of Jesus finished the prayer, the girl opened her eyes. At that same moment it was daybreak, and a terrible voice was heard saying: “I will not allow the foundation, I will not allow it to progress, I will not allow it to be preserved until the end of time, and I will persecute it at all times!”



The storm having calmed and daybreak begun, Mother Mary of Jesus again took her niece in her arms and said to her: “What happened to you, my daughter?” “I will tell you in private, aunt,” she replied, and when they reached the first rest, they withdrew and had a conversation about what had happened. The Mother understood that the girl had had some admirable ecstasy, and carefully asked her: “My daughter, tell me, what happened to you?” “I don’t know, aunt. I was in another world. I saw a serpent writhing. It was a very large serpent and I saw a Lady of incomparable beauty, clothed with the sun, crowned with stars, with a precious Child in her arms. On the Lady’s breast was a Monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament; in one of her hands she had a large golden cross that ended in a lance. With this, She subdued the enormous serpent that had a forked tongue. The Lady, resting the Cross on the Blessed Sacrament and on the Child’s hand, struck the serpent’s head with such force that she broke it apart. At that moment, the serpent gave those cries that it would not allow the foundation of the monastery of the Order of the Immaculate Conception.”

Mother Mary of Jesus understood what this meant and at the appropriate time had the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary that the Conceptionists wear on their breast engraved according to this admirable vision.

The Foundresses arrived in San Francisco de Quito, as the city is still officially called, on December 30th of the year of the Lord 1576. They were received by the Royal Audience, by the Ecclesiastical Government and with great manifestations of joy from the Quiteños, and lodged in the houses that had been reserved for them in the monastery. The walls of the enclosure were not yet finished and they had to endure many privations. The Friars Minor, under whose direction they were placed, strengthened them spiritually by teaching them religious virtues and seraphic poverty.

With things arranged, on January 13, 1577, the monastery was founded. On that day, the seven founding Nuns professed before the Father Provincial Vicar of the Franciscan Order. Mariana Frances could not profess that day, as she was aged only thirteen years and a few months. Nevertheless, she proved to be extraordinarily conspicuous in the observance of the Holy Rules of her Order and for her unalterable peace, which showed the depth of her interior life, to the point of being considered, even in those beginnings of her religious life, as one of the most beautiful pillars of the monastery. For this reason, Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres, though she was only thirteen years old upon her arrival from Spain and a postulant to religious life, is considered Co-Foundress of the Royal Convent of the Immaculate Conception of Quito.

Novitiate, Profession and Mystical Espousal

At the end of 1577, Mariana Frances donned the Conceptionist habit and began her religious formation. Her director acted with such wisdom with this candid and innocent soul that, seeing the progress she made in virtue,

he considered himself unworthy of directing her. Her novitiate companions admired her fervour and were guided by her instructions, as they often saw her absorbed in contemplation (prayer of quietude). In 1578, she took her simple vows and changed her name to Mariana of Jesus.

During the spiritual exercises she performed for her solemn profession, God Our Lord communicated great graces to her. She spent the entire eve as though dead. The frightened Nuns called for Doctor Sancho, the most famous physician in the city – whom patients even from outside Quito consulted – to examine her, and he said in amazement: “I can assure you that this illness is not natural. Let her be, it is something supernatural and there is nothing for me to do.”

On the 4th of October 1579, at sixteen years of age, on the long-awaited day of her espousal, Sister Mariana of Jesus fully consecrated herself to God, taking her vows of religious profession and delivering the certificate into the hands of her Prioress and aunt, Reverend Mother Mary of Jesus Taboada. The act was most solemn.

Upon ending her vows, she was rapt up in ecstasy to Heaven and saw that, when Mother Mary of Jesus accepted her profession, the Eternal Father repeated the same words as her aunt, the Prioress: “If you keep this, I promise you Eternal Life.” She then saw the Person of the Divine Word, the Most Holy Humanity united to the Divinity, as a most beautiful young man at His perfect age of thirty-three years. With ineffable majesty and sweetness, He espoused Himself to her, placing on the third finger of her right hand a most beautiful ring with four precious stones. On each stone was written in Latin and Spanish one of the four vows: Poverty, Chastity, Obedience, and Enclosure. In the middle of the ring, exquisitely enamelled, was a star with Mary’s monogram. In this ineffable espousal, the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Most Chaste Spouse Saint Joseph were the godparents.

At that moment, the Divine Spouse Jesus presented to his Spouse Mariana His Cross with all the difficulties and sorrows that He had suffered in His mortal life. And then those that she would suffer. “My Spouse,” He said to her, “I want you to follow the life of immolation. Your life will be a continuous martyrdom. You will have to endure all kinds of trials, temptations, and persecutions; I will preserve you only from temptations against angelical purity.” He told her that she would suffer terrible persecutions from creatures, as well as from good and upright people. Saint Mariana of Jesus learnt of spiritual desolations, abandonments by God, and absence of her Beloved. In a word, she learnt of the prolonged and cruel martyrdom of her life of crucified love.

With profound humility, she responded to her Beloved: “I accept with pleasure and gratitude, as a precious gift, the sufferings you present to me; I offer to imitate Your life; but, as I am a miserable creature, though my will is disposed, I fear that my nature may falter, I beg You to assist me with Your grace.”

The Divine Spouse promised to help her, and showed her, hiddenly, the graces He had prepared for her. Thus, she knew vaguely of the apparition of the Most Holy Virgin of the Happy Event and, as the days passed, the meaning of all she had seen in the ecstasy became clearer to her.

Then the Blessed Virgin addressed her with words of maternal sweetness: “My daughter,” she said, “you are my predilect and will live under My Mantle; yet more, within my Heart. And so that you never have earthly attachments and your love be for my Most Holy Son alone, I will cut out this vein of your heart.” And bringing up Her hand to the heart of the new Spouse of Christ, she made a cut. Then Mariana felt a very sharp and terrible pain, which remained until her death. She felt that the cut vein was twisted in her chest.

It is noteworthy that, during the time the ecstasy lasted, her body remained flexible and could move to perform all the ceremonies of the profession. Her face was like a rose, illuminated, sometimes cheerful, at others shedding torrents of tears. When she returned from the ecstasy, she felt the Divine Spouse pulling on her ring and felt such vehement pain that it seemed He was tearing the finger off. This symbolized that her formation period had not yet ended, she still had two years of spiritual guidance to do, which they called the juniorate.

Practice of virtues to heroic degree

After her profession, she began to exercise herself with greater vigour in all virtues, diligently fulfilling the orders of her Divine Spouse. Mother Mariana of Jesus never had any earthly affection. Her love was for God alone and for her neighbour. She was successively assigned to different tasks in the religious community. She performed convent duties from the humblest to that of prioress, always with humility and docility, and as if she were the most recent lay novice. Her manner was sweet, gentle, prudent, discreet, affable, in such a way that even the nuns who tormented and persecuted her came to recognize the precious treasure they had in her.

Her first mission was in the infirmary, and she, overflowing with loving effects for her Beloved, served the sick as if Our Lord Jesus Christ was truly suffering in each one. On one occasion, a Sister had an accident, burning half her face and her entire arm. When Doctor Sancho examined her, he saw that the burn was fatal and that she would not survive, having been burnt to the bone. Mother Mariana of Jesus, with tears, prayed on her knees. Seeing her, Doctor Sancho said, “If Mother Mariana performs a miracle, she will be saved.” Indeed, after a month, she was completely healed. Mother Mary of Jesus, for her part, fearing that her niece would become vain because of the miraculous healing, said to her, “How skilled Doctor Sancho is, how much he knows, how well he cured that burn!” Mother Mariana of Jesus responded smiling, “God’s Mercy performed that miracle.”

With many wonders, Mother Mariana performed the office of provider. When bread was insufficient, she multiplied it in her hands. Many times, due to the poverty of the monastery, there was a lack of essentials for the Nuns' sustenance, and then the Saint would prostrate herself at the feet of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament asking for help for her community. She would rise up, and immediately donations of food would come from outside, which she herself would distribute; and everything was sufficient, because it passed through those hands created by God as an instrument of His Mercy.

She was an angelic and prodigious sacristan. When in her seraphic raptures she felt desolate, then, with the confidence that love inspires, she would say to Jesus, "If you have need of me, my Love, why are You fast asleep? Till when! How heavily You sleep, wake up now from your lengthy slumber... I'm drowning in a sea of tribulations, and You sleep! Wake up, my Love, and lend me a hand." With this filial confidence she spoke with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. If she was asleep and her Angel awoke her saying, "Look, daughter, your Beloved's lamp is out," she would say, "Why, instead of waking me, didn't you light it with your radiance?" And running off towards the choir, she would find her Beloved in darkness, and get her Angel to light the lamp.



She carried out the office of portress as an apostle of Divine Love. Sinners who came to the convent door drawn by the sweetness of her voice and words, left contrite, wounded by her advice... and were converted. When she had no one to send to meet the needs of her Sisters, she prayed to her Guardian Angel to bring or seek whatever was necessary. Meanwhile, the serpent, always persecuting her, writhed beside the door and Mother Mariana of Jesus drove it away from the door. The serpent, howling dreadfully, disappeared. The Holy Angel returned, meanwhile, bringing what was needed, and she told him where the Sisters were so that he could deliver it.

She carried out the office of choir hebdomadary with great zeal for Divine Worship. If in Heaven she had seen how the Angels praised the thrice-holy God, how would she imitate the Divine Psalmody on earth, alternating the Conceptionist choir with the Angelic! On one occasion when she was cleaning the monastery chairs, some deceased nuns appeared, who were suffering in Purgatory for having broken silence in the choir, or for distractions in the recitation of the office, or for mistakes in the prayers. Mother Mariana of Jesus, with her pleas and supplications, alleviated their pains.

This humble nun, when she left the juniorate, said she would be the last of all, and so it was. On Saturdays, general cleaning day, she swept for four nuns, and when Mother Mary of Jesus told her not to force herself so much, she humbly replied: "My Mother, it is better to serve one day in the House of the Lord than to spend long years in the world." She preferentially swept the lower cloisters, because there she performed hidden penances at night. The demons, wanting to frighten her, scattered an enormous number of worms, which left disgusting filth throughout the cloisters. Only she saw these swarms of animals, and with the sign of the Cross, they all disappeared, leaving clean the place she had swept.

Reverend Mother Mary of Jesus, wanting to see her make progress in virtue, punished and humiliated her in public, with rigour, even for the good things she did. In the refectory, she gave her severe penances and reprimands in such a way that, seeing her suffer with such peace and a smile on her lips, unable to contain her admiration, she would go to prostrate herself before the Blessed Sacrament and with her forehead on the ground say: "Lord, I do such things to this creature because I want her to ascend to the altars one day full of merits and virtues."

Mortifications helped by divine strength, and life of prayer

Upon completing the juniorate time prescribed by the Rule, on December 8th 1581, the feast of our Immaculate Mother, with profound humility she prostrated herself in the refectory before the community, confessing her faults and asking forgiveness for her poor behaviour. She thanked the Nuns for the charity with which they had put up with her and kissed their feet. After this act of humility, Our Lord rapt her up into ecstasy, leaving her as if dead. In that ineffable delirium, God Our Lord communicated to her the schedule she should observe in the hours free from community acts, and the penances, mortifications, and disciplines she should practice each week, even prescribing the points of meditation which she should use. When she came to, Mother Mary of Jesus asked her to communicate what had happened, "because everything must be," she said, "with my blessing and permission." Hearing what Our Lord had ordered her, she said: "My daughter, do as God commands you." But, horrified by the atrocious penances, she said: "Tell Our Lord that your prioress fears you will lose your health due to the rigour of the penances." Mother Mariana of Jesus, obedient, on the next occasion when she was again favoured by the Divine Majesty, gave the message to her Divine Spouse. Jesus responded kindly: "Nothing will happen to you, my daughter; after the penances you will always be fresh and vigorous like an April rose; and just as I moved my house from Nazareth to Loreto, so I will do with you." With this, Our Lord explicitly confirms the prodigious

transfer of His house from Nazareth in 1291. And the Heavenly Spouse, who appeared to Mother Mariana of Jesus on this occasion even more beautiful, at the age of thirty, intoxicated with Love for his Spouse, took a drop of crystalline water and placed it on her lips, saying: "This will strengthen you throughout your life of penance." Upon tasting the divine liquor, the chaste virgin felt an ineffable and inexplicable sweetness on her lips, and in her soul, such celestial delights that only souls who receive such graces can understand what God Our Lord gives to those who sacrifice themselves for His Love. Thus she was strengthened in body to practise the atrocious penances indicated by her Beloved.

Mother Mariana of Jesus was a heroine practising terrible penances: she used cilices on all the members of her body, leaving only her face and hands free. Her mortifications can only be understood when we consider that she was called to be a victim for the sins of our days.

On Friday nights she would do the exercise of the Holy Way of the Cross through the lower cloisters until dawn. On some nights upon entering through the lower choir, carrying the Cross, the Holy Family would appear to her: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. She strictly observed the fasts of the Church and those of the Rule, and in this did much more. Some Fridays she ate absolutely nothing. The prioress ordered her to eat something, and she, out of obedience, would put something in her mouth, but was unable to eat. Her confessor called Doctor Sancho to examine her. He found the passages closed and remained silent in the presence of Mother Mariana of Jesus, barely shaking his head. After she had departed, he said to the Nuns and the Confessor: "This is something supernatural."

Every Friday of the year, after vespers and compline, she would retire to her cell and do an hour of penance accompanying Our Lord when He was tied to a column, penetrating the torments of her Beloved, and thus participating in His feelings at those moments. She identified with her Lord in his weakness, lacerating herself with atrocious disciplines to imitate Jesus.

Every day she crucified herself for a quarter of an hour on a large cross that she kept hidden in her cell, where she had gathered all the instruments of penance and martyrdom for her innocent body. In these crucifixions she hung suspended by ropes.

She slept only three hours at night, always on a smooth ram's skin, and on a hard bed, because she never knew the softness of a bed; she treated her body with such rigour as if it were her greatest enemy. Thus, this innocent virgin used her nature to immolate herself as a victim on the altar of sacrifice and love. To imitate her Crucified Lover, she used a crown of thorns and straps around her neck with which she considered herself captive of God himself.

On Saturdays she was so overcome by the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin that she had to be consoled, and with great difficulty drank a little water. On Sundays she ate everything served to her in the refectory, including the fruit they used to give on those days, because she rejoiced in the Resurrection of the Lord. Just as He communicated to her the pains and afflictions of His Passion, Jesus also made her share in the joys of the Resurrection.

Ordinarily she prayed for four hours in addition to the two daily hours of prayer prescribed by the Rule. From midnight until one, and from three to four in the morning, and at other free hours. Our Lord communicated to her that people who practise the devotion of praying at midnight will receive many graces, and will be accompanied at that hour by the Divine Majesty.

In the ecstasy she experienced in the second year of her Profession, Our Lord prescribed in detail the meditations she should perform each day, in the morning and in the evening.

Satan, furious, ran after her, seeking to cause her physical harm, as it was impossible for him to harm her soul. He would cruelly make her roll down the stairs, tangle her feet, and make her fall even during community activities. When she served food, he tried to make her fall with the plates and spill the food. When she read, he would erase the letters. Despite the demon's attacks, she remained brave and always serene, maintaining that holy inner peace characteristic of solidly pious souls.

Not content with spending the common hours of prayer at His feet, she gave all the moments she could to relieve her enamoured soul beside her Lover, Sacramented Jesus, communicating to Him her interior and exterior pains. In His Most Holy Presence, she spoke of all her labours, so that even in them her Beloved might teach her.

First death and resurrection

The holy Nun had suffered insults from her Sisters without opening her lips to excuse herself or complain, and only at the foot of the Tabernacle did she confide her secret sorrows to her Beloved. In the year 1582, one day when something very serious occurred with her Sisters, Mother Mariana of Jesus suffered it all in silence and, going to the feet of Jesus Christ, communicated her torments to Him and asked for strength. Jesus said to her: "On the day I espoused you, I tested your will; you are now in the fullness of your sufferings." To which the candid virgin replied: "Lord, my will is disposed, but my flesh is weak." And Our Lord answered her: "You will not lack strength, just as nothing is lacking to the soul that asks of Me." At this, a frightful noise came, and she saw the whole temple immersed in darkness as of dust and smoke. Frightened, she thought the entire building was collapsing and wondered what was happening, as she had not felt any earthquake. Reviewing her conscience, she

found nothing to accuse herself of sin, but in her profound humility, she felt guilty. In the midst of the church's darkness, she saw the Altar very clearly, as if it were day; she was kneeling. Suddenly the Tabernacle opened, and Our Lord Crucified appeared, nailed to a life-size Cross; the Blessed Virgin sad with tears in Her eyes; Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Mary Magdalene were at Her feet.

Seeing Jesus' agony, the humble virgin believed herself guilty, prostrated herself on the ground with her arms extended in the form of a cross, crying out: "Lord, I am the guilty one, punish me, but forgive your people!" Her Guardian Angel lifted her up, saying: "You are not guilty. Rise, for God wishes to reveal a great secret to you." She rose and saw the Blessed Virgin: "My Lady," she says, "am I the guilty one?" To which She replied: "You are not guilty, but the sinful world is." At this, the Lord began to agonize, and Mother Mariana of Jesus heard the Voice of the Eternal Father saying: "This punishment will be for the XX century." She saw three swords over the head of the Holy Crucified. On the first was written: "I will punish heresy"; on the second: "I will punish blasphemy"; on the third: "I will punish impurity." Mother Mariana of Jesus then knew everything that would happen in that century. The Blessed Virgin continued: "Do you want, my daughter, to sacrifice yourself for that people?" To which she replied: "My will is disposed." And immediately the swords separated from the Holy Crucified, plunging into Mother Mariana's heart, who fell dead from the violence of the pain.

As she was always the first in community acts, the Nuns, seeing that she did not appear, went to look for her and found her dead and cold in the lower choir. They took her to her bed, changing the smooth sheepskin for a soft mattress. The guilty Sisters who had tormented her in the morning, seeing that she showed no signs of life, approached and kissing her hands said: "Forgive us, Mother Mariana, for we knew not what we were doing." The Mother continued with the aspect of a corpse. They called Doctor Sancho who examined her, finding no signs of life. After several attempts, the doctor said with tears in his eyes: "Mother Mariana of Jesus is dead, her beautiful soul has left the lovely residence of her body." And he called a painter to portray her before burial. The doctor bid farewell to the community expressing his deep sorrow, and the death of Mother Mariana of Jesus was made public in the city.

At the news, the people rose up and, knocking on the church doors, asked to be allowed to kiss the hands of their precious treasure. Meanwhile, the Friars Minor of their Order arrived. The Franciscans approaching the deathbed, performed several tests, and she showed no signs of life. The guilty nuns entered to confess their crime and the Provincial Father severely reprimanded them, imposing a penance.

Mother Mariana of Jesus died and mystically presented herself at God's Judgment who found no fault. "Come," Jesus said to her, "blessed of My Father, receive the crown We prepared for you from the beginning of the world, because from your tender years you listened to My Voice and, leaving your homeland, you went to distant lands to sacrifice yourself for My Love." Having said this, she appeared before the Throne of the Holy Trinity, understanding something of that ineffable mystery. The Eternal Father rejoiced at having created her, the Divine Son at having redeemed her and taken her as His Spouse, and the Holy Ghost at having sanctified her.

Meanwhile on earth, fervent prayers were raised for her life, especially those of Mother Mary of Jesus, who wept alone, because she had no one to form her novices, as she had set her sights on her niece for that work, as guide for the Conceptionist Nuns. She cried out to God for the precious life of such a holy Nun. The Sisters also prayed in union with the Friars Minor Fathers who did not leave the place, placing hot smoke at her feet to see if the Mother would revive.

Our Lord, wanting to attend to the humble supplications of His servants, showed Mother Mariana of Jesus how the prayer made on earth rose to the Throne of God, and presented her with two crowns: one, of immortal glory whose beauty no one could express, and the other, of lilies surrounded by thorns; and He said to her: "My Spouse, choose either of these crowns"; giving her to understand that with one she would reach glory and with the other she would return to suffer in the world. The humble virgin told her Beloved that He should choose. "Remember," the Lord said to her, "that when I took you as My Spouse I tested your will and now I do the same."

That blessed soul knew all the Conceptionist Nuns of her monastery with their names and the offices they would hold, the graces they would receive and how they would respond until the last day of the world. She saw that some offices would be contrary to God's Will and that the Nuns, not having grace to perform them, would commit many slips. She prayed for all and, knowing those who would be unfaithful, groaned for them before the throne of God. She saw that some novice mistresses would be damned, for the bad formation they gave to the novices. It was revealed to her that, returning to the world, she would perform that difficult charge. She saw that the Friars Minor would be removed from the governance of the monastery and also all the sufferings that the community would endure because of this. To our understanding, that happy soul was rapt up without choosing the crown that Our Lord presented to her.

For this combat, her beloved Mother, the Immaculate Conception, approaching her said: "My daughter, I left the Glories of Heaven and descended to earth to protect my children. I want you to imitate me in this as well and return to life, for your life is very necessary for the Order of my Conception."

Saint Mary of Jesus of Ágreda (1602-1665), a Conceptionist Nun and mystic, contemporary of Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres, almost forty years younger than her, wrote about this later in her masterpiece *The Mystical City of God* in which she recounts the visions she had, and says that Our Lady was taken to Heaven on the day of Our Lord's Ascension and was presented with the option of staying in Heaven or returning to earth to help the Church, newly founded. And She returned to Her life on earth to offer Her sufferings and help the growing Church.



Now it was the Blessed Virgin herself who asked Mother Mariana of Jesus to choose the second crown, because it was necessary for a soul to be offered up as a victim to appease God's Justice. "What affliction for this group in the XX century, if souls are not found who, with their life of immolation and sacrifice, appease Divine Justice! ..." Knowing this to be God's Will, she accepted the sacrifice presented to her by her Immaculate Mother and the humble religious said: "My Lady and Mother, may the Divine Will be done in me. Ah, how my soul trembles at the sight of the imminent danger of becoming lost by returning to life and having to perform the delicate duties of Prioress and Novice Mistress!" To this, the Immaculate Mother responded: "Daughter of my Heart, do not fear. You will not be properly the teacher, but I. By means of you, I will transform your novices into holy Nuns..."

While this was happening in Heaven, she, humble and resigned, chose the crown of lilies surrounded by thorns and returned to the world to offer herself up.

At this moment, the Father Guardian, inspired by God, approached Mother Mariana of Jesus' bed and said to her: "Mother Mariana of Jesus, I order you in the name of holy obedience that, if you are dead, your soul return to your body so that you may live and tell us what happened." Oh wonder! At that very moment she exhaled a sigh, opened her eyes, and then proceeded to tell the Guardian Father everything she had experienced in Paradise.

Doctor Sancho was called, returned to the convent, and Mother Mary of Jesus told him: "Mother Mariana of Jesus is alive." "She is dead!" replied the doctor. And rushing into the cell, he found her alive with her usual rosy cheeks. Frightened, he took two steps back, thinking it was an illusion. Meanwhile, the Friars Minor encouraged him, saying: "Mother Mariana of Jesus is alive. Come closer and see." He approached and, examining her, said shaking his head: "My Fathers, I have nothing to do here. This is not natural..." He prescribed Mother Mariana a cool drink for her dry mouth and respectfully hurried away.

Mother Mary of Jesus wanted to continue talking to her alone, but this prudent virgin said to her: "My Mother, before anything else we must give thanks to Our Lord at the foot of the Blessed Sacrament." At once they prostrated themselves before Jesus in the Sacrament and, thanksgiving concluded, Mother Mariana of Jesus retired to her cell to tell her Prioress everything that had happened. We clarify that this first death of Saint Mariana of Jesus was solely clinical death or death of her accidental body, since her soul remained united to her essential body without reaching particular judgement or true death, following which it is no longer possible to return to life in this world.

Mother Mariana of Jesus is chosen as Novice Mistress

When the time appointed by God arrived, the religious unanimously chose Mother Mariana of Jesus as novice mistress and, disregarding her fears, placed the heavy Cross upon her shoulders. It seems that this was the greatest sacrifice to which God subjected her. Having no other will than that of her Divine Spouse, she had to submit. On the night she received the novitiate, in the presence of her three novices and four aspirants she prostrated herself before them, saying with utmost humility: "My Little Sisters: the community entrusted me with this office, not because I have any merit, but so that I may come to learn virtues from you. I beg you to treat me as a Sister; I am an older Sister and as such, you should have confidence in me. I come to form your souls so that you may be saintly Nuns, and the day will come when you will know that the teacher is not me but the Blessed Virgin. I am a weak instrument of Hers and I will dispose only what She disposes."

With these and other humble reasons, she began to govern the novices, becoming all for all. She directed each according to the degree of virtue to which God called her. The number of young women multiplied prodigiously. Her novitiate was solely composed of chosen souls, as she allowed only those with a vocation to enter. Thus, the saintly teacher formed a generation of Nuns with a very good spirit. When the novices were going to profess, the saintly teacher prepared them by giving talks according to the spirit of each. She also advised them how and when they would die.

Sometimes, when a Sister hid the faults committed during the day, she would call her privately saying: "My daughter, today you committed such a fault, you broke the silence in such a place, saying such words... let's do penance now." And together with the novice, she would kneel and ask forgiveness from Our Lord for that fault. In this way, nothing could be hidden from her. They loved her as a mother and venerated her as a saint. And as Mother Mariana of Jesus noticed that they began to appreciate her, she became very distressed, begging Our Lord not to deprive her of sufferings and insults to bear united to His Passion, and her Divine Spouse granted her the rich treasure of humiliations, sufferings, and contempt.

Vision of hell, stigmatization, and dark night

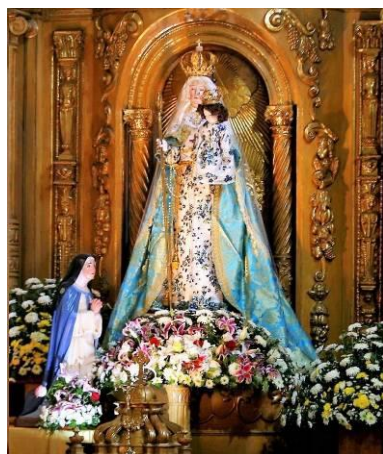
Her novitiate was the first to rise in the morning, at four, to pray the Little Office in honour of Our Lady. One morning when the novices were not prepared, Mother Mariana went out alone to pray the office. She had the habit of disciplining herself for abandoned souls before reaching choir. After finishing the discipline, she headed for the choir and, when about to take a step, she was prevented by a horrible deep hollow in the ground like an abyss from which frightful groans were heard. Frightened, Mother Mariana thought she was not in the convent. She saw the head of a dreadful dragon emerge, as big as the novitiate house, which, opening its mouth, showed a multitude of souls, saying: "All these souls I have swallowed because they are mine, and you too will be mine." Such was the fright that she fainted, and when she came to, she felt someone taking her by the arms and carrying her. It was the Guardian Angel who said to her: "Spouse of the Lord, why do you fear? You saw hell! This was done by the devil to prevent the recitation of the Little Office!" And she heard another voice saying: "Bitter times will come when the Little Office shall be abandoned and the spirit will weaken. Woe to those who shall have part in that!"

She saw that her Angel was carrying her in his arms, lifting her from the ground, and led her to the choir. She then heard a horrible voice saying: "With all my power I will prevent the recitation of this cursed Little Office, because it weakens me and destroys me!" Walking a few steps, she saw a light that illuminated the entire convent, and raising her eyes towards the ceiling, she saw a beautiful star with the name of Mary. She entered the choir and there the Blessed Virgin congratulated her for the triumph and calmed her interiorly. Meanwhile, the Sisters arrived to pray the Little Office.

On the night of September 17th 1588, she was doing her usual night prayer prostrate in her cell. She felt a frightful shudder throughout her body and let out a scream. The Mother nurse took Mother Mariana of Jesus' hands and saw that she had marks like nails on her hands and on her feet. In the area of the heart, there was a red spot and a red circle as if it were the wound from the lance. Her moans were so loud that they could be heard from afar. Because of this, it is believed that Our Lord imprinted His Most Sacred Wounds on her internally. At that time, her body remained immobile for months; she could only move her eyes and mouth. She spent the night in painful martyrdom.

In the morning, Doctor Sancho was called, who said that due to the life of penance she led, she only had life in her heart. Gradually, Mother Mariana's immobilized body transformed into a single wound. She could no longer swallow food, and was fed only with liquids.

The Divine Majesty withdrew His celestial lights and consolations from her. The demon in the form of a serpent, seeing her alone, as even her Guardian Angel hid from sight, tormented her saying: "All your things were illusion, deceit, and lies; you are mine." In that dark night of tribulations, as weeks and months passed, Mother Mariana did not abandon her midnight prayers or those at three in the morning, but she suffered more intensely each day from interior desolations.



The Friars Minor would enter, celebrate Holy Mass, and oblige her to receive communion, in the name of holy obedience, to open her mouth and receive communion, which she did with great difficulty. She became convinced of having committed a new sacrilege, and the serpent danced joyfully telling her: "You have another sacrifice for hell." And the innocent victim suffered the greatest torments.

One day in February, dawn had broken, but Mother Mariana of Jesus' dark night continued. She remained motionless in her bed of pain when she heard a terrible commotion. At that moment, the pain in this virgin's soul increased; despair took hold of her spirit. In that sad interior state, she made an effort and shouted: "Star of the sea, Immaculate Mary, the weak vessel of my soul is sinking. The waters of tribulation are drowning me! Save me, for I perish!" As soon as she had finished uttering these words, she found herself surrounded by a celestial light and felt a loving hand touch her head, hearing a voice that said to her: "Why do you fear, my daughter? Don't you know that I am with you in tribulation? Rise and look at me!"

The humble religious, with her own strength, sat up in bed and saw a Lady full of Majesty and Grandeur who breathed sweetness and love. She said to her: "I am the Mother of Heaven whom you invoked. The darkness of your mind will disappear. You saw what hell is like. You feel that I am now taking you out of there to place you in Purgatory so that you may finish purifying your soul, for your Lord and your God destines you for great and happy events during your life..."

"I now give life to your nerves, veins, and arteries, and ousting the accursed serpent from here you remain in sweet peace as souls do after leaving the place of expiation."

Upon saying these words, the enormous serpent let out a horrible cry of despair and plunged into hell, with such a great noise that it produced an earthquake in the city and in the convent. Mother Mariana of Jesus remained as if dead. Thus the nurse and the prioress found her, who rushed to assist her upon feeling the tremor, and praying beside her, they saw that she turned, moving all her limbs, which had been dry, lifeless, for five months, and

opening her beautiful eyes she said to them: “Mothers, I now have movement in my entire body. How kind is the Queen of Heaven! ... Let’s pray the Holy Rosary!”

However, Mother Mariana of Jesus remained very weak in her bed, suffering unspeakably in her body and soul, but with the peace of a righteous soul and the consolation of being able to move. During this Purgatory, she was an example of how religious should receive interior trials and bodily illnesses, animated by the spirit of sacrifice and exercising, for the edification of others, the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, Patience, Tolerance and silent Resignation, as true apostles of Jesus Crucified.

Second death and resurrection

Her physical strength gradually faded. However, she did not lose the tranquillity of a selfless and holy soul. When the Prioress and the Sisters asked how she felt, she would respond with a heavenly smile: “Quite bad, I believe my exile is ending, but Jesus Christ, the Beloved of my soul, suffered more than I, and that makes me happy.” Mother Mariana remained in this grievous state of health until early September 1589, when on the second Wednesday of that month at 9 in the morning her agony began. On that day, in the morning, they celebrated Holy Mass in her cell.

She received Extreme Unction with edifying and admirable fervour and with the immense joy of one who sees the end of her sufferings. At the mournful toll of the bell, the community and the Friars Minor, with tears in their eyes, surrounded her bed. She remained thus until the following morning in the same agony. At noon on Friday, the convulsions of her body began. Her beautiful face became disfigured as the paleness and cold of death took over. Mother Mary of Jesus and the friars began to pray, commending her soul to God. At three-thirty in the afternoon, she raised her eyes to heaven, then lowered them. She kissed the Crucifix she held in her hands, pressed it to her heart, shedding some tears over it, slightly inclined her head over the Crucified, and giving a sigh, died.

They called Doctor Sancho who testified that she was dead. He left the monastery and the Sisters shrouded her cold corpse, arranging with flowers the bier they had for the purpose, carrying her to the lower choir. The people and nobility clamoured to see their Mother, shouting: “The Saint has died...! Our Angel has gone...!” They kept vigil over her body on Friday and Saturday. The Nuns prayed day and night, keeping the candles illuminating her lighted.

On Saturday night, Mother Mary of Jesus ordered all the Sisters to retire, to regain strength and continue at 4 in the morning with the Little Office, which is the stay of regular life, and to leave the deceased Mother Mariana in the care of Sacramented Jesus, whom she had loved with delirium. The Nuns retired sad and tearful, sleep overcame them and they fell into a deep slumber.

In the morning they rose fervently for the office and made their way to the choir. When they arrived there, they saw that Mother Mariana of Jesus was praying and wanted to embrace them, giving them the alleluia. The frightened Sisters began to run, went to the dormitory to notify Mother Mary of Jesus and, gathering in community, went back to the upper choir. The Prioress, thinking it was her soul, said to her: “In the name of God and holy obedience, I command you to tell me what you need!” “Mother, don’t be afraid,” she replied, “I am alive and I want to be with my Sisters and live with them.” Saying this, she went to embrace Mother Mary of Jesus, who avoided her out of fear. But Mother Mariana of Jesus insisted: “Look at me, Mother, it is I myself.”

They then prayed the Little Office. After finishing the recitation, they went to the lower choir to see if the corpse was there. They saw only the empty bier, shrouds, and candles, becoming convinced that she had risen. They notified the Friars who had seen her expire, and they arrived astonished at the wonder. This second death was the same as her first death, solely that of her accidental body, without arriving at true death.

Mother Mariana of Jesus went up to receive Communion and then gave an account to the director, Father Antonio Jurado, and to Mother Mary of Jesus of all that had occurred. She said that when she died, God Our Lord placed her soul in another purification, and she saw how her corpse was while suffering a mystical Purgatory; and that she remained in that suffering until three in the morning on Sunday, and then her soul returned to her body, imparting to it the vigour and robustness of before... She rose up, left the bier... Freed from the shrouds, she went to the upper choir to await her Sisters to give them the alleluia. She said that Our Lord had granted her life so that, by gaining merits, she might suffer for love of Christ.

With this account they were amazed, for they now saw Mother Mariana of Jesus robust as before, when for an entire year, ever since the sufferings of her stigmatization and subsequent paralysis, she had been bedridden, exhausted and weakened. As Mother Mariana of Jesus was called to extraordinary graces and missions, Our Lord had granted her a whole year of sufferings.

They called Doctor Sancho informing him of what had happened, but he did not want to go to the convent, branding them as unbalanced due to fatigue, and went to the Franciscans to ask the Friars to quickly bury Mother Mariana of Jesus’ corpse, as otherwise the Nuns would go mad; but as he did not find the Friars in the convent, he went to the monastery and saw Mother Mariana of Jesus alive and robust. And he declared under oath what had happened, together with the Fathers and the Nuns.

Her life as a nun was exceptional, the supernatural phenomena that accompanied her were surprising, her visions were moving and led souls to a greater surrender to God; but her various deaths and resurrections, witnessed by ecclesiastics and doctors of her time, were what most impressed the people of Quito. Mother Mariana of Jesus continued her life of penance, and it was no easy matter to say what might happen in that holy soul, who returned to life to suffer.

Named Prioress, the election is celebrated with a heavenly delicacy

It was the year of Our Lord 1592, and Mother Mary of Jesus Taboada, overwhelmed by pain with her heart condition, had worsened. Doctor Sancho said that the founding Mother needed tranquillity and rest. The community gathered, the provincial spoke to the Nuns informing them that Mother Mary of Jesus would leave the priorate and that, the next day, after Holy Mass, the new prioress would be elected.

The next day, after Holy Mass, with unanimous votes, the Reverend Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres was canonically elected. The Nuns' joy was general upon seeing that God had given them as abbess a Mother so worthy, so holy, and niece of their Mother Foundress.

The humble nun, confused and ashamed on contrasting her littleness with such a lofty dignity, did not want to accept the position, crying inconsolably. The saintly Foundress, consoling her, said with an air of authority: "My daughter, is this being a Nun?" She then sat in the abbatial chair and received the obedience of all the Nuns.

On the afternoon of that same day, a stranger called the Nuns at the door. Mother Mary of Jesus attended to him, receiving this message: "The Lady, knowing that Mother Mariana of Jesus had been chosen as Abbess, sends her this delicacy, asking always to keep her in mind." When asked who the lady was that sent such an exquisite gift, she received no answer and went to present it to Mother Mariana of Jesus saying: "Mother, look at this delicate present they sent you," and gave the lady's message. "What lady?" asked the new Mother Abbess. "She didn't give her name," said Mother Mary of Jesus. "It must be the marchioness," continued the saintly Abbess. She then distributed the delicacy among the Nuns, which multiplied while she shared it out, giving each one a large portion to satisfy them. The Sisters assured they had never eaten such exquisite food.

The next day, Mother Mary of Jesus went to the door to receive the rich presents sent by the marchioness, and some patacones, the old currency, for the community's sustenance. She had learned that Mother Mariana of Jesus had been elected Prioress and wanted to congratulate her. Mother Mary of Jesus thanked her for everything she had sent, especially for the delicious delicacy from the day before. Embarrassed, the marchioness said: "The food from my lands hasn't arrived yet, and I couldn't prepare anything." As Mother Mary of Jesus insisted, the marchioness asked what present it was. Receiving the explanation, she replied: "That wasn't prepared in my house; no one has served that at my table." With this show of love and mercy, Mother Mary of Jesus understood how the Blessed Virgin protected her niece and the community.

Mother Mariana's government was one of peace, sweetness, and strict observance from the moment she accepted the cross of the priorate. She imitated her Divine Spouse with utmost diligence and heroic fortitude to watch over the honour of her Beloved, promoting Divine Worship. Our Lord God wanted the soul of the young Prioress to ascend alone to Calvary, and had allowed the harsh trial of the Mother Foundress' death to purify her soul, so that in solitude and helplessness she might be the victim for the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception. Indeed, Mother Mary of Jesus Taboada, Foundress of the Quito monastery, died on October 4, 1593, at the age of 49, 16 years after the monastery's foundation.

In the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, there was a group of four nuns opposed to the strict observance of the Rule, who strove to make the convent subordinate to the Bishop of Quito and not to the Franciscans, as the latter gave them an orientation according to the spirit of conventual life. It was because of the strength of this group that the Friars Minor deemed it prudent to consent, against their will, to leave the government of the Conceptionist Nuns. These Friars who had governed the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception were of great learning, virtue, and holiness, and being unable to restrain the non-observance of some nuns, they prudently resolved to withdraw from the direction of the Conceptionist Nuns, but did not want to renounce internally jurisdiction over the monastery, so as to have the freedom to return.

The announcement of the Minors' separation broke the hearts of the observant Nuns. On that day, even the sky seemed to accompany the weeping of the Conceptionist nuns, as it rained all day. Mother Mariana of Jesus looked like a corpse, such was her suffering.

One night, the holy Prioress went to pray in the upper choir and heard a terrible noise that seemed as if the foundations of the temple were collapsing. Frightened, she ran to prostrate herself before the Tabernacle, and with her forehead on the ground, she cried out to her Divine Spouse, asking for Mercy. Our Lord, from the Tabernacle, said to her: "My daughter, what you hear spiritually, your successors will suffer materially, for the time will come when demons will want to demolish this convent and will use both good and bad people to destroy this place; but they will not succeed as long as there is a spirit of sacrifice. For this, it is necessary that there be victims within

the convent, and you, My daughter, prepare to receive the visit of My Most Holy Mother, by which She seeks to favour you.”

The Most Holy Virgin of the Happy Event

At this time, the state of the poor colony was one of sadness and affliction, mainly because the ecclesiastical and civil governments gave much to talk about. Mother Mariana of Jesus suffered for the offences given to His Divine Majesty, for the perdition of so many souls, and for the internal state of her convent, where there were no few members adverse to the Franciscan family, and who worked with great tenacity and without pretences to shake off their obedience.



It was the year 1594, and Mother Mariana of Jesus was at the head of the community of the Immaculate Conception, governing it with as much tact, prudence, and charity as an Abbess mature in experience would be capable of doing.

On February 2, 1594, at one o'clock in the morning, in the upper choir of this blessed monastery, with her heart full of bitterness and sorrow, Mother Mariana of Jesus began to pray, prostrate with her forehead to the ground, begging the Lord, through the intercession of His Blessed Mother, that the many trials her beloved convent was going through might end, and that He also put an end to so many sins in the world.

After a long time, she perceived someone in front of her. Her heart was troubled, and a sweet voice called her by name. She rose quickly and found herself in front of a most beautiful and lovely Lady, who held the Child God in her left hand and in her right a staff wholly of burnished gold, adorned with precious stones never seen here on earth. Her heart was ignited with unspeakable and holy joy, and with such intense love for her God that she wanted to die right there. In these holy transports, she asked: “Beautiful Lady, who are you and what do you want? Don’t you know that I am a poor Nun, full of love for God, but resigned and embittered to extreme?” To which the Lady replied: “I am Mary of the Happy Event, the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Precisely because you are a religious soul, full of love for God and for your Mother, who now speaks to you, that I come from Heaven to console your afflicted heart. Your prayers, tears, and penances are very pleasing to our Heavenly Father. He who infuses His Consoling Spirit and sustains the righteous in their trials, from three drops of Blood from my Heart formed the most beautiful of the sons of men, [confirming Palmarian doctrine] whom I carried in my most pure womb for nine months, and to Him gave birth in the stable of Bethlehem, laying Him on the cold straw while remaining a Virgin and Mother of God. As Mother, I have Him here, on my left arm, to hold back with Him the arm of Divine Justice, ever ready to discharge punishment on the unhappy and criminal world... In my right hand I hold the staff you see, for I want to govern this convent of Mine as Prioress and Mother. The Minors are about to leave the governance of this convent, which needs, more than ever, in this harsh trial that will last centuries, my protection and support. Satan began to want to destroy this work of God using my ungrateful daughters, but he will not succeed because I am the Queen of Victories and the Mother of the Happy Event, a title under which I want to perform wonders in all centuries, in favour of the preservation of this My convent and its indwellers...”

Until the end of the world, there will be holy daughters, heroic souls, who in the obscure life of their convent, suffering persecutions and slander from their own community, will be the object of God’s complacency and of Mine, His Mother’s... They will sustain the community in bitter times, like strong and robust columns. Their lives of prayer, asceticism, and penance will be of great necessity in all eras, and after having lived unnoticed on earth, they will rise up to Heaven to occupy a high throne of Glory, wielding the palm and crown of virgins and martyrs of penance, asceticism, and Love of God... I want you to strengthen your heart and not be discouraged by suffering. Your life will be long for the Glory of God and of His Mother who speaks to you. My Most Holy Son will present you with pain in all its forms, and to instil in you the courage you need, take Him from My arms, and receive Him in yours; press Him to your heart so weak and imperfect.”

The Most Holy Virgin then placed the Divine Child in the arms of this happy Nun. She pressed Him to her heart and showered Him with affection, feeling as strong as she was desirous of suffering. The vision of the Queen of Heaven lasted until three in the morning. Mother Mariana of Jesus then rose up from where she was praying, a few steps from the upper choir grate, entered and directly took her seat as prioress to await her Sisters who were coming to pray the Little Office, so pleasing to Most Holy Mary. When the Nuns arrived and began the morning prayers, they saw her transformed. Without knowing why, they felt their hearts ablaze with love for God and Most Holy Mary, and they prayed with greater fervour than usual.

From the happy day of February 2nd 1594, when the Most Holy Virgin revealed Herself as Our Lady of the Happy Event to her daughter Mother Mariana of Jesus, the holy Nun was renewed and inflamed with love for God, showing in her body and soul the greatness of the gift she had received, enjoying an unalterable celestial peace.

She was then about to finish her three-year term as Prioress, a position she was going to relinquish without having committed any slip, as she had irreproachably kept the strictest monastic silence, the punctual observance of the Rule and vows, especially perfect enclosure.

Mother Mariana of Jesus was making a novena to the Holy Ghost, begging Him to enlighten souls to make the right choice. Being on the seventh day, in the midst of the fervour of her prayer, she felt an impetuous wind and saw refulgent rays of light entering through the choir grilles, illuminating the entire paving. Enveloped in this light, Mother Mariana heard a voice saying: "I am He who gives Gifts and Fruits. I am rest for pure souls like a bed of roses and lilies. I am He who gives you my seven Gifts and my twelve Fruits; and now, I come with the Gift of Fortitude to give new strength to your soul, because the time of your sufferings has arrived, in which step by step you must imitate the life of your Crucified Spouse. So many are the sufferings that await you that if I did not fortify you with the Gift of Fortitude, your life would fade away. Soon the Friars Minor will leave the governance of the monastery of the Immaculate Conception and you will be persecuted, slandered, and put in prison." Having said this, the Comforting Spirit disappeared and Mother Mariana fainted.

Mother Mariana humbly hands over her position and the Friars Minor separate

In the year 1595, the day came to choose a new prioress, and although the Nuns recognized Mother Mariana of Jesus' outstanding merits, they let themselves be taken in by the devil who darkened their minds. Under the influence of non-observant nuns who desired a greater relaxation of monastic rigour, and with the favouritism of Mother Magdalen Valenzuela's relatives who directed the ecclesiastical government, the voting took place. With sorrow and tears, the Friars Minor received the news that Mother Magdalen Valenzuela had been elected as abbess. From then on, Mother Mariana of Jesus was subjected to contempt, mockery, persecution, and slander in the monastery. They accused her of serious omissions during her priorate, but this prudent virgin never defended herself.

Mother Valenzuela, in turn, worked with the speed of lightning to shake off obedience to the Friars Minor and obtain subjection to the Bishop of the diocese, in which she succeeded. Observance began to decline, strict silence disappeared, and breaches in matters of enclosure began. Seeing this laxity, Mother Mariana of Jesus, wanting to contain the situation as Foundress and former Prioress, went to Mother Magdalen Valenzuela, her Abbess, and with profound humility pointed out how she should curb the non-observance. The result was that the Prelate, informed of this matter, sent a document ordering Mother Mariana to be imprisoned for three days; to have her veil removed, to be led those days to the refectory, and other punishments. During these three days, she was deprived of Holy Mass and Holy Communion. The Spanish founder members could not resist this suffering and went to unburden their sorrows with Mother Mariana of Jesus, until a new order came from the Prelate to imprison all the founder members together for a month.



One of those nights, when Mother Mariana was praying on the humble bed of her prison, a small cross that she had painted in the concavity of the wall next to her poor bed lit up with celestial brilliance, giving the prison a radiance brighter than the sun. The Cross grew until it reached the natural size of the one on which Our Lord was crucified. At that moment, all the Spanish Foundresses entered into ecstasy, and each saw something different from the others.

Mother Mariana of Jesus saw Our Lord Crucified, as He was on Golgotha, dying and bleeding from His wounds, and the insults and blasphemies of the Jews could be heard. Our Lord, seeing that His tears caused great pain to Mother Mariana of Jesus, said to her: "These wounds of Mine were opened by the non-observant nuns who rejected obedience to the Friars Minor, and I will feel this pain during all the centuries to come while the monastery remains separated from the jurisdiction of the Friars Minor, because in all centuries there will be ungrateful souls opposed to the Seraphic Order. But, there will also be souls very loving of the Seraphic Family

who will take great pains in the fulfilment of their Holy Rule."

Mother Frances of the Angels saw Saint Francis indignant against the convent: with a bow in his hands, he went through the cloister shooting arrows left and right. One of those arrows reached the heart of a Sister, who died instantly without apparent cause. And the Seraphic Father said to Mother Frances: "This Sister is the main cause of the separation from the Friars Minor and the laxity of the convent; upon her will weigh all the sufferings and non-observance of future centuries... I will watch so that there be loving souls at all times... souls who with their penitent and selfless lives will sustain the regular observance of the convent."

In the morning, when the happy captives went to Holy Mass, they heard a commotion in the community and saw doctors and bloodletters entering to examine the deceased nun, thinking it was an attack, as the face of the deceased was black and bruised. The doctors declared that she was dead...

Mother Anne of the Conception saw Our Immaculate Mother extinguish the little lamp of the Blessed Sacrament, saying to her: “My daughter, thus will the spirit of my daughters be extinguished in all centuries until the government of the Friars Minor returns, because I will always have ungrateful daughters: some through inexperience, others induced, and others through malice. But I will also have saintly daughters who, loving my Immaculate Conception, will love my servant Francis, and will be firm pillars that will preserve the monastery... to appease Divine Justice...”

In the morning, when they went to Holy Mass, they saw the little lamp of the Blessed Sacrament extinguished. No matter how hard the nuns tried for a day and a night, including the disobedient ones, they could not light it. In vain they changed the lamp, changed the oil, the wick, they could not succeed. On the second day, the lamp lit by itself.

Once the vision was over, all the Foundresses communicated to each other the ineffable visions they had simultaneously had on that happy night, and declared them under oath in the accounts preserved in the monastery archives.

On that same night, it was revealed to Mother Mariana that the then Abbess, Mother Magdalen of Jesus Valenzuela, would die in a few years, from heart disease. The Mother Abbess, for her part, unable to bear any longer her own remorse and the sufferings of the holy prisoners, sent a note to the ecclesiastical ruler, asking among other things for freedom for the prisoners and presented her resignation from the priorate. The first was accepted, but she had to finish the period prescribed by the Rule before leaving the priorate. She had sinned through lack of character, but not through malice.

The day of the liberation of the innocent prisoners was one of rejoicing for the community. They gave them some rest and called the confessor, who confessed all the prisoners, now free, who received Communion the following day, returning to their life of fervour and observance. Then, for some time, the sufferings caused by their persecutors ended.

Second priorate of Mother Mariana of Jesus and new imprisonment

The year 1598 was passing, and Mother Mariana of Jesus suffered terrible torments, persecutions, and slanders caused by her Sisters, without opening her lips with the slightest complaint, thus imitating her Divine Spouse.

Finally, Mother Valenzuela's priorate came to an end, a time so fateful for the foundress Mothers, and a new election was held. The disobedient nuns, astutely, put into play all possible means to elect a Nun who would allow them greater laxity in conventual life. They worked so hard in this intent that they were close to achieving their objective. But what was their surprise to see that the vote came out in favour of Mother Mariana of Jesus. As soon as she was elected, Mother Magdalen Valenzuela, anticipating the ceremonies, rushed to pledge obedience, eager to hand over the position to the one she so wanted to be her Superioress.

Mother Mariana of Jesus found herself confused, disoriented, and was about to present her resignation. At that moment, she saw a light coming from the Tabernacle, flooding and illuminating the entire Church and the lower choir. She then knew all the sufferings, slanders, and imprisonments that awaited her in her priorate. Meanwhile, interiorly, she insisted on resigning from the position. Then she saw Our Lord coming out of the Tabernacle, carrying an enormous Cross, crowned with thorns, covered in wounds and with eyes full of tears. Approaching her, Our Lord said: “I did not turn back on the way to Calvary with this large and heavy Cross, which I carried for your love and that of all sinners, and now, thankless, you want to leave me?”

Our Lord was tied with some ropes. He sat next to her with a rope around his neck, holding the Cross. This comforted Mother Mariana. Meanwhile, the Nuns paid obedience by kissing her scapular, but without realizing it, they were kissing the Lord's rope.

The procession with the new Prioress was held immediately and then they took her for the celebrations. Everyone was full of joy, except for the disobedient ones, and among them especially the one who had wanted to be elected prioress. Mother Mariana of Jesus, who perceived what was happening in that heart, amid the joy of her Daughters, approached her persecutor saying with a motherly expression and much sweetness: “My little Sister, what is that interior suffering or sorrow of yours?” She replied with haughtiness and boldness: “None at all; enjoy what you sought so much.” Mother Mariana withdrew humbly without saying a word, but Mother Valenzuela reprimanded the nun saying: “What is this, Sister? How can you behave like this in our gathering? If you feel better outside, you can retire to your cell.” “Yes, Mother,” replied the nun very gratefully. And she left, taking the disobedient ones with her.

The nuns continued celebrating their Prioress until, when night came, without any reason, the nun who had responded insolently to Mother Mariana of Jesus, the same who had wanted to be superioress of the Convent, suddenly died. With the death of that poor nun, the celebrations in the community ended and the funeral was held.

Meanwhile, a conciliabulum of the disobedient ones wrote a note with slanders to the prelate, accusing Mother Mariana of Jesus. The prelate's response arrived immediately: “...For having seriously broken your Rule and

having been in conversations with the Friars Minor until late at night, you are suspended from the position of Abbess. The seat will be vacant until further notice and I order that you be imprisoned immediately.”

This situation caused great torments to Mother Valenzuela, as she saw that she was the cause of so many injustices committed against the innocent Mothers. The holy and angelic Prioress was committed in prison, and little by little her Daughters and Sisters, the Spanish foundresses, and other faithful Nuns were imprisoned. With their humble and silent suffering and unparalleled fervour, they continued every day in prison with the recitation of the Little Office in the morning.

The Most Holy Virgin of the Happy Event asks for her Image

At midnight, as was her custom while continuing in prison, the holy Prioress would pray while her Sisters slept peacefully. Prostrate, with her forehead on the ground, she humbled herself in the presence of her God and Lord and, believing that her many faults were the cause of divine indignation over her beloved convent, she asked for mercy and forgiveness.

It was thus that in the early morning of January 16th 1599, in prison, at one o'clock in the morning, in the depths of prayer, Mother Mariana of Jesus heard the singing of a melodious voice accompanied by a zither as from Heaven, while the prison was illuminated with a celestial Light. She fell to her knees, repeatedly calling her Sisters who were sleeping deeply, but they did not wake up.

Then the most beautiful Lady appeared in a dazzling light, whom she had already seen four years previously, in 1594, with her most precious Child on her left arm and a staff in her right hand. The staff had a cross of diamonds, which shone, each like a sun, and in the middle of the cross a star of rubies, with the name of Mary engraved, which emitted a set of lights, each brighter than the other.

Our Lady said to her: “My beloved daughter, I am Mary of the Happy Event... The tribulation with which my Most Holy Son tries you today is a heavenly gift with which souls are strengthened and retain Divine Wrath, ready to unleash a tremendous punishment on the ungrateful colony. ... In all centuries... God will have some contemplative souls and worthy Spouses of His Majesty, those who, in darkness, in silence, in humiliation and in contempt will be in the very bosom of the community, and will be powerful to appease Divine Justice and obtain great benefits for the Church, the Country and for souls.”

“The separation of the Friars Minor at this time was by Divine permission. Woe to those who worked directly to obscure the Light of this monastery! But, after a few centuries, they will return to govern my beloved flock... That day will be when moral corruption in the world seems to reach its peak, and when my agonizing community finds itself deprived of earthly goods, and saturated with pains and bitterness...”

This prophecy was fulfilled on two dates: On December 23rd 1975, with the Foundation of the Order of the Carmelites of the Holy Face, which includes in itself the spirit of all other religious orders, as this Order guides with the true spirit of the Gospel all religious men and women who remained faithful. On August 6th 1978, failing to recognize the Great Apocalyptic Pope, Saint Gregory XVII the Very Great, all other religious congregations officially fell into apostasy. But those apostates retained all the goods that had been the property of those congregations, thus stripping the true Church of all that belonged to her by Divine Right. It says “agonizing” to highlight the reduced number of faithful souls, the cruel persecution of which it was the object, and all this

occurring in the midst of unprecedented moral corruption.

The Blessed Virgin then communicated to her future events related to the Spanish colony in which she lived:

“In a short time, the country in which you live will cease to be a colony and will be a free republic. Then it will be known by the name of Ecuador, and will need heroic souls to survive in the midst of so many public and private calamities...”

This prophecy was fulfilled two hundred years later.

“In the XIX century there will live a truly Christian president, a man of character, to whom God Our Lord will give the palm of martyrdom in the square where this convent of mine is. He will consecrate the republic to the Divine Heart of my Most Holy Son. This consecration will sustain the Catholic Religion in subsequent years, which will be ruinous for the Church...”

This prophecy was fulfilled literally, in the person of Saint Gabriel García Moreno.

Indeed, on March 25, 1874, during his second presidency, Ecuador was consecrated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. A year later, on August 6, 1875, the first Friday of the month, after receiving communion in the Church of Santo Domingo, Saint Gabriel García Moreno was heading to the Carondelet Palace, when he was assassinated by order of foreign Masonic sects, as the martyr president had banned them in Ecuador. As he was dying, he managed to wet his finger in his own blood and write on the ground: GOD DOES NOT DIE.

The message of the Most Holy Mary of the Happy Event concludes, requesting the creation of her image: “... It is the Will of My Most Holy Son that you yourself order the sculpturing of My statue just as you see Me, and



place it on the Prioress's chair so that from there I may govern My convent, ... so that mortals understand that I am powerful to appease Divine Justice and obtain mercy and forgiveness for every sinful soul that turns to Me with contrite heart, for I am the Mother of Mercy and in Me they will find only kindness and love. And second, so that for all centuries, My daughters understand that I show them and give them My Most Holy Son and their God as a model for their religious perfection. When tribulations of the spirit and bodily ardour oppress them and they feel shipwrecked in that bottomless sea, a look at My Holy Image will be for them like the star of the shipwrecked, they will always find Me ready to hear their sighs and wipe away their tears. Tell them always to turn to their Mother with faith and love, and for this I want to live with them and in them; with their sufferings of all kinds they will preserve their monastery forever. Tell them to imitate My humility, My obedience, My spirit of sacrifice and My absolute dependence on the Divine Will..."

The humble Nun said to the Most Holy Mary: "Beautiful Lady, no human person will be able to create in wood Your charming Image, with all the details, because I would not know how to explain or give Your size." To which the vision replied: "Let nothing frighten you, my daughter,... As for the height of my size, measure it yourself with the cord you wear at your waist... bring and put your cord in My right hand, and with the other end touch My feet." The happy Nun did as the Most Holy Mary told her, trembling with joy, love and reverence, and the Most Holy Virgin continued, indicating Francisco del Castillo as the artist who should create the image. Having said these words, the vision hid and the happy Prioress lit her earthly lamp and called her Sisters. At the voice of their Prioress, all awoke, it was 4 o'clock in the morning.

Freedom and new confinement

At that time, Mother Valenzuela wrote a very formal note to the Bishop of the diocese claiming the innocence of her Prioress and her Founding Mothers. She asked for freedom for the holy and innocent prisoners, and that he arrange for Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres to continue governing until the end of her term. Mother Valenzuela's request was attended to and dispatched as she asked. Furthermore, the prelate ordered that the chief of the non-observant nuns, the ringleader, be confined in a lower and dark room, with a Crucifix and a skull.

The saintly Prioress, Mother Mariana of Jesus, visited the ringleader, who was imprisoned, very soon. And, as she had colic, she was transferred from the dark room to the infirmary. Recovered from her ailments, this Nun did not amend. During the regular pastoral visit, the non-observant nuns repeated the serious accusations against Mother Mariana of Jesus who did not defend herself. The Prelate, who did not know details of the convent life, allowed himself to be guided by the non-observant nuns and ordered the Prioress's veil to be removed and that she be confined to her cell. The governance of the convent passed to the Mother Vicar.



At that moment, Mother Mariana in a vision saw Christ Our Lord, bound and imprisoned by the barbarous Jews after Judas's betrayal. She perceived His deep pain at the perdition of so many souls, and for the ingratitude of His Ministers and His Spouses down through the centuries until the end of the world. She saw how the Divine Master suffered His Passion interiorly and exteriorly, and with loving tenderness He said to her: "My spouse, do not leave Me with so much pain and bitterness; if you truly love Me, I ask you to... accompany Me throughout life. I let you know that this sacrifice and generosity will be the seed for this convent, so dear to my Heart, to have in every century victim souls through suffering and dolour, those who under My gaze alone live in the practice of My sublime perfection, being pillars of your community and lightning rods to hold back Divine Wrath in the dire times through which the Church will pass..."

As in many prophecies and messages, the Blessed Virgin speaks to her about the Convent, but in their profound sense, reference is seen to God's Holy Church and the importance of reparation.

At that time, a representative of the Bishop went on a secret visit to the convent. On that occasion, Mother Valenzuela, who was the Mother Vicar, and the observant nuns told him about their worthy Prioress and stated that everything that was happening was due to countless slanders from a few nuns. Upon hearing such a general and truthful opinion, he explained everything to the Bishop who sent a formal note to the Mother Vicar to release the persecuted Prioress, and reinstate her in her position as Prioress and Mother of the community. The following morning, the same representative of the Bishop wanted to speak under sacramental seal with Mother Mariana of Jesus and was amazed on observing the profound virtue of this Nun.

The Bishop suffered upon seeing that he himself had oppressed a just soul due to unjust slander and ordered that she should always and at all times be the one to govern in this monastery, above all prioresses.

The non-observant nuns, who remained in their rebellion, organized a procession with the lay Sisters, whom they had been able to win over to their cause, to go and ask the Bishop for the dismissal of Mother Mariana of Jesus and the appointment of their leader as superior. They had managed to obtain a key to leave the convent, and

each nun taking a candle headed for the door. With the commotion, the other nuns arrived and were surprised to see even the lay sisters with veils and prepared to go out in procession, unable to understand the situation. Mother Valenzuela reprimanded them, without them abandoning their intent; however, they were unable to leave. Then Mother Valenzuela, exasperated, snatched the candles one by one and threw them away. Mother Mariana of Jesus arranged for the observant Nuns to collect the candles and keep them together.

Then something unusual happened. Precisely because of the serious problems in the convent, they had brought into the enclosure an image of Our Lady of Peace, whom they affectionately called the Little Patroness, which the Foundresses had brought from Spain and was normally in the adjoining church. This image came to life and turning its back on the non-observant nuns said to them: "Wretches, what are you doing? Go, if you wish, in good time, but you will have nowhere to return... Late will you cry for your follies, and for perpetual memory, I will remain thus turned with my back to you, as a warning..." At these words, the guilty fell unconscious, and were attended to with great kindness by Mother Mariana of Jesus and the Foundresses.

In the convent, however, problems and intrigues continued, without being able to carry out a new election, as the rules indicated. After many vicissitudes caused by the non-observant nuns, who followed their leader, there was an altercation with the Bishop, in which this ungrateful and non-observant nun asked that the Foundresses return to their land and leave the other nuns free and in peace. With this impertinence, the Bishop became aware of the evil spirit that animated her and her lack of virtue. And he had her imprisoned and ordered the other non-observant nuns to withdraw from the Chapter, as their votes would not be counted.

Heroic charity in the highest degree

For her part, the saintly Conceptionist Nun knew at that moment through a vision that the wretched ringleader would not be saved, as well as many of her followers, dragged down by her bad example. She saw how they would plunge from abyss to abyss for the rest of their lives, endangering the convent in a way, dragging down other nuns by their bad example, being a skilled and subtle instrument of the infernal serpent. Mother Mariana of Jesus prayed ceaselessly for their salvation. Then Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to her as He was in the Garden of Olives in His sorrowful and fervent agony. And she saw that the greatest torments of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus were the ingratitude and indifference of souls who, chosen among thousands to be His Spouses and His Ministers, left Him in the most absolute solitude.

Immediately this heroic Conceptionist said: "My Beloved, You have never denied me anything until now, and I am resolved to deny You nothing until my last breath. What do You want from me?..."

The Lord replied: "It is not life that I want from you, my beloved Mariana, but suffering for a period of five consecutive years the pains of hell that the soul of this poor Sister would have to suffer for all Eternity. I assign you five years in memory of the five Wounds of my suffering Humanity during my Passion. See that during this time I will absent myself from your material sight and will not give you the slightest consolation or relief for your pains, just as the soul of this poor Sister would not have in hell. Inwardly I will be with you, strengthening you, because otherwise, neither you nor any mortal could tolerate so much pain even for a minute. Tell me: do you accept my request?" And the Divine Master showed her the sufferings of the five years, in which Mother Mariana of Jesus saw not five years but all eternity. Her flesh and bones trembled, and her heart was so overwhelmed that she would have died right there from the violence of the pain if God had not miraculously preserved her life, but Mother Mariana accepted.

Meanwhile, in the Chapter room, the regular election was taking place without the non-observant nuns, and Mother Valenzuela was elected, confirmed with great pleasure by the Prelate. Immediately afterwards, they proceeded to the solemn act of pledging obedience to the new Prioress. To begin, Mother Valenzuela asked the prelate to lift the excommunication incurred by the ringleader and her followers. The prelate agreed happily and ordered Mothers Mariana of Jesus, Frances of the Angels, and Lucia of the Cross to take the culprit out of jail just for this purpose and bring her to his presence, doing the same with the others.

Peace should have returned to the convent, but it was not so. It is impossible to describe the situation that was experienced in that still young monastery. The few non-observant nuns altered the community's climate with their intrigues in such a way that even Mother Valenzuela was once again filled with doubts and misgivings. Days later, they told her that in a new sealed zinc box that had been placed in the lower choir, Mother Mariana of Jesus kept sweets and liquors for her palate while pretending mortification. Mother Valenzuela could not stand it much longer, and being alone one day with Mother Mariana of Jesus in the lower choir, she asked to see the contents of said box. "Very well, Mother," replied the obedient nun, "but ask the Lord for strength and courage."

And reaching the box, she says: "Mother, do you remember the unworthy procession that our poor Sisters made with lighted candles?" "I remember," replied the Mother Abbess, "and I took the candles and threw them away. But what does it have to do with that?"

"Mother," the humble Mother Mariana said again, "all those candles transformed into bones of the dead and are here with the respective names of the nuns who bore them. That's why I carefully collected them, with Mother

Frances of the Angels and Mother Lucia of the Cross, and kept them secretly and, without delay, I had this box made to keep these bones, where the names of the nuns who wanted to end this beloved monastery are.”

“We shall see, Mother,” says the Mother Abbess, moved. And opening the lid, she gave a cry and turned pale, with her eyes fixed on the bones, wanting to speak but unable to.

Once recovered, Mother Valenzuela ordered the entire community to be called to the lower choir, including the ringleader of the disobedient ones, who was brought from prison. Positioned by rank, with the prisoner on the floor, in the last place, behind the lay sisters, Mother Valenzuela began to speak to them about how God vindicated the innocence of Mother Mariana of Jesus, so slandered and unjustly persecuted. She called some Nuns to bring the zinc box to the centre of the choir with the disobedient ones and the prisoner, so that all could see its contents and told them: “See, Sisters, the candles you carried in your hands during the procession a few days ago. They turned into your own bones and with your own names. Read each one...”

All gave a cry of horror that echoed in the church and the guilty nuns wept in fear. Mother Valenzuela placed each bone in the hands of the guilty nun; the slanderer and the prisoner wanted to speak, but couldn’t and fainted. Little by little, with the maternal care and massage that Mother Mariana of Jesus gave them, they came to, except for the prisoner, who took much longer and they thought her dead. When she recovered, she found herself in Mother Mariana’s arms. Alarmed, she moved aside with a gesture of contempt and, to the scandal of all, said to her: “Liar!” The Abbess, Mother Valenzuela, had everything recorded in writing and preserved for eternal memory.

When Mother Mariana went the next day to the lower choir for the usual mental prayer, she felt something extraordinary in her heart. She heard the melodious voice of her Most Holy Mother saying to her: “Daughter of my Heart, I am the Queen of Peace and the Mother of Fair Love. Prepare your heart and expand your spirit to save the soul of your Sister who is in prison. It is time for you to sacrifice yourself for her, or her soul will be lost.” And great tears ran down the charming cheeks of the Queen of Peace. Continuing her prayer, Mother Mariana saw Jesus Crucified full of mortal anguish, crowned with thorns. Thick drops of Blood ran over his noblest forehead and down his cheeks. Our Lord gave a sigh and said to her: “My spouse, it is time to fulfil the offer you made to save the soul of your Sister... suffering the five years of hell’s pains so that she does not suffer eternally. Either you keep your word or Divine Justice will fall upon that guilty soul. Decide at this moment.”

Mother Mariana saw that the imprisoned nun was beside herself, desperate, discontented with life owing to the terrible remorse of her conscience and that she was trying to find something with which to kill herself. And she submitted to the punishment of five years of hell in her soul.

The Lord accepted such generous love and said to her: “... Fear nothing; I will be your secret strength. You will suffer the five years of hell and in exchange, the soul of your Sister is already saved. She will first suffer a grave illness, which you will use to win her over and convert her, enduring the harshness of her temper, and when she heals, after presenting herself at Judgment and knowing her bad life, your hell will begin.”

Meanwhile, seized by an attack, the ringleader, weeping, cried out that she was dying and would be damned; Mother Mariana went to console her and also cried, and her tears bathed the head, forehead and face of the poor prisoner, who from time to time was shaken by strong convulsions until she gave a cry and stretched out completely. Mother Mariana saw the demons surrounding her and cast them out with an exorcism. How admirable! No sooner had the humble nun finished pronouncing the last word of her exorcism, a frightful crash was heard: the earth trembled, and horrible howls were heard. The prisoner was as if dead, supported by Mother Mariana of Jesus. Finally she opened her eyes and sat up suddenly.

It became necessary to help her and take her out of the jail for a few hours into the open air, but she fought against her own remorse, and in her heart hatred was so deeply rooted that she could not ask for forgiveness or wish well to Mother Mariana of Jesus, from whom she had received only good.

Indeed, the next morning the ringleader fell ill and was taken to the infirmary and cared for by Mother Mariana of Jesus with deep love, but only received disdain and insults in return. It is not possible to narrate all the humiliations and sufferings of Mother Mariana of Jesus and the foundresses, who helped her in this thirty-day period. It would be too long.

On the thirtieth day the patient was very ill and seemed to be dying. The face pale, disfigured and terrified as though in a desperate agony. She screamed, writhed and said: “It’s too late for me. I can’t love her or forgive her. I want to be saved, but like this, I can’t. Help me, Spanish women, the demons are taking me!” And she hugged Mother Mariana, who silently poured a flood of tears over the head and face of the sick woman. With this healthy sprinkling she calmed down somewhat and said: “Continue applying that cool thing that relieves me.”

They called the confessor, who frightened did not want to stay long, saying: “This poor nun dies unrepentant. She must confess and make amends for her faults in life. Poor thing! How much work in vain!” Finally the sick woman gave a cry, opened her eyes and mouth, from which foam came out, and stretched out. And Mother Mariana still held her in her arms, then the Foundresses told her that there was no remedy. But Mother Mariana of Jesus replied: “Pray to the Lord for her. She is now before the Judgment of God and is already understanding all the evil

she did. She will return to life, then she will amend. Afterwards she will die, but she will be saved and her Purgatory will last until Judgment Day. This the Lord revealed to me.”

Having said this, the sick woman shuddered and came to. She looked around the room, seeming to search for one of the Mothers. Finally she fixed her gaze on Mother Mariana of Jesus, who held her in her arms, and squeezing her hand she wanted to speak but her voice failed her. Her eyes were streams of tears. The loving Mother Mariana wiped them away with a mother’s love and instilled great confidence in God’s Goodness. The sick nun seemed ashamed, but the loving Mother told her: “Don’t be upset, my sick child. You need peace and quiet to make your general confession with a Father Minor. Much confidence and love in our Good God. Courage, all your Sisters love you and want your physical and moral health.”

From that moment on, the patient gave no trouble; her docility was like that of a child. She received all remedies with gratitude and holy shame, and showed her deep gratitude to Mother Mariana from whom she did not want to part for even a moment, as well as to the other Mothers who attended and cured her. The improvement progressed and after a month she had recovered. All these things happened in the first year of Mother Valenzuela’s second priorate.

The pains of hell for five years

At the end of the first year of Mother Valenzuela’s second term as prioress, Mother Mariana was praying, as usual in the lower choir, where the happily converted sister was also present, when she was carried away in spirit and saw Jesus Christ who, looking at her, says: “My spouse and beloved, it is time for you to suffer for five years the pains of hell that you accepted to save the soul of your poor Sister. Prepare yourself with the gift of fortitude, insistently asking my Divine Spirit. Descend to the depths of your soul and with confidence, enclose it in the Wound of my side, asylum of my chosen souls, place it under the maternal care of my beautiful Virgin Mother. Purify your soul further with the absolution you will receive, with increased faith and humility, and tomorrow, after remaining with you in Communion, your hell will begin.” And, blessing her, the Lord hid Himself in His Tabernacle, prison of Love.

She called the Father Minor whom she had for her intimate consultations, and communicated everything to him, confessing in an extraordinary way to receive absolution. She prepared all day to receive God in the Eucharist, as if it were the last time. She felt ardent affections of love, gratitude, and faith. It was a day full of joy.

When the following morning she approached the Table of Angels to bid farewell, for the long period of five years, to the intimate union and familiar dealings she had with her God, whom she loved with all her strength, it was as if her heart was being torn out. She could not stop pressing Him to her heart, wanting if possible to retain Him for a few moments longer. But her hour had come.

After receiving Communion, Mother Mariana felt a sharp pain in her heart, and became insensible to her God..., she felt tedium towards Him, and a kind of hatred, a desperation in which there was no glimmer of hope... She tried to reflect on the sacrifice she had made for that soul to save it, and instead of finding relief, she felt rage, desperation, and total distrust in God. She wanted to forget the Divine Heart that loved her to the point of surrendering Himself to cruel torments and infinite humiliations; she felt upon herself the weight of God’s Blood shed in vain for a damned soul. She remembered well all the sublime Mysteries of the incarnate God, of His Virgin Mother, Pure and Immaculate since her Conception, but these memories constituted for her a perennial source of incessant rage and desperation, she felt herself a daughter of the Immaculate Conception, but now, damned. From her mind the notion of five years had disappeared and she could only discern an eternity of afflictions. She wanted to encourage herself thinking that someday her hell would end, but she heard hoarse and terrible voices that said to her: “Eternity... eternity... Forever... forever... In hell no Redemption! The Nun who wasted time, who dissipated so many graces, deserves unheard-of torments and the most horrible suffering of the pain of perdition...!”



Her body was like a live ember that burned without being consumed, amidst unheard-of and unspeakable heat. After the heat, she passed on to a cold impossible to express or describe. Her breathing was oppressed by an immense weight that came either from the fire or from the ice... Before her eyes arose horrible infernal visions; her ears were atrociously lashed with the blasphemies of the damned and of demons; her sense of smell was flooded with repugnant odours more intense than the filth of the whole world; her sense of touch was tormented as if full of sharp points that penetrated her to the entrails; her palate was tortured by a horrible taste, completely unknown to her, which the demons forcibly made her swallow, giving her hard blows that upset her mind, stirred her brains and incited her to rage, to despair, to blasphemy.

All the torments we have described, and many others that this creature experienced, she suffered day and night, at all hours, at all times and places.

During this period of harsh atonement, she was a model of sweetness and humility, of meekness and exact observance of the Rule. Serious, dignified, and sweetly amiable, she displayed on her countenance a mortal and deep sadness. She attracted the hearts, affection, and gazes of her community, but no one dared to ask her the origin of her pain. During this time, she never opened her lips to utter the slightest word that could reveal her bitterness to the community. Only the Friar who directed her knew.

With this great suffering, Mother Mariana weakened rapidly. She lost the rosy colour of her face, now yellow; her eyes sunken and sad, her whole being expressed an intimate and deep pain.

Regarding the reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, her director guarantees that at this time, like no other, the purity of her beautiful soul was admirable and there was no matter to absolve her. She, however, was convinced that she was the greatest of sinners, for having wasted the singular graces that Divine Goodness had granted her. She received communion, but felt neither the love nor the sweetness of other times, nor the presence of her loving Creator. At those moments, indeed, all rage and despair ceased, but she continued in unspeakable darkness of spirit that caused incredible inner sufferings to this seraphic soul, in whose depths the fire of Divine Love burned very brightly, but whose apparent spiritual situation kept it hidden, as though beneath ashes.

Liberation from the pains of hell

Five years of suffering passed, and by that time, there had again been another regular election, with Mother Magdalen Valenzuela chosen as Abbess once more. Mother Mariana, as always, entertained her community during community celebrations; but her hell had not yet ceased. Fifteen days after the election, when the community was in daily mental prayer, Mother Mariana suddenly cried out and fainted. Mother Valenzuela gathered her into her arms, to help her regain consciousness. Four hours passed, and seeing that she did not come to, they called the doctor, who, after examining her, shook his head and said: "What a pity! I will do the impossible, but if within an hour she does not come to, it is a fact that she has left us!"

After about five hours of being unconscious, she slowly opened her eyes and found herself in the arms of her Prioress. She reclined, by herself, on her bed and seeing the Superior cry so much, she says: "Mother, I am sorry to have upset you," and pressing the Abbess's hand to her breast she exclaimed: "How good and worthy of love is our God!" And to Mother Frances of the Angels she said: "Mother, please bring me a little anise infusion; it is a remedy for everything." The humble Nun, Mother Mariana of Jesus, then asked for her Prioress's blessing and permission to take the infusion, which she drank with a joy never seen before.

Afterwards alone, the Founding Mothers went to embrace Mother Mariana of Jesus to congratulate her for having been freed from her hell, for Our Lord had communicated this to each of the Foundresses in Holy Communion. Mother Mariana responded to the embrace saying: "Ah, my Sisters! How horrible is hell! There are no words to express it and only by going through it can one know in what it consists. But also, how ineffable are the joys of Heavenly Glory, where I was taken by the hands of Our Most Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary, and where I spent this whole morning. I will entrust you with a secret, for I cannot hide it from you. And it is that our Sister... for whom I atoned, will die within a month..."

On the morning of the next day, Mother Mariana approached Holy Communion radiant with joy. On the afternoon of the previous day, she had spoken with her director, the Father Minor, telling him everything that had happened during her long faint. In the Holy Communion of that first day of her glory, she saw that Christ Our Lord took her own well-purified heart from His Most Sacred Heart. Our Lord, together with His Most Pure Mother, placed Mother Mariana's heart back in her breast and again took possession of it as something that belonged to Them absolutely. With it, all the tender and loving affections of before returned, and even more abundantly.

The saintly Nun also noticed that the demons trembled, along with all of hell, seeing that this innocent creature had escaped from their clutches, whom they had tormented as a damned soul; and wanting to attack her, they could not, for her mere presence was enough to put them to shameful flight. Moreover, they had been forbidden to do great harm to the convent where she lived, where she would die, and where her remains would be preserved.

From that day on, Mother Mariana of Jesus began to recover, her features regained their former cheerfulness, and the rosy colour returned to her cheeks. The ringleader, not long after, woke up in bed with a very high fever and in her delirium called for Mother Mariana of Jesus. Finally, the ringleader was at death's door. She confessed very well, received the last Sacraments with devotion, asked forgiveness for her misdeeds and bad examples, and with Mother Mariana of Jesus at her bedside, died on a Friday at three in the afternoon.

Mother Mariana saw the Judgment of this Sister. And as the ringleader saw that Mother Mariana had suffered the pains of hell for five years, being an innocent soul, and that had been the price of her salvation, she carried that deep gratitude into eternity and frequently remembered in Purgatory the heroic sacrifice made on her behalf.

Third Priorate of Mother Mariana of Jesus

Meanwhile, Mother Valenzuela's heart condition was worsening. The government of the monastery passed to Mother Mariana of Jesus. Cared for and assisted day and night by her, in her last moments, she received the

Sacraments and closed her eyes to material light and opened them to eternal clarity, in 1610, after three months of priorate. With filial affection, Mother Mariana mourned Mother Valenzuela, for they loved each other very dearly.

Mother Mariana notified the Prelate of the death. He then sent a note to Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres, appointing her Abbess for three years. But the humble Nun pointed out to him the convenience of allowing the Convent to choose the new prioress, to avoid any unrest in the community. The Prelate accepted the just reasons of this Nun and went to preside over the election. Mother Mariana obtained the majority, which he gladly confirmed, exhorting the Nuns to love and obey her as the head and Mother of the community.

When she saw any laxness or fault against the Rule, Mother Mariana of Jesus immediately, without letting the occasion pass, called the culprit to her cell or away from the Sisters, and with charming sweetness made her see the temporal and eternal happiness of observant Nuns, who fulfil their Rule down to the smallest details. She then told each one individually the fault committed, embraced her tenderly, humbly demanding that she not commit such a fault again, and prayed a Hail Mary with the culprit, after which she kissed her feet. She thus gave an example of solid humility and enchanted the souls of her daughters by means of the tender sweetness characteristic of the gentle Spouses of beloved and humble Jesus, with whom they lived united by the strong and indissoluble bonds of divine and heroic charity.

Our Lady of the Happy Event insistently requests her Image

At this time, in the first days of 1610, the Blessed Virgin Mary repeatedly admonished her favourite daughter for the delay in ordering Her statue to be made, which she had requested some time ago. While praying at night in the choir, past midnight and into January 21st 1610, Mother Mariana of Jesus saw the Blessed Virgin, most beautiful, adorned with heavenly attractions and charms, surrounded by a bright light as if She were in the midst of the sun. She bore Her most precious Son on Her left arm, and a beautiful and colourful staff in Her right hand, as in other apparitions. On the arm with the staff, there were also some sickly doves that wanted to leave the Blessed Virgin Mary's arm, but the Divine Child held them back and entertained them, taking them up, caressing them, and giving them the Eucharistic Manna. They, however, turned to one side to avoid receiving the Manna. The Blessed Virgin Mary spoke to them with maternal affection, but they did not want to pay any attention to Her. They remained with the Lady by force and grew weaker each time. After so much disregard, and exhausting the recourses of charity and love, the Divine Child took them and threw them far away, into the stormy sea of the world, where, making futile efforts to stay afloat, they succumbed to the depths of the abyss. Only the echo of a desperate lament could be heard, for having recognized too late that through negligence they had lost a good they could have enjoyed in complete possession, in exchange for a little effort, suffering, and sacrifice.

The Queen of Heaven said to her: "Dear daughter... I am also the Mother of all mortals, both of the righteous and of sinners. You cannot understand how much we love souls, God and I. All were created for Heaven, yet a multitude of them are lost for not bearing up and forcing themselves a little. Did you see all the pampering and affection my Most Holy Son and I gave those sickly doves? That is how we will always act, attracting them and feeding them with the Eucharistic Manna. But, alas! How ungrateful! They turned their faces away from us. Tired of the Mercy and Patience of My Most Holy Son, they were abandoned to the turbulent sea of the world, where, oppressed by suffering and pain, tormented by the gnawing worm of their consciences, how many of them will end their lives miserably and be lost!..."

Mother Mariana of Jesus, with maternal charity, wanted to intervene and pleaded for them, but the Queen of Heaven continued in this way: "Daughter, neither I nor you can prevent such misfortune, since God Himself respects free will in His creatures. They do not lack lights, graces, inspirations, charitable warnings and reprimands, or the example of so many others who pray and admonish them gently. They, meanwhile, make themselves deaf and blind to everything..."

"But moderate your sorrow, dear daughter, considering this enormous number of faithful souls who will live and die forgetful of themselves and abandoned, practising solid virtues in heroic and hidden holiness..."

Then the Blessed Virgin begins her revelations about future times for that Spanish colony, but declaring with extraordinary clarity the evils that would afflict humanity in the XX century.

"For I make known to you that, at the end of the XIX century until a little more than half of the XX century... passions will arise and there will be total moral corruption by which Satan will reign in the freemasonic sects, and will harm mainly children, in order to maintain general corruption in this way..."

The Most Holy Virgin, speaking of the terrible crisis, says that it will last "until a little more than half of the XX century," clearly alluding to the Foundation of the Order of the Carmelites of the Holy Face, whose establishment marks the beginning of the process of Purification of Holy Church.

Likewise, the Virgin Mary, under the title of 'the Happy Event', laments over the children of that time, whose innocence will be stolen, and gives a detailed account of the fight that the enemies of God will wage against the Sacraments of the Church.

“Increasingly the effects of secular education will diminish priestly and religious vocations. The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be ridiculed, oppressed, and despised, because by attacking this Sacrament, the Church of God and God Himself are oppressed and denigrated, since they are represented in Priests. The devil will succeed in persecuting the Ministers of the Lord and will work with cruel and subtle cunning to pervert them... corrupting many of them. These corrupted priests who thus scandalize the Christian people will bring down upon all Priests the hatred of Christians themselves and of the enemies of the Catholic Church... This apparent triumph of Satan will bring enormous sufferings to the Good Shepherds of the Church and... to the Supreme Pastor and Vicar of Christ on earth, who, a prisoner in the Vatican, will shed secret and bitter tears in the Presence of his God and Lord, asking for light, holiness, and perfection for all the Clergy of the Universe, of which he is King and Father.”

Pope Saint Paul VI lived as a real and physical prisoner of the Vatican judeo-masonic lodge, to which his executioners belonged: the top cardinals and bishops of the Catholic Church still based in Rome.

Fabrication of the image of Our Lady of the Happy Event

Then the Blessed Virgin again requested the sculpting of Her image, which She had already asked for in January 1599, eleven years previously, when She had indicated Francisco del Castillo as the artist who should sculpt it. And She ordered her to speak with the Bishop so as to begin the work: “The Bishop should consecrate my Image under the title of Mary of the Happy Event of the Purification or Candelaria... Then, at that moment, I will take complete possession of this house of Mine and I will commit myself to keep it unharmed and free from all abuse until the end of time, demanding from my daughters a continuous spirit of charity and sacrifice...”



Again the Blessed Virgin, using the cord of Mother Mariana of Jesus' habit, gave her its measure and with tenderness and love blessed the daughter of her Heart. But the days passed and her fears grew that the Bishop would not believe her and she would endanger the existence of the monastery, and she also feared that, due to their propensity for idolatry, the inhabitants of the colony would not understand well the veneration of the sacred image. This prevented her from fulfilling Mary's order. And she had no clarity on this issue, struggling with her misgivings from January 21 until the dawn of February 2, 1610.

On February 1, 1610, Mother Mariana of Jesus prepared to worthily celebrate the feast of the Purification, the name with which the future Holy Image was to be baptized. As usual, Mother Mariana prayed in the early hours of February 2nd 1610, in the upper choir near the steps.

As she later revealed to her confessor, her meditation was on the humility of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the sovereign Mystery of the Purification. But, without her will intervening, the thread of her thoughts turned to the consideration of Our Lady's obedience, as inseparable from her humility. At that moment, she found herself in the presence of Our Most Holy Mother, Mary of the Happy Event. She was surrounded by lights, which sprinkled countless precious stars in the form of a beautiful arc, framing their Sovereign Queen. The Nun fixed her eyes on her Mother's face, who looked at her with kind severity and without saying a word.

After Mother Mariana of Jesus' confusion, the Queen of Heaven spoke, rebuking her: “Slow creature and hard of heart, don't you know that I am the Powerful Queen and I gave you an order, knowing all things well? Why do you fear? The convent is My foundation, and even if all the powers of the earth were to unite, they would not be capable of destroying it. With My Image I favour the people in general, over the centuries... How many conversions there will be! And do you want to be responsible for so many souls?”

Mother Mariana of Jesus asked for forgiveness, promising amendment, but asked to hide her name. The Queen of Heaven responded: “Beloved daughter of My Heart, your humility pleases me; your fault against obedience is already forgiven. Go, as soon as possible, to speak with the Bishop. Hurry to have my Image sculpted because time flies... Regarding your name, I am pleased with the request, I will do as you ask... because in the current time it is convenient that no one realizes how and from where the idea of making the Image came, because this knowledge is reserved for the general public of the XX century. At that time, the Church will find herself combated by the hordes of the freemasonic sect, while in the poor Ecuadorian homeland, agonizing amid moral corruption, unbridled licentiousness, impious press and secular education, in that time of degenerate desolation and silence from those who should speak, the vices of impurity, blasphemy and sacrilege will prevail...”

She again miraculously measured Our Mother of the Happy Event with her cord and saw that the Divine Child, standing, held the end of the cord that touched the forehead of His Divine Mother, and embracing Her with the Love of a Son, was pleased by the beauty of this Creature whom He had adorned with all graces, gifts and virtues to make Her His Mother. Stretching out His charming little hand, He gave the cord to Mother Mariana, saying:

“My beloved Spouse, here you have the much-desired measure of my Most Holy Mother. I want all the daughters who will be here to be measured by this cord in all centuries. This is the measure. Do you know how I want them to be measured? Listen: they will measure their humility, their silence, their charity, their tolerance, their love for Me and for my Most Holy Mother, in whose mirror they must all see themselves, and as Christians,

better as Nuns, I want them to have My spirit in all the acts of their lives. My spirit is one of patience, meekness, self-denial and total surrender to the Divine Will, serving Me with diligence and selflessness, leaving even their eternal happiness entrusted to the loving Will of my Divine Heart. So that I may have My delights with My religious souls, My dearly beloved Spouses, I live hidden under the accidents of Bread, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, exposed to the irreverence and profanation of My enemies. If they torment Me many times, I am satisfied with the loving reparations of these souls so dear to Me with whom I live under the same roof, receiving their affections and living with them through dolour, in all its forms. What does it matter to them to live here on earth in dark abandonment and abjection, when in Heaven their names will shine out among the immense number of daughters of My Immaculate Mother? In these first centuries I want your name to remain hidden...”

“I want to give you and, through you, to all the faithful Nuns who will live in this monastery until the end of time, this small golden cross, a symbol of interior and exterior sufferings, an emblem with which they will present themselves at Judgment on the final day of their lives. Then, I will recognize them as My property and introduce them into Heaven, their homeland and place of eternal joy.”

And saying this, the Divine Infant descended from the arms of His Most Holy Mother into those of His Spouse, Mother Mariana, and opening her heart, He introduced therein a very small golden cross, adorned with pearls and precious stones, each shining like the sun. And full of contentment, He returned to the arm of His Most Holy Mother who, after embracing Mother Mariana, disappeared.

The heart of the humble religious was flooded with God’s Love and with joy. Encouraged by the vision, Mother Mariana of Jesus spoke with the Bishop, who reprimanded her for not having informed him before, and cleared the way for the realization of the image. The Holy Abbess sent for Sr. Francisco del Castillo, who without delay presented himself at her orders, and ten days later began his work, which was to last for a year.

On January 10th of the following year, 1611, the Bishop went to see the work and found it practically finished. The sculptor told the Mothers that to give the final coat of paint to the sculpture, he would go to find the best and finest dyes. And he would return to perform this operation on the 16th, after receiving Communion.

On January 16th, at dawn, as usual, when the fervent Nuns rose to recite the Little Office; as they approached the choir, they began to hear melodious harmonies, and they hurriedly entered the choir, and... Oh wonder!, the choir was bathed in a celestial light, voices of Angels resounded, which to the sound of celestial music intoned with soft and ravishing harmony the “Salve Sancta Parens”.

The Holy Image had been completed by the Angels. From its face emanated rays of vivid light, which spread throughout the choir and the church, gradually becoming softer so that the Nuns could approach and contemplate very closely the miracle wrought by God. Haloed by this vivid light, the physiognomy of the Holy Image was not severe, but majestic, serene, sweet, amiable and attractive, as if inviting Her daughters to approach with confidence. The Divine Child was exquisite. His countenance expressed love and tenderness towards the Spouses so favoured by His Heart and so loved by His Mother.

The hearts of these happy Nuns melted with the fire of love and they did not know how to thank God for such favours. They all progressed in the spiritual life, and strove to love God more and more, and in the exact fulfilment of the Rule, regular observance, and particular obligations.

At the agreed time, Francisco del Castillo arrived at the convent to give the finishing touch to his great work. Without telling him anything, they led him into the cloister. Arriving at the choir, he exclaimed, moved: “Mothers! This exquisite Image is not my work! I don’t know what I feel in my heart; this work is angelic!... No sculptor, however skilled, can ever imitate such perfection and such extraordinary beauty.” And he fell at the feet of the Holy Image, flooded with tears. He rose immediately, asked for paper and ink to make a written testimony, swearing that this Blessed Image was not his work, but that of the Angels, because it was finished in a different way than he had left it six days before.

Francisco del Castillo left the convent quite moved, and went hurriedly to tell everything to the Bishop, who wanted to verify with his own eyes the reality of the facts. He indeed found the Blessed Image modified, but much more perfect than it appeared from Francisco del Castillo’s account. The Bishop’s heart was moved before the prodigious Image of Our Lady.

And he asked Mother Mariana of Jesus for an explanation, in confession. She told him that when she had finished the Holy Way of the Cross, she saw the choir and the church illuminated with celestial lights. Immediately the Tabernacle opened and she saw that in the Holy Host were the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Then, she knew the infinite Love of the Three Divine Persons for Mary Most Holy, Our Lady, present there, very beautiful, lovely and attractive.

Mother Mariana of Jesus continues: “The nine Angelic Choirs acclaimed Her and paid homage to Her, as their Queen and Lady. At a gesture from the Most Holy Trinity I saw that, with a deep reverence, they approached the Throne of the Queen of Heaven. Saint Michael, greeting Her submissively, said: ‘Mary Most Holy, Daughter of God the Father’; Saint Gabriel said: ‘Mary Most Holy, Mother of God the Son’; and Saint Raphael said: ‘Mary

Most Holy, Most Pure Spouse of the Holy Ghost.’ And inviting the celestial militia they all sang together: ‘Mary Most Holy, Temple and Tabernacle of the Most Holy Trinity.’

“At this moment my Seraphic Father appeared, celestial rays coming from his wounds. Accompanied by the three Archangels, Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel and Saint Raphael, followed by the Celestial Militia, they approached the almost finished Image of señor Francisco del Castillo, and in an instant they remade it...

“The Queen of Angels, in the midst of these joys, approached the Image and penetrated it, in the manner of the rays of the sun falling on beautiful crystals. At that moment, the Holy Image acquired life and sang with celestial harmony the ‘Magnificat’. It was three in the morning.

“The document [of Francisco del Castillo] along with other treasures, will be hidden in a cabinet, embedded in some wall of my convent, on the occasion of the tumults when this colony turns itself into a free republic. They will fear losing these treasures, because they do not know that no one will be able to harm my convent. On the one hand, Excellency, this will be convenient, because my life should come to light in the XX century. The other things will be known when the Friars Minor return, unless, with humility, violence be done to Heaven to find them and keep them as precious treasures in this convent of mine. Without that intention, no human resource will be enough to discover them.”

The Bishop listened to the entire account with tears in his eyes and with holy emotions. He asked the Mother: “Why do you say that they will write your life and know it in the XX century?”

“Because my person and name,” replied Mother Mariana, “are inseparable from the apparition of Our Lady of the Happy Event, and this must be recorded to certify the truth in those times of decline of faith. At the present moment it is not convenient to reveal anything in view of the people’s propensity to idolatry!”

On February 2nd 1611, the image was solemnly consecrated.

Participation in the sorrowful Passion of Christ

Happy and peaceful were the three years of Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres’ government, from 1610 to 1613. Towards the end of her Abbacy, Mother Mariana of Jesus had a serious fall on the stairs, severely injuring her left arm. When the time for Chapter came, they left her to rest and elected another Nun as Abbess.

The year 1616 arrived; Mother Mariana of Jesus was again elected Abbess of the monastery, for the fourth time, to the general rejoicing of the Nuns. Truly Our Lady of the Happy Event ruled the convent and from her abbatial chair spoke to her about everything concerning the direction of the Nuns.

At the end of her fourth term of government, in the year 1619, Mother Mariana of Jesus insistently begged God Our Lord and His Most Holy Mother to free her from the enormous cross of the priory full of so many responsibilities. Our Lord heard her and appearing as He showed Himself in His mortal life, said to her: “My beloved Spouse, your humble and insistent petition has reached My ears, and for the immense Love I have for you I cannot deny you what you ask... But, in these three years that you will rest from governing the monastery, I want to present myself with the precious cross of interior sufferings. In the first year, my dear daughter, you will accompany me in the Prayer in the Garden, suffering what I suffered there; in the second year, you will accompany me in prison; in the third, in the sufferings just as great and profound as unknown to men that I endured when they presented Me in the houses of Annas, Caiphas, Herod and Pilate as if I were a vile evildoer. I will always be with you. Your humble and afflicted prayer will rise up to the Throne of My Heavenly Father as a sweet fragrance, and all your sufferings will be presented by My Most Holy Mother and yours. Few more years will you yet spend in this land of sorrow and tears, and in the course of them you will accompany Me in some of the more important steps of My Dolorous Passion, until you deliver up your soul into My hands, as I delivered Mine up into the hands of the Eternal Father. Unite yourself to My sorrowful Heart, and in the company of My Most Holy Mother and yours, endure these tribulations and bear with courage and firmness the cross I place on your shoulders during these years. I need valiant souls at all times to save My Church and the prevaricating world, that is, to save the souls for whom I suffered so much, and as so many are lost, I want you to help Me as a good spouse.”

Mother Mariana of Jesus knew, as in a ray of heavenly Light, the intensity of the interior sufferings that awaited her, and Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Master, the Spouse of her soul, the Man of Sorrows, silently awaited the response of His beloved spouse, to communicate His sorrows to her.

Mother Mariana of Jesus trembled as a creature before the magnitude of the sufferings, and reflecting for a moment, hesitated to accept them, fearing that she would lack strength and thus stain her soul with sin. To this, the Lord replied: “Do you not know, my dear child, that I am the strength of the weak?... And that not only will you not sin, but will obtain great merits? Onwards! Valour!”

Immediately, Mother Mariana of Jesus prostrated herself on the ground and accepted, asking for strength, daring and love.

She rose from her prostration. Her soul was full of God. Her heart overflowed with joy and she felt happy, very happy, on considering herself associated to the Passion of the Divine Saviour, to save the souls of her brethren, poor sinners, whom she loved so much.

On the third day of the celebrations for the new Abbess, Mother Mariana of Jesus was praying, around ten o'clock, in the lower choir, when a luminous ray came out of the Tabernacle that penetrated her heart and gave her strength. Immediately a mortal sadness took hold of her: it was the beginning of her internal sufferings participating in the agony of Jesus Christ in the Garden of Olives.

This illustrious creature suffered, year by year, everything that Our Lord had made known to her, but without ever losing that holy peace, sweetness and composure of her spirit which, meanwhile, according to circumstances, was seen to be drowning in a sea of sorrows, because the waters of tribulation flooded her soul.

From this occasion until her death, life for her became a continuous agony, accompanying our Divine Redeemer, year by year, in His sorrowful Passion, with very few respites that the Saviour granted to her spirit, until, on her deathbed, she participated in the glorious Resurrection of the Lord.

New priorate and celestial favours for Mother Mariana of Jesus

After the three-year term, the Nuns gathered again in chapter to choose a new abbess and elected Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres for the fifth time, with general approval.

In the year 1622, this saintly Nun was Abbess and, year after year, she accompanied Our Lord Jesus Christ in his sorrowful Passion. During these years of government, she received ever many heavenly favours on Christmas Eve, which she commemorated with indescribable tenderness and fervour. It was a pleasure to see her filled with that holy contagious joy, for during these years of pain, Our Lord gave her respite during the holy time of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, only to plunge her later back into the sea of His griefs. And the Nuns sang and danced before the manger with holy joy, expressing their jubilation as Spouses for the birth of the Son of God.

Many times, during Christmas and Epiphany, Mother Mariana of Jesus received the privilege of holding the Child Jesus in her arms. On one of these occasions, she contemplated the Holy Trinity in this ineffable and divine Mystery; she was immersed in this Uncreated Light, and the Three Divine Persons manifested to her that, in the celebration of the mystery and feast of Christmas, as well as the Forty Hours and Holy Week, the Nuns' fervour is the best for the preservation of the convent, because in these three devotions are summarized all those performed by a religious soul who, leaving the world, becomes cloistered so as to live only in God, by God, and for God.

After the Christmas and Epiphany festivities, towards the middle of January, this servant of God would again immerse herself fully in her bitter trials, accompanying her God and Lord in the painful steps of His Most Holy Passion. Her pains, anguishes, and trials redoubled during Holy Week.

On Corpus Christi day in 1623, Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres was praying in the lower choir, at the foot of the Tabernacle, and with humble tears begged the Lord for remedy for the needs of her convent and the people in general. She also asked Him to remove the heavy cross of being abbess.

Suddenly, she saw the Tabernacle open, and from within emerged a magnificent Cross, adorned with pearls and precious stones, which grew and extended upwards until it was lost in the clouds, while its trunk stayed resting on the ground. But she noticed that at various points on the Cross, pearls and precious stones were missing; she clearly saw the empty spaces and longed for the Cross to be fully adorned, with nothing missing.

Thoughtful, she contemplated this beautiful Cross, not guessing its meaning, when her Divine Spouse came out of the Tabernacle, so beautiful and handsome, tender and attractive, and addressed her the following question: "Do you see, my beloved, this precious Cross, which with its roots on earth, has its arms reaching up to Heaven? Know then, my dear child, that this is your cross, carried by you in life. But as the time you will remain on earth is already short, the arms of the cross are already in Heaven. Look, meanwhile, at the empty points: they are the years of life you have left, to be filled with good works in the exercise, without more complaints about the difficult office of abbess, which you will occupy another time, and it will be the last..."

It was already five in the afternoon of *Corpus Christi* Thursday of 1623, when Mother Mariana of Jesus, who had shown no signs of life since nine in the morning, came to herself in the arms of the Sisters who were weeping, thinking her dead. She wanted to speak, get up, walk, but couldn't despite her efforts, because her body collapsed on its own. She suffered without consolation. In that faintness, she fell into ecstasy again and this time saw the lack of response by the Ministers of the Altar to their holy vocation, and the unworthy manner in which some approached the Most Holy Sacrifice. She weighed the causes, and her soul drowned in profound sorrow, unknown on earth. She spent the whole night like this, and all day Friday, until six in the evening.

The nuns, fearing that Mother Mariana of Jesus' hour of farewell had come, wept inconsolably. The doctor, who had exhausted all his resources, said: "Mothers, if it were not for the person of Mother Mariana of Jesus, I would tell you to prepare to shroud this corpse, perform the funeral rites, and bury it. But, as it concerns this singular creature, we can well wait for three days."

At six in the evening on Friday, she opened her beautiful eyes and fixed them on the Crucifix on her bed. Her sad gaze, accompanied by copious tears, was the silent expression of the love that penetrated her soul.

She could not articulate a word, but when the doctor asked if she was better, she nodded yes. The Sisters surrounded her. Each one strived to serve and attend her. Mother Mariana of Jesus spent more than a week very

weak and without strength, but after this, she returned to monastic life with her usual vigour. Her countenance during this time was sad, without altering, however, the sympathy of her features and the colour of her complexion. It was a sadness that raised her soul up to the regions on high.

Holy Week

The days of Holy Week, as from Palm Sunday, were for this Holy Nun days filled with sadness and deep sorrow. Her loving and pure soul penetrated to the innermost of the God-Man's Heart, sorrowful and dead on a shameful gibbet to save His ungrateful creatures, and she asked her Divine Spouse that during those days He withdraw all spiritual consolation and leave her forsaken, so she could participate in the abandonment and agony He had suffered on the Cross. This was granted to her, and she spent those days annihilated and faint from the violence of the pain that her Lord communicated to her.

Daily, morning and night, she took a bloody discipline. Mother Mariana of Jesus remained entirely penetrated by God, without failing, meanwhile, to attend any community acts and without omitting the least of her duties. Her body was lined with penetrating cilices. On her forehead, a cilice to imitate her Divine Spouse in the crowning of thorns. Her eyes were fixed on the ground. Her face was full of gravity and sweetness, inspiring veneration and love for God.

She took part in meals with her community and sat at table to eat her frugal food, after kissing the feet of all the Nuns who, edified, contemplated this spectacle.

On Holy Thursdays, after the singing of the '*Tenebrae*', which Mother Mariana of Jesus intoned, moved and full of love, they all put a rope around their necks and, praying the "Miserere", entered the prison through the lower cloister and prostrated themselves there. Then, every Holy Thursday, the act of community flagellation took place. The Abbess, moved, read the passage of the cruel and humiliating flagellation of Our Lord Jesus Christ. After the reading, she invited them to imitate in some way the Divine Spouse by taking part in His sorrows, and carried out the flagellation of her religious daughters. Then she ordered two novices to flagellate her, first one with mature nettle shoots and then the other with a leather whip. All the Abbesses confessed with simplicity that this night was the hardest part of their entire Abbacy. With this tender act, these holy creatures disarmed Divine Wrath.

Following this ceremony, the Sisters went to take a light refreshment, after which they were free to remain with Our Lord Jesus Christ or retire to rest.

Mother Mariana of Jesus played a sad and tender music on her "lap harp" that elevated the soul and transported it to the Garden of Olives to accompany Our Lord in his prayer. She was always in charge of leading the Holy Hour of the convent, because such was the fervour and love with which she read the points of meditation every quarter of an hour, that she communicated that fervour and love to her Sisters.

On Good Fridays, Mother Mariana of Jesus took three bloody scourgings, one of them at the time of the scourging of the Divine Redeemer, and spent the day united with her Divine and Sorrowful Lord. And she really felt within herself, according to the time of day, what Our Lord suffered on that Friday of Sorrows.

From midday on, she suffered in her body the Crucifixion of the Lord. Her arms, as if dislocated, suffered unheard-of pains. Her feet and hands took on dark red colours in the places corresponding to the nails. Her tongue dried up, sticking to her mouth. She could only articulate a few words when she had to answer something for some urgent reason. Her inner torments grew in such a way that her soul and body left earthly realities behind, falling into a rapture in which she contemplated Our Lord Jesus Christ dead on the shameful Cross, and the tears and solitude of her Queen and Mother, Most Holy Mary. This rapture lasted until five in the afternoon.

After the Office of *Tenebrae*, the community took the discipline, which that night was not long. They then went to the refectory for a light meal.

At eight o'clock at night, the Solitude of Mary began, with sad and sweet singing, and silent meditation, preceded by the reading of a devout book. After the Solitude of Mary ended, all went to rest. Mother Mariana of Jesus retired later, after scourging herself one last time. It is admirable to see so much penance done in those days by a weak woman. After all this, she kept herself ready, so that she did not miss any community act. After a brief rest on Saturday night, she rose hurriedly and went to the choir.

At three in the morning, with holy joy, she went to the dormitory to wake her Sisters to prepare to celebrate the Divine Saviour, her Spouse, in his glorious and triumphant exit from the sepulchre by his own Virtue and Power. It seemed to her that her own soul returned to her body. On this day, Mother Mariana of Jesus rang the bell at half-past three in the morning, because the community sang the Resurrection Matins at four o'clock sharp. There was no Little Office on that day.

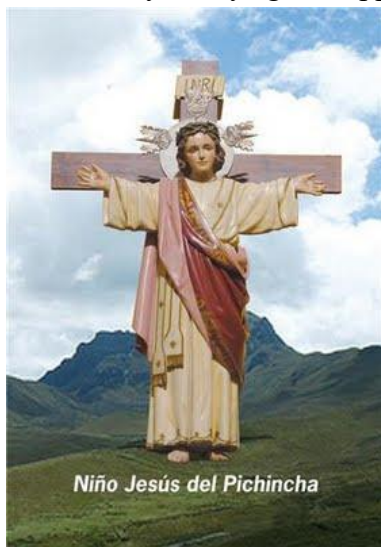
This spirit of penance is to be admired, and God Our Lord should be praised in it, but it is not to be imitated, because without an explicit call from God it would be falling into grave temerity. What we should imitate in this holy Nun is her profound humility, her love for God and neighbour, her regular observance, and her spirit of uninterrupted mortification. It must be kept in mind that the soul progresses safely along the ordinary and simple path, by her suffering and love for God, and for the religious, the exact and faithful fulfilment of their Holy Rule,

vows, constitutions, and monastic observances is enough to raise them to sublime holiness, without ever having visions, ecstasies, or revelations in their lives.

Vision of the Child Jesus of Pichincha

The year was 1628 and Mother Mariana of Jesus was Abbess for the sixth and last time at the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception in Quito. But at the end of that year, when her three-year term was about to end, she had several visions. First, she learned of the particular and public punishments that Ecuador would suffer in the future, as a figure of the world. And she saw that there would always be heroic and righteous souls, both in her convent and in the Church and the world in general. She also saw how the devil, with the appearance of good and using members of the Church itself, subtly introduced laxity, which would only be noticed when the evil had already put down deep roots and became humanly irremediable. But she saw at once, with joy in her heart, that through devotion to Blessed Mary and at the cost of enormous sacrifices by religious souls, which drew down Heaven's aid, God would finally be glorified... Then Mother Mariana of Jesus saw the earth return to calm. The atmosphere and the sun shone with clearer luminosity.

Then Our Lady of the Happy Event appeared to her with her Sweet Child in Her arms, and said to her: "Poor daughter of My Heart! Faced with such a wonderful vision your natural strength fails. But it is not yet time to leave the earth; in memory of my seven sorrows and joys you will pilgrim on earth for another seven years, suffering and rejoicing in your spirit." Prophecy fulfilled: seven years later, when Mother Mariana of Jesus was to leave this mortal life. The Blessed Virgin continues Her message: "Seeing the esteem of your Sisters and devotees during this time will be the greatest suffering of your heart, that would rather receive contempt, mockery and slander, yet be unable to obtain this because that golden time has already passed for you. Afterwards, your long life will seem to have lasted but a day, and you will laugh at the great sufferings of your life, and you will feel the desire to return to live to suffer and merit twice over." And the Queen of Heaven continued: "Now raise your eyes and look towards Mount Pichincha, where this Divine Infant I carry in my arms will be crucified. I deliver Him up to the Cross so that He may always give happy events to this land... since... this invocation will be a pledge of salvation."



Immediately the three Holy Archangels: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, took the Divine Child from the arms of His Most Holy Mother and reverently led Him to Mount Pichincha, whose peaks dominate the landscape of Quito. The Divine Child appeared then to be twelve to fifteen years old, beautiful and full of the Divinity hidden in his holy Humanity. He prostrated himself on the ground with his arms outstretched in a Cross and prayed to his Eternal Father, saying: "My Father and Eternal God... I want to pray on this mount as I prayed in Gethsemane, imploring You for all the souls that will populate this land, to free them from diabolical wrath..." The whole Mount was enveloped in celestial Light. The Child Jesus, rising from the ground, found before Him a wooden cross, smooth and flattened, not rounded, with the inscription INRI at the top, from the left arm hung a crown of sharp thorns, and from the right arm a white stole.

The three Archangels appeared again. Saint Michael brought a white Host. Saint Gabriel, a long white tunic sprinkled with stars. Saint Raphael, a cloak of a precious pink colour never seen before. The Child Jesus, full of contentment, put on the white tunic, over which the Archangel adjusted the stole from the right arm of the Cross according to the custom of deacons (crossed over the body from the shoulders to the waist diagonally). Over the tunic, the Child Jesus put on the precious cloak. Dressed like this, He approached the Cross, attaching Himself to it with love, and from his cheeks great tears ran down which the Archangels Saint Michael and Saint Raphael sprinkled on the earth. Lovingly taking the crown of sharp thorns, they placed it on His Most Sacred Head. Jesus, attached to the Cross, stretched out His hands, becoming crucified, without the nails being visible.

He then ordered Archangel Saint Gabriel to place the Host behind His neck, halfway up his Divine Head. Once this was done, three rays of light appeared on the white of the Host, which shone, giving it an extraordinary enhancement, because the halo was of polished gold and adorned with the finest green emeralds. The Child Jesus took on a majestic and somewhat sad countenance, as if reflecting the pain that His tender and Divine Members were intensely suffering. But, at the same time, He seemed pleased to suffer because He loved so much. From the wounds caused by the crown of sharp thorns, great drops of Blood flowed down His forehead; from His hands, from the wounds of the nails, Blood also ran, as from His feet, which stood on the ground of that mountain. But no nails appeared, neither in the hands nor in the feet.

His head did not move and remained slightly inclined to the right, and sobbing He said: "I can do no more for you, to show you My Love. Ungrateful souls, do not repay Me with contempt, sacrileges and blasphemies for all the love and delicacy of My Heart. At least you, My beloved and chosen Spouses, be My comfort in My Eucharistic solitudes, keep watch in My company, far from you be the sleep of indifference towards the God who loves you

so much. Be continually the heroines of your country, amidst the bitterness and disastrous times that will come. Your humble, secret and silent prayer, together with your voluntary penance, will save it from the destruction to which it is being led by its ungrateful children, for they, humiliating and despising the righteous, will exalt and praise the evil newcomers, satellites of Satan.”

Around the cross was a scrub of thorn bushes with graceful flowers. The Child Jesus was crucified with the great massif of Mount Pichincha behind Him.

Later, the Father confessor ordered Mother Mariana of Jesus to consult with the Bishop, because it was necessary to have pictures painted of the mentioned vision that would be of great benefit for the times to come, when the cult of Our Lady of the Happy Event would be propagated, and the name of the Nun favoured with the visions would also be known.

The Blessed Virgin told her: “Those prints of the Child Jesus of Pichincha will fly out all over the world and will impress everyone in a holy way, without knowing their origin over the course of time...”

New favours and revelations of the Child Jesus

Thus came the year 1634, Mother Mariana of Jesus was seventy-one years old; her spirit, meanwhile, remained always young, and her health, now a little broken, did not prevent her from penance, observance of the holy Rule and austere life. Of the Foundresses, besides herself, only Mother Frances of the Angels remained in this exile, older than Mother Mariana of Jesus. The others had already departed in holiness to eternal glory.

On February 2nd 1634, at midnight, Mother Mariana of Jesus was praying in the upper choir of her beloved convent. She was deeply impressed by the vision that evil would enter the Church, and propagate dissipation and self-will, which lead so many mortals to hell. She feared that this bad example would spread like a deadly plague, and asked God to prolong her life to fight against this evil, if that were His Will. Shortly afterwards she fell into ecstasy, and saw the Tabernacle open and the enclosure flooded with celestial clarity beside which the sun's light was darkness, transcending this dark and miserable earth..

She was also shown all the pious institutions, congregations, and religious communities that would be founded until the end of time, as well as those that would be destroyed, either due to the decline of their members or the laxity resulting from the indiscriminate reception of unworthy religious, owing to their lack of response to grace. And she knew that it was not God's Will to prolong her life.

On the feastday of Corpus Christi, she had previously seen in future centuries fervent public processions and solemn celebrations of the Blessed Sacrament, with the participation of religious communities. And she saw the faith and piety of the faithful and was shown the pleasure with which Our Lord received their homage. This vision exactly describes the solemnity of the Eucharistic celebrations held, for example, in Dublin at the beginning of the XX century. But she was also shown Satan's fury, and how he would try to tear down solid Christian piety, using ungrateful christians who had crossed over to Satan's party, enrolling in lodges. A time of weeping and sorrow would come for all the faithful children of the Church, who would be few in number, with their Prelates and Pastors. She was shown the flowering and beautiful vineyard of the Church, into which the pestilent and horrifying boar of Freemasonry would enter, leaving it devastated and in complete ruin.



We return to the vision of February 2nd 1634. This time, she had knowledge and became exactly and unmistakeably aware of the disastrous times that the Church and the world would go through, especially in mid-XX century. In 1959, Vatican II was announced, which took place from 1962 to 1965. It was disastrous for the Church and the world, because, by way of manipulations, God's enemies infiltrated the ecclesiastical hierarchy and perverted its purposes, transforming it into a conciliabulum.

It was manifested to Mother Mariana of Jesus that Divine Power and the love of Our Lady could maintain the foundation and the convent if prayers were raised to Heaven by the upright religious souls there would be in that period, as in all periods... As always, the Blessed Virgin spoke to her about the situation of that moment affecting the convent in that Spanish colony, but Her celestial word is addressed to all Her children of all times, especially to Her children of the XX century, who are the object of the prayers and penances of Mother Mariana of Jesus, at the request of the Virgin Mary.

Our Lady then spoke and said: “Beloved and predilect daughter of My love,... Today the Holy Church celebrates the Mystery of My Purification in the Temple and the Presentation of my Divine Child, and I want to place Him in your arms...” And the Immaculate Virgin, pressing the Divine Child to Her virginal Heart, placed Him happily in the arms of Mother Mariana of Jesus, who received Him with unimaginable contentment and ineffable joy.

The Child Jesus in the arms of Mother Mariana of Jesus caressed her and gave testimony to her, saying: “My beloved Spouse, how beautiful you are to My eyes! In your long life, I alone was your one love; you loved the Cross as I loved it, and you carried it in peace, making it your treasure and your wealth. Just it is that after this I give you in Heaven the eternal joy that I have prepared for my chosen ones who followed me very closely...”

“This beloved Church I will preserve until the end of time. It will be strongly combated but never defeated since, if men are lacking, I will bring legions of Angels from Heaven for its preservation, until its triumph.

In disastrous times, I will govern it to My liking and Will, through My Vicars on earth... They must obey the Pope and recognize him as My representative on earth, to him they must give blind obedience, such will be blest by my Heavenly Father and will reign with Me in Heaven.”

“The Dogma of Faith of the Immaculate Conception of My Mother will be proclaimed when the Church is most combated, and My Vicar is captive.” And the Most Holy Virgin, under the title ‘of the Happy Event’, in Her apparition of the 8th of December 1634 to Saint Mariana, added: “Papal Infallibility will be declared a Dogma of Faith by the Pope who is destined to declare the Dogma of the Mystery of My Immaculate Conception. He will be persecuted and imprisoned in the Vatican by the unjust usurpation of the Pontifical States, through the malice, envy and avarice of an earthly monarch.”

In 1848, owing to the invasion of Rome by revolutionary troops, Pope Saint Pius IX the Great was to take refuge in Gaeta. Amid this storm and before a world with a decided mind to separate from God, he proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception on the 8th of December 1854. This same Vicar of Christ who had defended the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, in 1870 declared the Dogma of Papal Infallibility, thus also fulfilling Our Lady’s prophecy.

That same 2nd of February 1634, the Child Jesus continued to speak to Saint Mariana: “In the same way will be declared the Dogma of Faith of the Transit and Assumption into Heaven of My Most Holy Mother in body and soul... This gives Me great joy, since it is an act of acknowledgement of My Power and My Filial Love for My Immaculate Virgin Mother...” On the 1st of November 1950, Pope Saint Pius XII the Great proclaimed as Dogma of Faith “that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having ended the course of Her life on earth, was Assumed into Heavenly Glory in Body and Soul.”



“And for you the time of your exile comes to an end, one year from now you will be in Heaven, for you will close your eyes to material light to open them to Eternal Light on the 16th of January in the coming year.” Effectively, on the 16th of January 1635, as Jesus had announced, Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres died.

“I want you to know and transmit to your successors – as tradition – that devotion to the Child Jesus will always be the safeguard of the Convent in every conflict. If this devotion were lacking, the beautiful spirit of spiritual infancy, in which My Heavenly Father so delights, will disappear. While it exists, there will be no human power capable of destroying this Convent of Mine, so prized. Happy, a thousand times, those religious souls who... love Me and give Me worship! I will fill them with lights and graces so that their souls be precious before My Heavenly Father and the Most Blessed Trinity, in them We shall delight. I will assist them in their last agony, and their Judgement will be clement, the time of their purification briefer and great the degree of Glory they shall have in Heaven.”

Thus ended the marvellous vision of the Child Jesus to this saintly Conceptionist Abbess.

Crucial Messages on the Church and mankind in the XX and XXI centuries

That same 2nd of February 1634, at three in the morning, Mother Mariana of Jesus was praying in the upper choir of the Convent and saw that the sanctuary lamp burning before Sacramented Jesus went out, leaving the Main Altar in darkness. Mother Mariana tried to rise up and light a candle in place of the lamp, but fell into ecstasy. She saw a Heavenly Light which illuminated the whole Church and the Queen of Heaven appeared, who, lighting the lamp, stood before it saying:

“Beloved daughter of My Heart, I am Mary of the Happy Event, your Mother and Protectress...”

Our Lady next explained the meaning of the extinguished sanctuary lamp.

First meaning: heresy propagation in the XIX and XX centuries.

“The first meaning is that at the end of the XIX century, and towards a good part of the XX, several heresies will be propagated in these lands... and while they reign the precious light of the Faith will be snuffed out, owing to complete moral corruption. In that period there will be great physical and moral, public and private calamities. The small number of souls who will conserve the hidden treasure of the Faith and of the virtues will suffer a cruel, unspeakable and prolonged martyrdom. Many of them will go down to the tomb from the violence of the suffering and will be counted as martyrs... To be freed from the slavery of these heresies, those whom the Merciful Love of

my Most Holy Son will destine for the work of restoration will need great strength of will, perseverance, courage and much trust in God. To test this faith and trust of the righteous, there will be times when everything will seem lost and paralyzed. Then will be the happy beginning of the complete restoration.” The foundation of the Order of the Carmelites of the Holy Face, on December 23, 1975, appears admirably indicated by the Most Holy Virgin, as “the happy beginning of the complete restoration” that occurred “towards a good part of the XX century”.

Second meaning: Spiritual catastrophe in the Church.

“The second meaning is that my community, by then with a reduced number of members, will be immersed in a sea of unfathomable and unspeakable bitterness, and will seem to drown in these tribulations. How many authentic vocations will perish for lack of discretion, tact and prudence on the part of the novice mistresses!, who should be souls of prayer and cognizant of the various ways of the spirit. But, woe to those souls who return to the Babylon of this world, after having been in the safe harbour of this blessed monastery!

In those unfortunate times, even in this My enclosed garden, injustice will enter which, clothed with the name of false charity, will wreak havoc on souls. The envious devil will try to sow discord using rotten members who, clothed with the apparent garb of virtues, will be nothing but whitewashed sepulchres from which the stench of putrefaction will cause moral death in some, lukewarmness and languor in others, and in my faithful children, in my hidden souls, they will drive a double-edged sword, which will cause them a continuous and slow martyrdom. They will weep in secret,... asking Our Heavenly Father that for love of the Divine Prisoner He shorten such unfortunate times.”

Third meaning: Impurity will dominate the world.

“The third reason is that there will scarcely be virgin souls in the world, because in those times the atmosphere will be saturated with the spirit of impurity, which like an unclean sea will run through the streets, squares and public places with astonishing freedom. The delicate flower of virginity will shine far away, taking refuge in cloisters. In them it will find the right soil to grow, develop and live, its aroma being the delight of My Most Holy Son and the lightning rod that detains Divine Wrath. Without virginity, it would be necessary for fire from Heaven to fall upon these lands to purify them.

“The envious and pestilential devil will attempt, in his malicious pride, to introduce himself into these enclosed gardens of religious cloisters, to wither this beautiful and delicate flower, but I will confront him and destroy his head, placing it under my feet. But, alas! There will be unwary souls who will voluntarily surrender to his clutches, and others, returning to the world, will be instruments of the devil for the loss of souls.”

Fourth meaning: The corruption of children’s innocence.

“The fourth reason is that, having taken possession of all social classes, freemasonry will possess such subtlety in introducing itself into homes that, with childhood led to perdition, the devil will glory in feeding on the exquisite delicacy of children’s hearts. In those unfortunate times, childlike innocence will hardly be found; in this way vocations to the Priesthood will be lost, it will be a true calamity...”

We include here part of the message of January 21st 1610, in which the Most Holy Virgin details the depth of the spiritual crisis of the XX century and the satanic attack against the Sacraments: “Moreover, in those unhappy times there will be unbridled luxury, which will conquer frivolous souls. Innocence will hardly be found in children, neither modesty in women... and then he who should speak will be silent. The Church will be attacked by the masonic sect... Children will hardly receive the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The same will happen with Holy Communion... There will be many public and hidden sacrileges, profanations of the Holy Eucharist! ... By this time, the Sacrament of Extreme Unction will be little considered, because the Christian spirit will be lacking. Many people will die without receiving it, due to the carelessness or negligence of their families or because of a false sense of affection for their sick; others, also, for opposing the spirit of the Catholic Church driven by the cursed demon, thus depriving souls of innumerable graces, consolations, and strength to take the great leap from time to eternity. However, some people will die without receiving it owing to just and secret punishments from God... As for the Sacrament of Marriage, which symbolizes the union of Christ with the Church, it will be attacked and profaned in every sense of the word. Freemasonry, which at that time will be in power, will impose iniquitous laws with the aim of extinguishing this Sacrament, making it easy for everyone to live in sin, generalizing the procreation of illegitimate children, without the blessing of the Church. The Christian spirit will rapidly decline, the precious light of Faith will be extinguished until reaching an almost complete and widespread moral corruption. Thus the effects of secular education will increase, and because of this, there will be no priestly and religious vocations. The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be ridiculed, oppressed, and despised, because by attacking this Sacrament the Church of God and God Himself will be oppressed and denigrated...” It was then that Our Lady of the Happy Event pointed out to Saint Mariana: “This apparent triumph of Satan will bring enormous sufferings to the Good Shepherds of the Church and to the excellent majority of good Priests and to the Supreme Pastor and Vicar of Christ on earth, who, imprisoned in the Vatican, will shed secret and bitter tears.”

The message that this holy Nun received on February 2nd 1634, continues and says: "... There will be [at this time as well] holy Ministers of the Altar, hidden and beautiful souls in whom my Most Holy Son and I will take delight with the exquisite flowers and fruits of heroic holiness, against whom the impious will wage cruel war, overwhelming them with insults, slanders, and vexations to prevent them from fulfilling their Ministry. They, like most firm columns, will remain immovable, facing up to everything, with that spirit of humility and sacrifice with which they will be clothed by virtue of the infinite merits of my Most Holy Son, who loves them as the most delicate fibres of His Most Holy and tender Heart. In the secular clergy, there will be much to be desired at that time, because Priests will neglect their sacred duty; losing their divine bearings, they will deviate from the path traced out by God for the Priestly Ministry and will become attached to money, to whose acquisition they will pay too much attention. Then this Church will suffer the dark night of the lack of a Prelate and Father to watch over them with paternal love, with gentleness, strength, tact, and prudence. Many of them will lose their spirit, putting their souls in great danger.

Pray insistently, cry out untiringly and weep with bitter tears, asking Our Heavenly Father that for Love of the Eucharistic Heart of My Most Holy Son, for the Most Precious Blood shed so generously and for the affliction and sorrow of His bitter Passion and Death, He may have compassion on His Ministers, and bring to an end, as soon as possible, such disastrous times, sending to this Church the prelate who must restore the spirit of his Priests. We love this very dear son of Mine, My Most Holy Son and I, with love of predilection, for We will endow him with a singular capacity, humility of heart, docility to divine inspirations, strength to defend the rights of the Church, and a tender and compassionate heart, so that, like another Christ, he may attend to the great and the little, without despising the least fortunate, and give them light and comfort in their doubts and bitterness. And so that, with divine gentleness, he may guide souls consecrated to God's service in the cloisters, without making the Lord's yoke heavy for them, who says: 'My yoke is sweet and my burden light.' In his hand I will place the Scales of the Sanctuary so that everything be done with weight and measure, and God be glorified. The lukewarmness of all souls consecrated to God in the Priestly and religious state will delay the arrival of this prelate and Father." Amidst the spiritual chaos, she announces the "prelate who must restore the spirit of his Priests," referring to Clemente Domínguez y Gómez, founding Father of the Order of the Carmelites of the Holy Face, Her faithful and beloved son, of whom She later says: "in his hand I will place the Scales of the Sanctuary," meaning that in due time he would receive the Papacy of the Universal Church.

In a previous message, which her biographer leaves undated, the Blessed Virgin says, also referring to this period: "Disastrous times will come, in which, extinguishing their own clarity, those who should justly defend the rights of the Church without servile fear or human respect, will lend a hand to the enemies of the Church to do as they wish." This prophecy has unfortunately been fulfilled over the centuries on more than one occasion, as in the apostasy of many religious souls, and in the dismantling of images and adornments in churches, when the Apostolic See was still in Rome. Our Lady continues to make known to her the terrible bitterness that the Church of God would experience: "But woe to the error of the wise one, the one who governs the Church, of the Shepherd of the flock that my Most Holy Son entrusted to his care! However... when authority abuses power and commits injustices and oppresses the weak, his ruin is near. They will fall onto the earth!" Surprisingly, in the Apocalypse of Saint John, when in the fifth seal it says: "I, Apostle John, saw that a great body became detached from the heavens, whose name was Wormwood, which burnt like a torch. It fell upon the Earth...", this symbolizes, among other things, besides the third world war, the apostasy of the Roman church ... When it says 'it fell upon the Earth,' it is similar to the message of Saint Mariana where she says 'they will fall onto the earth.'

She then announces the resurgence of the Church and the Papacy of Peter III: "And joyful and triumphant, like a tender child, the Church will resurge and gently fall asleep in the arms of the skilful maternal heart of My chosen son, much beloved of those times, who will docilely lend an ear to the inspirations of grace, one of them being the reading of the great mercies that My Most Holy Son and I have used with you. We have filled him with very particular graces and gifts, we will make him great upon earth and even more so in Heaven, where we have reserved a very precious seat for him, because without fear of men he fought for the truth and intrepidly defended the rights of his Church, for which We may well call him a martyr." The motto of His Holiness Peter III, "*de Glória Ecclesiæ*," precisely alludes to the resurgence of the Church; during his Papacy, he has been tasked with defending the Holy Church of God, even in civil courts; during his Pontificate, he began public calls to humanity, still mired in corruption and sin; and during his Papacy, the graces received by Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres, solemnly canonized by him, will be made known.

We return to the vision of February 2nd, 1634. Our Mother continues speaking about the terrible corruption in which humanity is sunk: "To dissipate this black cloud, which prevents the Church from enjoying the clear day of freedom, there will be a formidable and frightening war in which the blood of nationals and foreigners, of secular and regular Priests, and also of Nuns will flow. This night will be terribly horrific because, humanly speaking, evil will seem to triumph.

“The time will have come when I will marvellously dethrone the proud and cursed Satan, placing him beneath My feet and burying him in the infernal abyss. Thus the Church and the Homeland will finally be freed of his cruel tyranny.”

The Blessed Virgin also promises the final triumph, as in Fatima, the Happy Event of the moral restoration of humanity. One can well think that the Foundation of the Order of the Carmelites of the Holy Face, was the Happy Event of the XX century announced, namely the purification of the Catholic Church, and which would mark the beginning of the Era of Mary, which will culminate in the Happy Event of the final triumph, when She comes as Precursress of Our Lord Jesus Christ in His glorious Second Coming.

Fifth and final meaning: The indifference of the rich towards the oppressed Church.

“The fifth reason for the lamp to have been extinguished is the negligence and carelessness of people who, possessing vast riches, will look with indifference upon the oppressed Church, persecuted virtue, triumphant evil, without using their riches in a holy manner for the destruction of evil and the restoration of faith, and also the indifference of the people in allowing the Name of God to be gradually erased, adhering to the spirit of evil, giving themselves freely to vices and passions. Oh, my dear! If you were given to live in that fearsome era, you would die of sorrow... Such is the love that my Most Holy Son and I have for these lands, our inheritance, that we want from now on the application of your sacrifices and prayers to shorten the duration of such a terrible catastrophe.”

Mother Mariana learnt of the great number of souls that would be lost in those times and fainted. This is how her Sisters found her when they came to pray at four in the morning. She was taken to her cell and they tried to revive her, but to no avail. They also called the doctor, but everything was useless, she did not react or respond when called. She remained like this for two days. On February 5, she sat up in her bed, raised her beautiful eyes to the Mother Abbess and thanked her for all the attentions received. It was five in the morning. Her heart was seriously affected. The Mother Infirmarian wanted to know what had happened to her. “Daughter,” Mother Mariana replied, “the Lord’s designs for His creatures are inscrutable and profound, they encompass all times. Pray, my daughter, not only for the present time, but more for the future. Oh! If you knew the deep bitterness that our poor successors will face on draining the bitter chalice...! Their future tears fall into my heart and I weep with them...”

Around that time, Mother Frances of the Angels died in holiness and the Nuns saw that Mother Mariana of Jesus’ natural life was ebbing away. They were worried, thinking that the existence of the convent would be threatened. She told them: “Daughters of my heart,... when on the human plane the extinction of the Order has come, after spirits have been purified in the XX century, we will bring apt young women for the new foundation.” Prophecy of the arrival of religious vocations to the Order of Carmelites of the Holy Face in the Palmarian Church. Later, on the occasion of her testament, Mother Mariana of Jesus revealed another prophecy to her Nuns: “Know, beloved daughters, that the Lord wants to glorify your Mother [referring to herself], raising her to the honour of the Altars, and when this happens, my convents will already be what they should be and what God wants from them...”

Other visions and revelations

Vision of the Most Holy Trinity; Jesus exalts his Most Holy Mother

On August 10, 1634, at three in the morning, Mother Mariana of Jesus was praying in the upper choir of her convent, when she saw a beautiful light coming from the Tabernacle and her heart was inflamed, falling into ecstasy and blazing up yet further in the burning flames of Divine Love, which she would have been unable to endure with her bodily senses, because the human heart does not possess the strength to bear such fire. Then she saw how the Three Divine Persons were in the Consecrated Host, really distinct and how they were one single True God...

Afterwards, the Eternal Word Incarnate manifested Himself to her, being God and Man at the same time through the hypostatic union. Jesus revealed to Mother Mariana details of the life of his Most Holy Mother, who was to live only three years with her parents Saints Joachim and Anne, to honour the mystery of the Holy Trinity, after which, generous and brave, this beautiful and heavenly Child was to leave Her parental home, the world in which She lived, and was to take refuge in the solitude of the Temple, being the model of maidens called by God to religious life from that moment of Her holy life. He also revealed to her the life of great sacrifice, hardship and suffering that His Most Holy Mother had in the Temple with creatures, by divine permission, and the sublime and heroic virtues that She possessed, which no mortal could rival, nor could all the Saints together even resemble Her, only imitate, yet never equal His Holy Mother.

Vision of Purgatory

On November 2, 1634, Mother Mariana prayed from midnight, and with humble yet demanding prayers she asked the tender Heart of her Divine Spouse to alleviate the pains of the Blessed Souls who were purifying themselves in the place of expiation, and that a considerable number of them be finally taken to Heaven. To this end, she spent the whole night in prayer and austere penance. At four in the morning, she began the recitation of

the office in honour of the Blessed Virgin with her community, and during the prayer, without ceasing to pray, the Lord showed her the pains of the Blessed Souls in purgatory.

She saw the pains of loss and sense suffered by Priests and religious souls in greater intensity and depth than the laity of the world, manifesting to her at the same time that Divine Justice was thus glorified, because to the former He gives more lights, graces and inspirations due to the sublimity of their priestly and religious vocation and that therefore “to whom much was given, much will be demanded”, and to the latter less, because secular life has its sublime graces but nothing similar to the perfect state.

She knew the particular pains of the souls of Religious Priests who had left their convents and affiliated themselves to the secular clergy, solely and exclusively for lack of steadfastness and resolution in the practice of humility; the only virtue that sustains Friars and Nuns in religious life. Other reasons are vain pretexts, which they keep silent on being conformed to worldly maxims, losing for eternity very many degrees of glory. The number of Priests who were to be damned was also revealed to her, some for apostasy, and others for having been degraded from their divine vocation, becoming stained and had died in sin. She also saw Purgatory and the diminished glory of this class of Priests, who repented, amended their lives and saved themselves.

All this constituted a deep and bitter sorrow for this seraphic soul; a new thorn that Jesus drove into the heart of this great soul, so that with her constant pain, she might atone to the Lord for the sins of His Ministers and religious souls. But the Infinite Mercy of God, taking pity on the pain of His beloved spouse, also made known to her how His Divine Providence would give everyone a point of reference, a model by which they could be guided. In the vision of December 8th of that same year 1634, the Blessed Virgin told her, among other things: “Priests from the XIX century onwards should love with all their soul Saint John Baptist Mary Vianney, a servant of mine, whom Divine Goodness is preparing to make a gift of him in those centuries, giving them an exemplary model of a selfless Priest. He will not be of noble family, so that the world may know and understand that in God’s esteem there is no inclination other than to profound virtue. This servant of Mine, who as I told you, will come into the world at the end of the XVIII century, will love Me with all his heart, and in his pastoral life will honour Me with his prayer and by teaching his companions to know Me and love Me...” With name and surname, in this prophecy, more than one hundred and fifty years before he was born, is the Holy Curé of Ars, Saint John Baptist Mary Vianney (8-5-1786 to 4-8-1859). Beatified by Pope Saint Pius X the Great in 1905, canonized by Pope Saint Pius XI the Great. In 2017, His Holiness Pope Peter III declared him Doctor of the Church, ‘the Great’ and Patron of Priests.

Advice and thoughts of Saint Mariana of Jesus.

For the Novena of the Lord’s Nativity of the year 1634, Mother Mariana gathered all her Nuns and urged them to be devoted to the Child Jesus, because in this devotion, she told them, lies the guarantee of the preservation of the convent. And finally she exhorted them to adorn the nativity scene primarily with the fervour of their hearts: “Oh, my daughters, love the Child Jesus and always live in spiritual childhood!”

On New Year’s Day 1635, she happily distributed new clothes to her Nuns, telling them that this was how the Spouses of Jesus Christ should dress each year: clothe their souls with new virtues to please the Heavenly Spouse who wants and longs for hearts renewed by love and mortification. “Have patience and offer Jesus the flower of resignation, so beautiful and so pleasing to the Heavenly Spouse. How much a soul resigned to the Divine Will is worth!” She taught them how to offer the Divine Child the Gold of Love, the Incense of Prayer, and the Myrrh of incessant Mortification and voluntary penance, but this with the knowledge and blessing of the confessor, so that it may be meritorious and pleasing to the Lord. And she added: “Ah, my little daughters, how necessary is holy penance for religious! Whether to prevent diseases of the soul such as lukewarmness, a microbe which penetrates unfelt, or to convert sinners and save those sister souls that are worth as much as ours. Love holy penance and make it your favourite virtue, for it is the jewel and embellishment with which the Spouse of Jesus adorns herself, to appear ever beautiful to her Divine Spouse, whose Most Holy Body was gored by inhuman hearts precisely to save our souls! As religious, we must always bear in our bodies the sign of the Cross. In any public or private calamity, turn to holy penance, united to the Sorrowful Passion of Our Divine Redeemer, and you will see that the remedy will come sooner than you expect. Oh, how sweet and savoury are the fruits of penance!”

Her life became more and more fervent, like someone already bidding farewell to this land of tears and sorrows and taking flight towards the Celestial Homeland, a secure abode of unalterable peace and happiness. Her Sisters and Daughters noticed in her something like a celestial joy, as one who prepares to depart very soon. Each made continuous visits to the Prisoner of Love, begging Him to revoke the death sentence on her, and to leave the faithful Spouse who gave Him so much glory with her holy life and was the comfort and counsellor of the convent and the people of the city who came to her. These pleas were not heard because that tree was already loaded with flowers and ripe fruits of holiness; it had to be transplanted by the Divine Gardener to the gardens of Heaven for the glory of the Immaculate Virgin.

By order of Our Lady of the Happy Event, shortly before dying, she began to write the testament she left to her Daughters and which, with her last strength, she personally read to them an hour and a half before dying. From this precious document, we extract some advice on religious life, the practice of charity - in the convent, with sinners and especially with the sick, who are souls very dear to God - because it reflects the beauty of this noble soul, who became all for all. She also gives valuable reflections for the sick, which help to sublimate sufferings, direct them to God and use them as precious currency for the conversion of sinners. We also include recommendations for superiors and novice mistresses, as they are valid and useful observations for fathers and mothers of families.

Mother Mariana of Jesus wrote: "The Divine Master hanging from the shameful gibbet of the Cross, on which He expired amid almost infinite pains and torments, bequeathed to His beloved disciple, and in him to the Church, His Most Holy Mother, saying to Her: 'Woman, behold your son!', and addressing the beloved disciple, He said: 'Behold your Mother!' Appropriating this fourth Word of my dying Spouse, I, your dying Mother, say to you, my daughters of all times until the consummation of the ages: 'Here you have your Heavenly Mother, Mary Most Holy of the Happy Event, She will always give you happy events.'

"Love the Most Holy Virgin greatly, imitate Her virtues, especially Her profound humility, Her ardent love for God and for poor sinners, Her simplicity and Her childlike candour. Let there be no duplicity or hypocrisy in your souls; preserve and propagate Her worship under the loving invocation of the Happy Event, for with it you will obtain whatever you ask of Jesus and Mary."

Advice for religious life: "See how Divine Providence proceeds: How it gathers in monasteries and convents people from different countries, lineages, and conditions, along with the diversity of spiritual graces, physical and moral gifts! For what purpose? So that the happy souls whom God Our Lord beautifies with the gratuitous and sublime gift of the religious vocation may exercise all kinds of virtues and consolidate them, combining the purest love of God with that of their fellow beings. Only when they are in Heaven will they know in all its wonder the gift they received, because here in mortal life no wayfarer, no matter how saintly and wise, is capable of understanding things so great and sublime.

"Without prayer and community life, everything is lacking. In such cases, Religious are like soldiers without weapons in the thickest of the fray. Fierce is the combat of the present life, and living in the cloister is not enough to ensure salvation. It is absolutely essential to labour in the realm of the spirit, to fulfil the holy vows and austerities of monastic life; to daily remove the weeds that grow in the soul without being felt or wanted, clearly seen through prayer.

"Turn to Our Lady of the Happy Event in all your spiritual and temporal needs. When your souls find themselves suffering temptations, bitterness, and if the star of the divine vocation, by divine permission, hides from the sight of your soul, turn to Her with confidence and say: 'Star of the turbulent sea of my mortal life, illuminate me with your light so that I do not stray from the path that leads me to Heaven.'

"Beggars, out there in the world, how much they lack of those things very necessary, how much! And I in religious life, having taken a vow of poverty, will I want nothing to be lacking and everyone to flatter me? Oh no, a thousand times no! What will my Heavenly Spouse say to me on the last day of my life if I do not try to resemble Him by bearing with patient love my little pains, privations, and needs?"

The practice of Charity: "The Apostle of Love, the preferred in the affection of Jesus and Mary who, from the pure sources of the Most Sacred Heart of Christ Our Lord, drank the beautiful and so necessary virtue of charity, when he had reached old age and his disciples took him leaning on their arms to preach and instruct them, spoke only of holy charity. Tired of always hearing the same thing without variation of subject, they said to him one day: 'Master, we are tired and troubled at always hearing the same sermon; tell us and teach us other things.' And with that calm and wisdom of a Saint who was possessed by God, he answered them: 'It is the Lord's precept, and if you keep this, it is enough. My little children, love one another.'"

"Thus I, your Mother, in my old age, and in those most sublime moments in which I am going to leave mortal life, making these words of the Apostle Saint John my own, I say to you: "My little daughters of all times, love one another as Christ loves each of you, both materially and spiritually; desire and seek for your Sisters what you desire for yourselves; love each other as I love you. Sacrifice yourselves for your Sisters, and prefer others over and above your own convenience."

In the convent: "Beloved daughters, practise holy charity among yourselves; love one another as you would each like to be loved, keep up mutual considerations, provide those small daily services that captivate hearts and unite them with the indissoluble bond of holy fraternal love; guard yourselves with careful attention from ever saying hurtful, insulting, disdainful words; overlook the weaknesses inherent to mortal life, keeping in mind that only the Angels and the Blessed are impeccable and that to merit many degrees of grace and glory we need to know how to bear up with the temperament and character of the Sisters."

With sinners: "Do not forget poor sinners, your brethren. Tremble before the Sovereign Judge if you disregard an issue so much your own as this, because the Divine Redeemer and His Most Holy Mother have made it known

to me thus in the repeated and frequent apparitions that they have deigned to give me. Do not be selfish and stingy with our Good God: forget yourselves, take an interest in poor sinners.

“Oh, how much the sweet and insistent words of a Nun are worth in the spirit of lay people! Many souls have returned to the Lord at their reflections, since God, our Loving Father, gives unction to the words of His Spouses, and even when they do not produce their effect at that moment, they remain engraved with indelible characters in the depths of the hearts of those who hear them. Their echo reverberates in their solitude and never remains fruitless.

“If you encounter docile souls who quickly turn to God, thank God for such a great favour; and if you encounter hardened souls, whose conversion seems impossible, then more than ever redouble your prayers and sacrifices, offer up your pains and, without neglecting your influence on them, hope against all hope in the Merciful Love that God has for souls redeemed by His Saving Blood, and ask and insist on the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls, placing as intercessor Our Most Holy Mother of the Happy Event so that She may give them that happy event, their conversion, granting them perseverance and finally saving them.

“You, contemplative Nuns, love poor sinners, reprove sin, the faults in your brethren, but love their persons, love their souls, and in your life of continuous pain do not forget them. Do not take part in the vain chatter of many people who try to be pious and have no care to restrain their tongues, which like two-edged swords tear apart their guilty brothers, sinners, opening deep wounds in their souls, difficult to heal during mortal life, resulting in secret hatreds and vengeance that offend and grieve the most patient and charitable Heart of Our Divine Master.

“For their conversion and return to the paternal house offer up your privations, pains and sacrifices, bearing in mind that if God Our Lord did not hold you by His hand, you would be worse than them, much more guilty and scandalous.

“You are unknown apostles to convert souls by your prayers and heroic sacrifices. Far from you be personal contempt, hatreds, insults, vengeance, because this is proper only to petty souls, without any interior virtue and penetrated by a secret pride that makes them believe themselves good and better than those wayward brothers. Along with insistent and humble prayer, in a Nun there must ever be gentleness, sweetness, kindness, in dealing with sinners to win them over. Oh, learn to be meek and humble of heart as was the Divine Master, model of the elect and especially of religious souls!”

To the sick: “You, dear sick ones, predilect daughters of Our Divine Saviour, will suffer pains, acute illnesses, privations, sacrifices, bitterness, shame, lack of indispensable things for your state of health, with the addition of desolation and spiritual grief. When you find yourselves thus, lift up your eyes to Heaven, and briefly contemplating the blue or cloudy firmament, think: ‘Beyond that cold air is my beloved Celestial Homeland, there my Divine Spouse awaits me, my Immaculate Mother, my Mother Foundress, a soul so long suffering and beloved of God and of my Mothers in this convent, which is the antechamber of Heaven. From the Celestial Kingdom they have their eyes fixed on me to see my conduct in this time of hard trial in which my body and soul suffer the unspeakable. Jesus Christ, the Holy of Holies, suffered far more than I, and He, innocent, I guilty.’ Then lift up your heart to Heaven and pray: ‘Oh God, how many betrayals and infidelities in the time I enjoyed health! How Good You are! How you manifest Your Love by sending me this present ailment to atone and merit, when in Purgatory I would have to atone without meriting anything! For You, my Love, suffered far more than I, for my love alone; I accept for Your Love this bitter chalice and want to drink it to the end to please You, to resemble You, to give you proofs of my love, to atone and merit for my waywardness and ingratitude; to go, as soon as possible, to enjoy in Heaven without passing through Purgatory, because it is hard for me to be separated from You any longer. Already in mortal life this separation is cruel and I long for the moment when, my soul being loosed from the bonds of mortality, I can lightly spread my wings in flight towards blissful eternity and there give You the eternal embrace, losing myself in Your Divine Immensity as a dewdrop is lost in the ocean. As a fragile and weak creature, without any virtue, the weak little barque of my soul is already sinking in the stormy sea of my griefs; give me strength, courage and constancy to face everything with manly spirit, bearing in mind that the Kingdom of Heaven is conquered with violence. This current time will pass, everything will end and no memory of me will remain. To eternity I will only take my good or bad deeds, and presenting myself in the tremendous tribunal I will receive a favourable or unfavourable sentence, according to them. Oh, God of my loves, do not allow your poor little creature to receive an unfavourable sentence from Christ!

“To avoid being also sick of soul, I prescribe that you never abandon mental prayer, uninterrupted internal mortification, and external whenever you can, because the Spouse of Jesus should never live without punishing her body. Apart from this, be humble, peaceful, patient, tolerant in times of illness, bearing in mind that it is the thermometer that truly marks the virtue of a Nun and the degree of love for God, because even if you said: My God, I love you!, it would not be credible if you did not give the unequivocal proofs of love, which are given preferentially in times of illness, when the creature lives penetrated by pain. Accept with serene and calm spirit your great sufferings, smile at pain, obey with the docility, candour and simplicity of a child the doctor that God provides for you; I myself from Heaven will see who assists you to cure your ailments. Edify them with your

irreproachable conduct, with your solid virtues, with your heroic patience, manifesting your intimate love for God and always speaking to them of the nothingness of earthly things in which everything is transitory and that all creatures, God's creations, must serve and love Him to enjoy Him in Heaven, eternal salvation being the only business for which all creatures must work tirelessly. Speak to them of the happy and the wretched eternity, of the value of a single soul.

"Oh, love penance! It is an antidote against evil passions and even healthy for the body; it must not be lacking in a fervent Nun, in a soul detached from everything, and even from herself, who lives considering herself an exile in the arid desert of mortal life and walking in haste to Heaven. This is valid even for my daughters who are sick but not gravely so, since the sick Nun does not cease to be a Nun and is strictly obliged to fulfil her monastic obligations as far as her strength permits.

"With nurses be docile, approachable, gentle, affectionate and grateful. If ever you lack assistance from them, if they forget to give you medicines (which will be many times because the Lord allows this to test your patient love for Him), if they scold you and if they show you weariness and a frown, oh, raise your suffering hearts to your God and bear it in silence for love of Him! Disguise everything as if you were not aware of it, and say inwardly: 'My Sister is right, because a long and painful illness tires and only heroic charity can tolerate me.'

"Sanctify your life of illness, do not be demanding, wanting everyone to serve you, with nothing or no one lacking! Do not be burdensome by mortifying the nurses with complaints, demands and bad temper, exaggerating your ailments, and resisting the prescribed medicines. Bear in mind that nurses suffer, even more than the sick themselves, because with all the care they take, they do not succeed in curing them, this being a secret suffering for them, a continuous dart that pierces their heart. Only God is the sole witness to the privations, sacrifices, triumphs, and bitterness of nurses, who have no other recourse than God, His Most Holy Mother, and their patron saints! Nurses sacrifice themselves for you, suffer and cry alone with their God. Love them as your tender mothers, show them trust and affection, for this will be the best way to repay them for the solicitous care they provide. Be grateful and never murmur, do not complain of them. Know that ingratitude greatly displeases the Most Sacred Heart of your Divine Spouse, who wishes to see in His sick Spouses a faithful copy of Himself. Look at Him in His most Dolorous Passion, study Him in your prayer, penetrate into that suffering and tormented Heart and you will see a model of humility, patience, tolerance, silence, and heroic generosity.

"In the likeness of the Divine Master who, close to exhaling His last breath, gave us His Mother as our own, entrusting us to Her in the person of Saint John, the beloved disciple, you, in the abyss of sorrows in which you find yourselves submerged, forgetting yourselves, in imitation of Crucified Love, regale your brothers, the sinners, with your sufferings, placing them in the hands of Most Holy Mary of the Happy Event, our tender Mother.

"In this way, dear sick ones, you will pass with profit and merit the bitter days of your illness, you will give souls to Jesus Christ Who, pleased with you, will smile at you from Heaven, will fill you with those intimate and sweet consolations, with which only God knows how to regale to those beloved souls, united to Him, who suffer nailed with Him on the same Cross. You will always find Him ready to hear your petitions, to remedy your needs and those of the souls entrusted to you. Fulfilling thus your mission on earth, you will close your eyes to material light serenely and gladly, to open them to eternal light. And once in eternity, if you have Purgatory, it will be very short, because you already had it in your life of sacrifice, of prolonged pain. Religious in general, and the sick during illness, have a conscientious obligation to set a good example by suffering with patience and unalterable peace that accumulation of pain and bitterness. Far from you, then, be restlessness, anger, and despair. If the illness is prolonged, consider that only eternity has no end, and that no matter how painful, grievous and prolonged the illnesses suffered in this mortal life may be, they are nothing, for there in eternity a long and painful life of suffering will seem but a sigh."

To healthy Sisters: "Love holy observance, interior and exterior recollection, holy silence which constitutes the most beautiful and rich adornment of monasteries. Be charitable and compassionate with your sick Sisters, considering them as suffering members of the Mystical Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, love the sick with exquisite tenderness, overlook their impertinences and do not dare to aggravate their ailments by causing them grief! Know that the Celestial Spouse loves them with particular Love, and He feels the smallest suffering caused to them as though done to His own Divine Person, reserving punishment for the last day of life.

"Have holy envy for them, considering that those souls, so beloved of the Lord, possess a wealth of virtues superior to yours and that for this reason they were worthy that He entrust them with His most abundant treasures of the Cross: sorrows, to crown them one day not too distant in Heaven with the crown and palm of martyrs. Venerate them and render them the services you can; please them in everything, trying to distract them to lighten their heavy cross, speaking to them of the joys of Heaven, which will be measured by the sufferings endured for love of Jesus Christ."

How superioresses should direct the convent and souls: "See in each of your Daughters a privileged soul much loved by God who, hearing the Divine Call, courageously bid farewell to parents, home, family, and possessions, and lavish your care on them, both in temporal and spiritual matters.

“Take care with diligent attention that they lack nothing for performing the manual work they do for the benefit of the community, and that everyone knows everything, that among you selfishness may never exist. Teach from generation to generation all that you know; because a contemplative religious should not, nor can be an idle person, ignorant, or incapable of the delicate and intricate labours proper to her sex: sewing, embroidery, spinning thread, with linen and wool, painting, etc. Be gentle and kind in your dealings; teach them with prudence and exercise much prudence in the reprimands you may have to give.

“Ensure that no one retires for the night without being reconciled to any Sister if anything happened during the day; as fragile creatures, provide them with some gift so that they can mutually regale each other after embracing. This is a beautiful way of providing them with peace of heart, of preserving the fraternal charity that should shine in great splendour in the Spouses of the God of infinite charity.

“Arduous is the charge of Mother Abbesses, full of great responsibilities. Woe to you if through indiscretion you lead your daughters astray from the right path by treating them with severity and displeasure, driving them away from God! And woe to you also, if you consent to laxity, without giving timely, wise, and gentle correction, leading them away from evil! Be true mothers, love your daughters and lead them all to Heaven through the well-trodden path of ordinary life, making them practice solid virtue through careful attention in doing ordinary work to perfection, with the right and pure intention of pleasing the Celestial Spouse.

“Take care of holy silence, which is the adornment of observant convents, along with mutual charity, and watch over its daily practice. In mortal life, you will only know the excellence of this virtue as you grow more and more in holiness and unite with God, and in eternity when you enjoy God in Heaven, or when you weep bitterly in Purgatory for having failed in it, opening incurable wounds in the hearts of your poor and inoffensive Sisters.

“Care for the sick with devoted zeal and diligence, providing the nurse with everything needed for the healing of the sick during their illnesses, even if they should last for many years. Do not tire of them. You should know that they are the treasure of the community and the lightning rods of cities. Encourage them with your advice and lavish affection on them, as true Mothers that you are, softening their lives full of indescribable sacrifices, which are understood only when they are suffered. If they request relief for their soul through a spiritual Father, do your best to provide it.

“Study the character of each and adapt to it, that is, avoiding the slightest detriment to the Holy Rule and Constitutions. Never oppress them with an imprudent or misunderstood observance; make them feel that the Lord’s yoke is gentle and His burden light. Many mandates outside the Rule and Constitutions weaken the most valiant spirit, sadden the heart, and in incessant striving health comes to be lost and the person incapacitated for true and placid regular observance. Such a practice is alien to the spirit and desire of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Remember constantly what the great Apostle of the Gentiles teaches Christians about their obligations and duties in their domestic life. Addressing fathers, he says: ‘Parents, love your children and do not exasperate them, but educate them, instruct them and correct them according to the doctrine of the Lord,’ and also: ‘Parents, love your children, and do not correct them with anger, so that they may trust in your guidance, and through it become virtuous.’ This teaching and wisdom of the Apostle Saint Paul should be a guide for you in your governance of each Nun, bearing in mind that not all have the same character, virtue, and temperament.”

Advice for Superioresses and Novice Mistresses: “Always instil in your Nuns the practice of mutual charity. To the novices, above all, carefully instil this truth in their hearts. If there is no charity, you will end the Foundation. Never show favouritism! Do not show preference for any of your spiritual daughters. Love them all equally, and if you ever find angelic souls, whose gentle character and humble and simple heart lead you to affection, be careful not to make it noticeable to her, nor to others, if you do not want to fall under God’s curse; because while the soul is in the body, they are creatures, and in religious life the solid practice of conventual life is necessary, which you must teach them from its rudiments based on deep humility. If this is lacking, they can never be virtuous, much less holy. Then, proceeding from this humility, you must instruct them in holy charity, without which they will not be blest by God at any hour.”

Advice for Novice Mistresses: “They must strive to give them practical instructions at every moment with words and above all with example; example is powerful in tender hearts, as are those of novices, who are ordinarily what their mistresses are. The mistress is the mirror of her novices; exercise them in acts of humility, and from time to time, she herself should perform them with her novices; this impresses holily and elevates the heart to God.

“They should often read and explain to them the Gospel that deals with charity in its daily practice. They have to study carefully and diligently the character and inclination of each of their daughters and lead each one according to the path by which God leads her; it is good often to take each one in particular, and point out her faults, tell her, as a messenger of God, what God wants from her, the sacrifice or sacrifices He asks of her, and teach her the practice of overcoming and dominating her character lest she later become unbearable in the community, increasing her sins with public bad example.

“It is also important to give instructions to all gathered, and ask them how they have understood them in practice. All this should be done with sweetness, with gentleness, with the best good manners in the likeness of the Divine Master who said: ‘Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of Heart.’

“The Novice Mistress must needs be loved and respected by all her daughters in general, and that being all things for each of them, she make them holy. This is her mission, sublimely delicate and of enormous responsibility.”

Her holy death

At dawn on January 14, 1635, great sadness oppressed the Nuns of the Royal Monastery of the Immaculate Conception: their beloved Foundress, Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres, was at death’s door. That year she would be seventy-two years old.

The community withdrew to the choir, leaving with Mother Mariana only the Mother nurse, who was much loved by the saintly Foundress for her angelic character, humility, and docility. This religious was the daughter of a prominent family in the colony. When she was about to come into the world, her mother was at death’s door, given up by doctors. The family’s last resort at that time was to ask Mother Mariana of Jesus for prayers and her “anise water from the country.” Calm and smiling, Mother Mariana gave them the medicine, saying to the relatives waiting at the entrance: “Take the remedy to the lady... telling her to fear nothing, but to know that the girl who will be born is destined to be a Nun in this convent, and she will be the one who will shroud my corpse.”

Time passed, and the girl named Zoila Blanca Rosa entered the convent. She ever strove to follow in the same saintly footsteps as her teacher; she was an exemplary novice, a fervent nun, and kept the grace of Baptism until death. At that time, Mother Rosa was the convent’s infirmarian and attended Mother Mariana of Jesus with special filial love. Seeing her very ill, she asked if she wanted to receive the Sacraments, and Mother Mariana replied with complete serenity: “No, it’s not time yet. I will receive them with fervour and joy on the 16th, the last day of my life, after giving you my testament.” The young Nun, distressed, said to her: “Mother, take me with you and don’t leave me, for I don’t have the strength to withstand this hard trial,” to which the Mother replied: “Ask the Lord for this grace, and if it pleases Him to grant it to you, prepare yourself for us both to go.” And she did so: she asked permission from the Mother Abbess to die, the oldest habit for her shroud, and an opening in the garden for her burial, and after asking forgiveness for not having served the Spouses of Christ as she should have, full of joy she went to the feet of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and dissolved in tears of happiness. But the Abbess, though she gave her blessing, thought it was just another case of Mother Rosa’s ingenuousness.

Meanwhile, in health as in sickness, Mother Mariana of Jesus was seen with a smile on her lips – with that admirable tranquillity and imperturbability of spirit, characteristic only of a saintly soul – whose life had slipped by quietly in the shadow of the Cross, passing through unheard-of trials, both physical and moral.

On the morning of the 16th, Mother Mariana of Jesus asked for her Confessor, Father Angüita, to be called to administer the last Sacraments. The Bishop had given instructions to be notified when Mother Mariana was on the verge of death to assist her personally, but on that very day he woke up ill. So Divine Providence arranged for the Franciscan Fathers, who were so close to Mother Mariana, to assume these functions. Her confessor did not delay in coming, accompanied by the Father Guardian of the Franciscan convent. After placing the ciborium with the Sacred Host on an improvised altar, the Father Guardian said to the exemplary Nun: “Mother Mariana of Jesus, the great moment of your departure has arrived. You should fear nothing, for you have fulfilled the task given to you by the Heavenly Father. However, making mistakes and sins is typical of human nature. Therefore, to make this last act of humility more meritorious, I order you in the name of holy obedience to ask your Sisters present here for forgiveness for the faults you may have committed, and giving some bad examples.”

Helped by Mother Rosa, the holy Foundress knelt down and, putting a black horsehair rope around her neck, joined her hands on her breast and said: “Mothers, Sisters, and beloved Daughters, I ask you charitably to forgive me for all the bad examples I have given you during my long life.” Moved, the Father Guardian replied: “Mother, your Sisters and Daughters forgive you, love you, and beg you not to forget them in Heaven. Do not forget your Brethren, the Franciscan Friars, either.” Shortly after, the Father Guardian added: “By virtue of holy obedience, I command you to tell us at what time you are going to die, because it is very just that we, your Brethren, help you at that last moment.” “My soul will leave my body today at three o’clock sharp in the afternoon,” replied Mother Mariana of Jesus. Then the Friars returned to their convent.



Finally, the last moment arrived. A bell rang at half past one in the afternoon, gathering the Nuns for their last meeting with Mother Mariana of Jesus. Shortly after, Father Angüita and the Father Guardian of the Franciscan Friars Minor returned, entering the cell of the holy invalid and speaking with her privately for the last time. Afterward, the Nuns entered and sat in rows to listen to their dying Mother.

Mother Mariana, after glancing at her own, said in a loud voice: “Beloved Mothers and Sisters of my soul, the longed-for moment has finally arrived for my long and painful exile to end...” She personally read her spiritual testament, after which she blessed her daughters and added: “Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Francis, engrave in their hearts both the testament and the advice I leave. Farewell, daughters of my soul!” She then asked the Priests in a very low voice to commend her soul, thanking them for everything. After these words, Father Angüita took from his chest a small Crucifix he always carried as a missionary, and after having the dying Saint kiss it, placed it in her hands. She pressed it

tightly to her heart. She gave a deep sigh and, without any agony or trembling, her soul separated from her body and departed to Heaven while her lips depicted a sweet smile.

At that moment, the bells were ringing three o’clock in the afternoon on January 16th 1635. The Nuns and Fathers were left speechless, their eyes fixed on the holy corpse that didn’t seem like one. Her mouth and eyes remained well closed, her colour was white and her cheeks rosy, with a sweet smile on her lips; so peaceful and attractive that she seemed to be in a sweet ecstasy. Just to see her caused respect, affection, and elevated the soul to God.

Mother Mariana received death with serenity and a smile on her lips, in the same way she had accepted in her life, throughout her almost sixty years of conventual life, all the sufferings and trials that her Divine Spouse had wished to send her to appease Divine Wrath because of our sins. The life of Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres was a continuous martyrdom, accepted and borne by her with imperturbable serenity.

Upon Mother Mariana’s death, Mother Rosa, as the Saint had predicted even before her birth, prepared her body and helped arrange things in the sacristy. Once the corpse was placed in the lower choir for the ceremony to be held the next day, she asked the Mother Abbess for permission to continue watching over her deceased Mother a little longer, which was granted. She placed herself at the feet of the deceased with her forehead and hands on her, and didn’t move from there until one in the morning when the Mother Abbess came bringing her a cup of anise water to drink, and when she called her, she didn’t respond. This caught her attention because she was a docile Sister; she touched her gently on the head, and thinking she was faint, asked for help from other nuns... and what a surprise to see her dead, with her mouth full of blood, on her hands, clotted in the mouth, and that more blood had fallen on the feet of the deceased Mother Mariana! They took Mother Rosa to her cell but she showed no further signs of life. Thus, Mother Zoila Blanca Rosa of Mariana of Jesus, as was her full religious name, had flown to Heaven along with her Mother and teacher.

Early in the morning, the Mother Abbess, who at that time was Mother Mariana de Santo Domingo, urgently sent for the doctor, and he came hurriedly, examined her, applied various remedies, and finally turned to the Nuns saying: “Mothers, Mother Blanca Rosa has been dead for about seven hours now. So then, Mother Marianita took her Blanca Rosa, transplanting her to the gardens of Heaven! Well I never!”

As soon as it became public that Mother Mariana of Jesus had died, that same afternoon there was an enormous influx of people of all ages, sexes, and conditions. Nobles and commoners mingled their tears and loudly asked for something she had used to keep as a relic.

In the convent, after tearfully shrouding their beloved little Sister Blanca Rosa, the Nuns arranged her mortal remains on an improvised bier, but they had no flowers of any kind, as they had used them all for Mother Mariana: “Oh, Little Sister, there are no flowers for you, let our tears suffice for now until flowers sent by the affection of those outside arrive!”

Then began the transfer of Mother Rosa’s body from the dormitory where it had been taken to the lower choir to keep vigil alongside her Holy Mother. When they passed through the lower cloister of the choir that leads to the courtyard, oh, wonder! They saw it all covered with flowers, especially very large white roses. The Mother Abbess and her nuns were amazed because there could never be flowers of any kind there... because it was paved! They suspended the procession and, with hearts full of tenderness and gratitude to God Our Lord, went to gather the flowers. They had all the flowers they needed for the occasion and resumed the procession.

It was five-thirty in the morning when they entered the lower choir. There they arranged that Angel next to the bier of her holy Mother Foundress and a choir of tears intoned the response for the deceased.

A miraculous healing

During the wake, there was never a moment without people in the church, pressing up against the grating of the lower choir, sobbing and making a thousand requests to our founding Mother. One of them was a poor woman

named Petra Martínez with a five-year-old daughter blind from birth. She cried desperately with her daughter in front of her; and as if the Mother were alive, she presented all her anguish and maternal affections regarding her little daughter. From time to time, she struggled to reach the bier with her arm through the bars.

Finally, she rushed out of the church, leaving the blind girl there. Soon she was seen returning with a stick and, resuming the same laments as before, she was seen to be very busy at the bars. Suddenly, the nuns saw a flower fall from the crown that the venerable corpse wore; they rushed over and saw that the unfortunate mother had knocked it loose with the stick and tried to reach that flower. Once reprimanded by the Nuns, she said out loud: “Mothers, let me implore my holy Mother Foundress to obtain from God through her intercession my poor daughter’s sight. What will become of her when I am gone? Mother Marianita, Mother Foundress, attend to my lamentations, remember the promise you made that my little daughter would regain her sight, and you went to Heaven without fulfilling what you promised!...” And she cried out for them to pass her the flower that had cost her so much effort to remove from the crown.

Tired and moved to compassion, the Nun Sacristan picked up the flower that had fallen on the eye of the venerable corpse and gave it to the woman. She at once sat on the floor next to her little daughter, lovingly took her head, and applied the flower now to one eye, now to the other, saying: “Mother Marianita, give me back my little daughter with healthy eyes.” She did and said this tirelessly; finally, the daughter fell asleep, and the suffering mother, so as not to wake her, also leant her head against the bars, falling asleep.

The Nuns who saw all this insistently asked the Lord for patience and resignation for the unfortunate woman, pitied by all who entered and left. In the afternoon, the crowd was even more numerous. Around five in the afternoon, she woke up somewhat dazed from her heavy and long sleep and looked around. When she realized exactly where she was, she again began to cry and loudly implore sight for her daughter, who was still asleep with the flower on her eye. The girl woke up with her mother’s shouts, rose up hurriedly and, clinging to the bars said: “Mother Marianita, how beautiful you have been! But don’t sleep anymore, wake up and get up! Another beautiful little Mother is also sleeping beside you! How beautiful the little Nuns are!”

Startled, the woman anxiously looked into her daughter’s eyes and gave a cry of joy that resounded throughout the Church: “Miracle, miracle!” The Nuns approached the grating, and mother and daughter were surrounded by the people in the church; everyone saw the girl with beautiful, luminous black eyes, when from birth this poor creature had never known the light of day. And everyone blessed God who thus glorified His spouse, and acclaimed her a saint.

The funeral rites

Father Angüita of the Franciscan Order and confessor of the holy Foundress, celebrated Mass in suffrage for the two deceased lying in state. Meanwhile, the Fathers and lay Brothers came and went to see their two deceased Sisters, who like angels had taken swift flight to the Celestial Kingdom.



Mariana of Jesus Paredes y Flores attended the solemn Mass and funeral oration, celebrated on the third day by the Bishop. Four years later she donned the habit in the Third Order of Saint Francis and later professed, leaving aside her noble surnames. For her heroic virtues and elevated holiness, she would later be canonized and known as Saint Mariana of Jesus, the Lily of Quito; this young

Saint died in the flower of her age, ten years after the death of the Foundress Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres.

Three days later, at the moment of closing the coffins, the venerable bodies showed no signs of decomposition, much less corruption. They were fresh, flexible, seemingly only wrapped in a sweet and tranquil sleep. Their cheeks were rosy, demonstrating in their physiognomy the beautiful and holy soul they had guarded as a sacred deposit. The venerable body of Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres was buried with some of her personal cilices.

Two hundred and seventy-one years later, in 1885, the body of Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres was exhumed; and was found in this way: The body intact. Dressed in a white habit and black veil. The face had a natural colour, with a rosy tone on her cheeks and lips. The closed eyes preserved the eyelashes. The ears, flexible, the hair fair. Her entire body exhaled an aroma of lilies. Several instruments of penance of her personal use were found, some of which were removed and are preserved as precious relics in the conventual archive. In 1906, during the remodelling of the convent, the incorrupt body of Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres y Berriochoa was removed from her tomb and placed in a new sepulchre dedicated to her. Today it is preserved on the ground floor of the cloistered convent of the Immaculate Conception of Quito, also known as Our Lady of the Happy Event, in the historic centre of the same city.

Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres was solemnly canonized by His Holiness Pope Peter III, on March 27th 2025, Glorious Palmarian Holy Year of the 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Order of Carmelites of the Holy Face, the Order announced in the revelations of this new Saint as “the happy beginning of Complete Restoration”.

Annex

Messages on the paths of sanctification and the religious life

From the profusion of relevant messages that Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres received, we have selected some for their importance and clarity about the life of perfection, including them in greater abundance for the benefit of souls.

On August 10, 1634, she saw Most Holy Mary, presenting herself Pure and Immaculate, true Mother of Jesus Christ and Purest Virgin: before childbirth, in childbirth and after childbirth, an admirable wonder of God. She was destined to be Co-Redemptrix of the human race and sure Refuge of the shipwrecked sinner. Whoever turns to Her with humble confidence and filial love will not be lost but will surely emerge from the abyss of sin and enter into friendship with God, achieving eternal salvation. Mother Mariana saw and understood all this in the vision of her Immaculate Mother, who, taking up the word, said to her: “Faithful daughter and beloved Spouse of the spotless Lamb, who is the blessed fruit of my Most Pure Womb, as you have seen and understood. Rejoice, rejoice! For after a long exile, you are now reaching the threshold of the Celestial Homeland, whose inaccessible Light is already beginning to dawn in your eyes with this Light that you have now seen.”

The normal paths of sanctification

“Poor, wretched mortals, voluntarily blind! They plunge from abyss to abyss, given over to sensual delights, seeking happiness and peace. But both happiness and peace, God’s favourite daughters, flee from them because they are only to be found and enjoyed in the Cross and in sacrifice; for this reason, the happy inhabitants of religious cloisters live in peace, for they are in complete possession of these goods; those who, imitating Jesus and Me, who am His tender Mother, strive to be good religious.

“They will possess and obtain a lofty and eminent sanctity.

“To attain this high sanctity, it is not necessary for them to follow an extraordinary path, nor to be favoured with gifts of high and sublime contemplation, nor visions, nor revelations. These are very particular graces that God, the absolute and sole Master of His creatures, gives when He wishes and for His special purposes, graces which become an admirable and slow martyrdom for the favoured souls.

“For lofty sanctity, my daughter, to which every religious soul is called and obligated, according to the sublimity of her vocation, she only needs to conform her own will in everything to that of her Divine Spouse, both in health and, especially, in illness.”

Illnesses

“You should know that illness is the only and sure thermometer that measures virtue and love for God. Religious souls cannot imagine the great pleasure God takes in them when, tested with the hard Cross of illness and its consequences, they suffer calmly and patiently, drinking from the same chalice as their Dolorous and Celestial Spouse.

“In these cases, they are masters of God’s Heart, and their petitions are powerful to obtain great graces. Precisely, when Divine Goodness seeks appeasement in order to forgive guilty nations, He sends His Spouses long, drawn out and complicated illnesses, so that such sacrifices, united to the Sorrowful Passion, may rise up to the Throne of the Most High and the desired forgiveness may descend from there.

“Tell My daughters and yours that the sick are and will be the precious treasures of the community at all times, and therefore that all the Sisters, and much more the Superioresses, as true mothers, should lavish tenderness upon them, relieving them, consoling them, and making their heavy crosses bearable; providing them with whatever is necessary for their healing and spiritual progress.

“Tell the same to My nurses, that everything they do, physically and morally, for My sick, I receive as if they were attending to Me Myself if I were in bed and waiting for their attentions; and the days, nights, and fatigue they spend with the sick, I will spend with them, accompanying them, helping them, and blessing them. I will reward in the same way the assistance that, together with the Priest, they give to the sick in their last moments and the care with which they shroud these blessed bodies, which for long years of cloistered and penitent life have been temples of the Holy Ghost.

“Keep in mind that illnesses are the best and most meritorious penance, free from the illusions, pride, and arrogance that sometimes can exist in souls attached to their own will, who disregard the opinion and judgment of the Priest so that, according to the spirit that animates them and the degree of virtue they possess, they may indicate the number and kind of penances that are pleasing to God.”

“Regarding healthy Nuns, as I was telling you, to become holy, they need to conform their will to God’s and show their true love by fulfilling their monastic duties with all possible care, with that childlike simplicity that

attracts God's Heart, imitating Me, as I was a perfect model, both in the Temple and in all circumstances of my life, and without more ado they can fly directly to Heaven, responding faithfully to the inspirations of grace."

Extraordinary paths

"For the souls to whom the Lord traces difficult, extraordinary and supernatural paths, He and I will take special care of them so that at the right time they lack neither light, nor counsel, nor guidance, and do not become wayward or discouraged until they reach the desired haven.

"You have walked this painful path because your God and Lord so wished. Glorify Him for all the gratuitous gifts He has given you in abundance, so that by responding to grace you may face every labour and pain as you have done. As you valiantly conclude your arduous journey, prepare yourself to enter the Celestial Jerusalem, abode of peace and unalterable happiness, where night, darkness, work, and hardships are unknown, where the righteous rest from their labours in the Eternal Day.

"Instil in your daughters the desire to be good and holy Nuns, fulfilling the solemn promises they voluntarily made to their God and Lord, both those present and those to come in all centuries, who need to possess this desire more than those present, since terrible sufferings, persecutions, injustices, illnesses, and interior pains will befall them, together with the indirect oppression of whoever should be Father and Pastor in the likeness of My Most Holy Son's Heart, so that only God's Power will be able to sustain them, and My maternal love console them inwardly..."

Priests

"The saddest thing is that the secular clergy will leave much to be desired, because the Ministers of the Altar, forgetting their sublime mission of identifying with my Most Holy Son, through self-knowledge and humble, daily and fervent prayer, will live only on the surface of their soul, without departing from sensible things, from too much attachment to their family and material goods, believing that they aspire to the holiness of the priestly state by practising one or two virtues without caring for the solid foundation of profound humility, without which no virtue can exist, nor can anyone please and satisfy God, who resists the proud and exalts the humble and simple of heart to whom He likes to manifest Himself and communicate His secrets.

"No one is more called to this than the Priest, because he is another Christ. Each is the most delicate fibre of His Most Holy Heart, which is all Love, all meekness, and all humility, but they do not descend to the depths of their soul where they would find Him and without any effort enjoy His company. But, alas!, these very same, His beloved ones, will distance themselves from Him, leaving Him alone and abandoned in His Tabernacles and from there, like an orphan and beggar of love, crying out in His solitude, demanding their hearts with urgency, with tender complaints and expressions. But the care of and attention to earthly worries do not allow them to hear Him and calm His laments, and thus they lose the spirit and consequently great degrees of grace in this life, and of glory in the next; this being the reason why they reap no fruit of conversion of sinners and salvation of souls, reason for which they will be judged and punished in the Supreme Tribunal, because favoured by Divine Goodness they received the most precious gift of the Priestly vocation, to be light of the world and edification of the faithful. Oh, how much a single soul is worth! And the Priest is called to save many. Happy are those who by their example and action give God many souls!"

The Divine Child, speaking, said to Mother Mariana: "My beloved spouse, you are the most delicate fibre of My Heart, for you have spent your entire life in My service and have loved Me with all your heart and soul. Your love for Me, who am your God and Lord, has been very industrious and active, giving Me souls. To convert them, draw them out of vice, and set them on the sure path that leads to Heaven, you have faced great sufferings, both physical and moral, with generosity and courage, without allowing accursed human respect, which impedes great graces in souls, to force you to desist from such a noble endeavour.

"Oh, if all My Spouses had this diligence and care with all the people they deal with, what a number of souls they would give me in secret! Know that in My Spouses' observations I have put double-edged swords to penetrate even the hardest hearts. Even when noticing nothing exteriorly, their words resound day and night in the interior of souls and finally end up planting themselves like good seed to produce fruits of penance, sooner or later, and if they are united to incessant supplication on behalf of those beloved sinners, so much the better. I cannot resist the requests of my Spouses when it comes to saving souls... Now listen to your Mother and mine..."

Then the Divine Mother said to her: "Strive to pray, work, and suffer to gain souls for God. Oh, if Nuns knew the merit they accumulate for eternity in this secret apostolate, they would neglect no means to practise it! It is great charity to work, suffer, and pray for those poor lost brothers who, like prodigal sons, abandoned the House of their Good Father, and through sin went to regions very far from God and squandered the substantial inheritance of divine graces, until left in extreme spiritual misery, begging in the world, a harsh and cruel master, for the acorns of false honours and pleasures, leftovers of the pigs which are vices and unbridled passions, which bury a large number of souls in hell, making the Blood and Merits of my Redeemer Son fruitless.

“This loving and Good Father comes daily out from the Tabernacle to penetrate purified and cleansed hearts from where He casts His loving gaze, to see if in the distance He espies those prodigal sons, to receive them with open arms and, once reconciled and washed in the Holy Tribunal of Penance, return them to His friendship and grace, and with it to the possession of grace and substantial gains reserved for the Kingdom of Heaven. It was precisely for this conquest of prodigal sons that He established the contemplative life in His Church, so that His predilect souls, hidden from all human gaze, unknown, forgotten, and often despised, may be active and fervent apostles through incessant prayer, penance in all the forms and circumstances of cloistered life.

“Woe to religious souls who, unwary and idle, are unwilling to fulfil their sublime mission, vainly and cowardly. They will have no excuse in the Divine Tribunal! There they will be rewarded for having saved souls, and punished for having let them be lost for having taken no action in the Lord’s Vineyard.”

Vision of Jesus’ Sacred Heart covered with sharp little thorns

When the time came to receive communion, once she consumed the Sacred Host, Mother Mariana of Jesus saw Christ, our Good, reclining in her heart, but all of Him was a wound and above all, His Most Sacred Heart full of small but sharp thorns that tormented Him with extraordinary cruelty, and with inexplicable tenderness He shed a flood of tears, giving tender moans and sighs. Mother Mariana pressed Him to her heart, with tenderness and love, for she possessed her Lord and Master, and trembling with love she said to Him: “My beloved, cherished and adored Love of my soul, tell me, for what reason or reasons do You suffer such cruel torments? Were those You suffered in Your most bitter and dolorous Passion not enough? In it, no mention is made of small thorns. The evangelists only speak of thick and long thorns with which they crowned you as a King of mockery, with such ignominy! And now I see your Divine Heart full of tiny thorns that torment you terribly.”

Jesus Christ looked at her with loving tenderness and said, giving a deep sigh: “Ah, beloved Spouse! Ah!... you see that these small thorns prick Me cruelly. I would have you know that they are the grave and the venial faults of my secular and religious Priests and of my religious souls, whom I will bring to the cloister, choosing them from out of the world. I will pour upon them a rain of spiritual graces, even using serious and prolonged illnesses to make them similar to Me. But they, ungrateful and heartless, will complain about my loving Providence, will believe Me cruel to them and, withdrawing from Me with indifference, will leave Me forsaken. Their spirit will decay like a withered flower, and drying up, it will not be able to give fragrance in the garden of My Immaculate Mother, to which they were called, by this ungrateful conduct piercing Me with those tiny thorns that so cruelly prick My Heart, which is all Love and affection for My chosen souls. On thus being tried, they will frustrate the great designs I had for them, because the cross and tribulation are the heritage of the righteous here on earth.

“So that it may be transmitted from generation to generation, instil in your present daughters love for the Cross and for sacrifice, love for the religious vocation, for regular observance, love and fraternal charity, as well as love for poor sinners and faithful response to the inspirations of grace.

“There will be times when doctrine will be commonplace among the wise and ignorant, among Priests and Nuns and even among ordinary people. Many books will be written, but the practice of the virtues and of those doctrines will hardly be found in a few souls, this being the cause of the scarcity of Saints. Precisely for this reason, my Priests and my Nuns will fall into a fatal indifference, whose ice will extinguish the fire of Divine Love, pricking my Loving Heart with these tiny thorns that you see.

“For this reason I want there to be souls here in whom I can rest from My labours and have My delights in them, their troubled and sacrificed life being the charitable and compassionate hands that will remove these tiny thorns and give Me the balm I need.

“Ah, if you knew, if you were given to understand the internal and intense suffering that accompanied me from the Incarnation in which I was born from the Most Pure Womb of my Virgin Mother, until the very moment when my soul left my lacerated Body, nailed to the Cross, due to the lack of response to the flood of graces in which I immerse my Priests and religious souls and, consequently, due to the sins they commit! You should know that Divine Justice often inflicts terrible punishments on entire nations, not so much for the sins of the people, but for those of Priests and Nuns, because they are all called by the perfection of their state to be the salt of the earth, the Teachers of Truth and the lightning rods of Divine Wrath. By deviating from their sublime mission, they degrade themselves in such a way that, in the eyes of God, they are the ones who increase the rigour of the punishments, because due to that unworthy distancing from Me, that formality and distrust, they live but on the surface of the soul, as if I were a stranger to them.

“Oh, if they only knew, if they were convinced, how much I love them and desire that they descend alone to the depths of their soul, where they would undoubtedly find Me, and would necessarily live the life of Love, Light, and intimate union for which they were not only called, but chosen! Now, My beloved Spouse, work tirelessly for the perfection of My Priests and Nuns, offering for this purpose, in union with My infinite merits and those of My Immaculate Mother and yours, everything you do, even the least breath. I am greatly pleased with the Nuns who

take upon themselves the sublime mission of sanctifying the clergy, with their prayers, sacrifices, and penances. At all times I will choose such souls so that, in association with Me, they may work, pray, and suffer for the achievement of this most noble purpose, and keep in store for them a very special glory in Heaven.”

Last apparition of Our Lady of the Happy Event, December 8th 1634

The saintly Spanish Foundress often spoke to her Daughters of the Heaven that awaits the good Religious, and she ardently prepared them for the novena of the Immaculate Conception. Finally, December 8th 1634, arrived, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Most Holy Mary, Our Lady. All the Nuns, full of growing and edifying fervour, received Holy Communion. They rejoiced all that day with their holy Foundress and had heavenly conversations. After the holy expansions of the day, they retired to their poor beds. Mother Mariana did not go to rest but went to the upper choir at eleven-thirty at night to do her customary prayer.

The Queen of Heaven then appeared to her, as beautiful and attractive as ever, with her Most Holy Son on her left arm and the staff in her right hand, accompanied by the three Holy Archangels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael.

Saint Michael brought a countless number of white tunics, sprinkled with stars and adorned with burnished gold; each tunic had a precious necklace of beautiful pearls from which hung a lovely golden Cross with all kinds of precious stones. In the middle of the cross was a shining star with the sweetest names of Jesus and Mary. Saint Gabriel brought a Chalice overflowing with Redemptive Blood, a Ciborium full of Hosts, and countless fragrant, white and beautiful lilies. Saint Raphael had a large and precious transparent and well-sealed container, which contained an exquisite balm whose sweet scent, spreading out of the container through the air, purified the atmosphere and made the soul feel gentle joy and admirable serenity; he also brought countless stoles, which being violet in colour spread an admirable radiance, illuminating the upper choir with their light, and a pen of burnished and resplendent gold, marked with the name of Mary.

The Queen of Heaven, opening Her divine lips, then said to her: “Have you seen what the three Holy Archangels, Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, bring? Well, the white tunics of Michael are, first of all, for my faithful and fervent daughters of all times, and are also for the Priests who, loving with simple and upright hearts My Most Holy Son and Me, love this convent, work to preserve it and strive to propagate My worship, under the consoling invocation of the Happy Event, which in the almost total corruption of the XX century will be the support and safeguard of the Faith.

“Gabriel brings a precious chalice overflowing with Redeeming Blood, signifying the grace of restoration and resurrection from death of souls by sin through the Sacrament of Penance, in which the Ministers of my Most Holy Son dispense that Redeeming Blood profusely, without measure or limit, to give life to souls dead by the satanic envy of the infernal dragon.

“Behold and contemplate the greatness of this restoring and life-giving Sacrament, so forgotten and even despised by ungrateful mortals! They, in their mad ravings, do not reflect that it is the only second plank of salvation after the loss of baptismal innocence. The most painful thing is that even the Ministers of My Most Holy Son are unable to appreciate it as they should, but look with cold indifference at the valuable and precious treasure they have for restoring souls redeemed by the Saving Blood.

“There are those who view the ministry of the confessional as a trifling thing and a waste of time. Oh, no! If Priests were given to see for themselves what you see now, and enlightened by the light that illuminates you, if they knew this gift of God, how grateful they would be for the Love of predilection He has had for them, choosing them from among thousands to make them depositaries of His riches, to redeem captive souls from the tyrannical slavery of the envious and wretched Lucifer!

“Oh, how beloved is the Priest to my Most Holy Son and to Me who am his tender Mother! I venerate the Priest for his sublime mission and I love him most tenderly and, longing for his happiness, I care for him painstakingly so that he does not stray from the path of Truth, because if he is wayward, what will become of the rest of the faithful? He is the salt of the earth and if that is lacking, the world, devil and flesh will lord it over poor souls, and concupiscence will wreak havoc in the corrupted flesh of human nature, causing all kinds of vices and passions to sprout, like worms in rotten flesh.

“In the confessional the Priest performs the most delicate roles of father, mother, doctor and judge. To his care and vigilance the needy, suffering, sick and doubting souls come hurriedly, seeking relief in their sorrows, health and medicine in their illnesses, maternal tenderness and true and righteous justice. Woe to the Priest who, carried away by an austere and rigid natural character, rudely dispatches those souls who seek in his priestly heart to be washed and cleansed of the leprosy of the soul!

“When the Priest goes before the Divine Tribunal, he will be asked to give a strict account of this delicate mission of directing souls, because some need to be pulled out of the abyss, put on the straight path to Heaven and cared for so that they persevere in it. Also, the love of predilection of my Most Holy Son entrusts him with another class of souls: souls full of the spirit of God and longsuffering, whose delicate lives constitute an uninterrupted Calvary of secret martyrdom,... those who in eternity will wear a double crown of virgins and martyrs. Yes, secret

martyrs who suffered slow and prolonged martyrdom throughout their lives, following along supernatural paths, usually the target of all kinds of mockery, contempt and even slander from all kinds of people. These souls so beloved of the Heavenly Father are entrusted with a difficult mission, and at the same time given very special and adequate graces in the course of their lives, lengthy for some and short for others. They are assigned Priests who must direct and support them and contemplate how admirable is God in His Saints, who will never be lacking at any time and are generally hidden.

“Here in this very place, I will have souls in whom Jesus Christ, persecuted, hated, and banished from this ungrateful land in the XX century, will find His delight and consolation in intimate dealings and communication with them. For these souls, their daily bread will be bitter suffering and secret tears. They, like hidden turtledoves will moan under the sole gaze of their beloved Creator, Father, and Spouse, being the lightning rods of Divine Justice ready to punish the horrendous crimes of their guilty brethren. For these brethren they will offer themselves as unceasing victims, communicating maternal love to sinners, for whose conversion and salvation they will surrender themselves to the rigour of austere penance, disregarding their own care as does a loving mother for her sick and agonizing little one.

“Woe to the Priest who unwarily brushes aside these souls, who for him are a gift from the Merciful Love of the Most Sacred Heart of My Son and Lord! A gift, I say, because such souls are God’s messengers to him, and through them God speaks and teaches, graces for which He will demand a strict account if they fail to take advantage of them to improve their spiritual and priestly life, treating such souls as foolish and deluded, without penetrating to their depths, which if they did, they would at once feel peace, contentment, and inner tenderness, properties possessed by the true servants of God. Those who are not authentic are immediately discovered, because under the appearance of virtues, they conceal a secret pride, loving themselves excessively and haggling with God and their fellow men over their sacrifices and their lives. They are concerned only with their good name and the desire to be esteemed; shunning all tribulation, however small, and never loving the humiliation and hidden life that Jesus Christ made His own...

“The Archangel Gabriel also brings a Ciborium, full of Hosts, which signifies the Most August Sacrament of the Eucharist that will be distributed by my Priests to the faithful Christians belonging to the Catholic Church... You see the Ciborium full, so that you understand the sublimity of this Mystery, and the reverence with which it should be treated and received by the faithful, having therein an antidote to sin and an easy and powerful means for souls to unite to their God and Redeemer who, in the excesses of His Love for them, remains hidden in the white Hosts, exposed to the sacrilegious profanations of His ungrateful children.

“For this reparation, contemplative souls are destined,... so pleasing to Him!

“That countless number of fragrant and beautiful lilies that you see along with the Chalice and Ciborium, which my Archangel Gabriel brings, are all the good Nuns, who will be very many inhabiting cloisters throughout the world. Each of them in the same cloister will have a different mission and therefore, a different deluge of graces that they will receive unceasingly from Heaven for this purpose. To my daughters are entrusted the seven Sacraments so that they may be fulfilled perfectly by the faithful, but above all the third, the fourth, and the sixth (Penance, Eucharist, Priestly Order).

“The large and precious transparent and well-sealed container that my Archangel Raphael brings, encloses an exquisite balm whose sweet scent, emanating forth, spreads through the air, purifying the atmosphere, making the soul feel supreme joy and admirable serenity, signifies the cloisters and convents, unique places where solid virtues are practiced daily, along with regular observance and the austere penance of their members.

“The purity and chastity that exist therein is the exquisite aroma that spreads in those happy countries that have monasteries and convents, purifying the impure air breathed by worldly people given up to the most shameful vices and passions, and helping souls to feel supreme joy and admirable tranquillity. With this, entering within themselves, they turn to God through the prayers that incessantly, day and night, are raised to Heaven, in these houses of God, asking like Moses, with arms outstretched, that this humble prayer and penance convert their brethren, the sinners, and save nations from the flood of vices and passions that bring tremendous punishments from Divine Justice.

“Woe to the world if there were no monasteries and convents! Mortals do not understand their value, for if they did, they would spend their fortunes to multiply them, because therein lies the remedy for all physical and moral evil.

“The Most Holy Trinity and I, Mother and Model of religious souls, love these houses tenderly. And the Channel through which the flood of the most precious graces descends upon them, which is not given to those of the world, is I Myself, because in every monastery and convent I am loved tenderly and truly, and all their members come to Me with that confidence and filial love that children have for their tender and loving Mother. In all of them I am venerated under different titles, and the Archangels gather up their prayers, tears, penances, sighs, and life of sacrifice and present them to Me, and I, taking everything up, present them to the Throne of the Lord for the salvation of the universe.

“No one on the face of the earth realizes where the salvation of souls, the conversion of great sinners, the dissipation of great scourges, the production and fertility of fields, the cessation of plagues, of wars, and the good harmony between nations comes from. All this comes from the prayers that rise up from monasteries and convents.

“The countless stoles that my Archangel Raphael also brings, which with their violet colour spread admirable radiance, signify the practical action and priestly zeal of good Priests who, selflessly, forget themselves to make Jesus Christ and Me, who am their tender Mother, known and loved. They work tirelessly in the vineyard of the Lord, to increase it, care for and save souls redeemed by the Redeemer’s Blood, taking into account their mission entrusted by the fathers of families. These are the good and faithful servants who will enter into the joy of their Lord.

“The pen of burnished and resplendent gold marked with My Name is for all Priests of both clergies who write about my glories and sorrows, as well as for those who write spreading My worship of the Happy Event of this monastery of Mine, dearly beloved, as well as your life, which is inseparable from this tender and comforting title, which in the XX century will work wonders both spiritually and temporally, because it is the Will of God to leave this title and your life for that century, in which moral corruption will be almost general and the precious light of the Faith almost extinguished.

“Here, beloved daughter, are the meanings of everything you have seen borne in the hands of my Holy Archangels. Michael ‘Who is like God?’, Gabriel ‘Strength of God’, Raphael ‘Medicine of God’. Each fulfils their mission in favouring fallen humanity, and if the rest of mortals cease to invoke and venerate these Holy Princes, I want you and your daughters, present and future, to do so in order to receive graces and favours from them, both for themselves and for the convent.”

The Most Holy Virgin will hear our prayers for souls, especially the prayers of priestly and religious souls, and the pleas She presents are never disregarded. Meanwhile, in the XXI century, humanity, insensitive to its own degradation, recklessly continues along the path of perdition. The crisis is tragic. There is no longer any human element of salvation. Humanity has become unworthy of receiving any grace, as it deserves only punishment and more punishment for its sins. Who can help us? Only the Most Holy Virgin Mary, since Her love for us is limitless, Hers is the complacency of Mother, a Mother boundlessly good, generous, indulgent. Besides this Mother is at the same time more powerful than all the powers of this world, the devil and the flesh, and is almighty before God, most justly angered by our sins. To save us in this situation will be the most splendid manifestation of the power of our Divine Mother.

The Most Holy Virgin of the Happy Event appeared to Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres in the XVII century, as She herself manifested: with her Divine Son on her left arm to restrain Divine Wrath, and with the pastoral staff in her right hand to guide us to happy events. Hence this is the last resort for the contemporary world, corrupted and de-Christianized. This too is the firm hope for Mary’s triumph over Satan and his followers. In La Salette, on September 25, 1971, the Most Holy Virgin said to Clemente Domínguez: “I am the Queen of all Nations. I am the Queen of the World, Queen of the Universe, for God has filled Me with Grace on seeing My lowliness and My humility. I, the Slave of the Lord, but for the Grace of God, am nothing... I am Suppliant Omnipotence. God has placed the sceptre in My hands.... Turn to Me. I am your Mother, for I am the Mother of God. I am the Coredemptrix, the Universal Mediatrix... I am the Divine Shepherdess. Let all cling firmly to My staff; your stay, your strength is in My staff. Go ahead with My Staff and you will reach the Barque where the Good Shepherd dwells.”

Just as through Mary the happy event of the purification of the Church in El Palmar de Troya has been fulfilled, revealed to Saint Mariana of Jesus in the XVII century, in Mary lies our hope for the religious restoration of humanity, through Her Reign, prophesied by Saint Louis Mary Grignion de Montfort. It is towards this triumph announced by the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Saint Mariana of Jesus, and also announced in Fatima, and countless times in El Palmar de Troya, that we must forge our way, and for that triumph work tirelessly, dedicating our entire existence to it.

Saint Mariana of Jesus Torres was declared Venerable Servant of God on the 13th of March 2025 and canonized on the 27th of March 2025 by His Holiness Pope Peter III.



We exhort all the faithful of the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and Palmarian Church to turn in all their needs to the special intercession of this Saint, raised to the honour of the Altars for the glory of the Church.

Given in El Palmar de Troya, Apostolic See, on the 15th of May, Feast of Pentecost, in the Year of Our Lord Jesus Christ MMXXV and tenth of Our Pontificate.

With Our Apostolic Blessing
Petrus III, P.P.
Póntifex Máximus

Petrus III P.P.