

## Biographical notice

Maria del Carmen Hidalgo de Caviedes Gomez was born in Madrid on September 3, 1913, and was baptized on the 20th of that month. From a young age, she felt the calling to consecrate herself to the Lord. In the outbreak of Spanish civil war, during the bombing of the “Cuartel de la Montaña” (a military headquarters), July 20, 1936, while she was in a Capuchin Church she experienced an inner force that moved her to offer her life for the sake of priests. On April 25, 1938, after a retreat practiced under the direction of Don José Maria Garcia Lahiguera, they both committed themselves to found a congregation of contemplative life, to prolong in the Church the Priestly Prayer of Christ: «I pray for them... And I consecrate myself for them»(Jn 17, 9.17). The Congregation of Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest received Pontifical approval January 24, 1967. Mother Maria del Carmen founded monasteries in Madrid, Salamanca, Zaragoza, Huelva, Moncada (Valencia), Javier (Navarra) and Oropesa (Toledo). She worked tirelessly, together with Jose Maria Garcia Lahiguera, so that the Feast of Christ the Priest might be included in Liturgical calendar of the universal Church. This feast was approved for Spain on August 22, 1973. She showed faith and unconditional love to the Church and its hierarchy, joining in all her works a generous abnegation with a complete trust in Providence. Her only aim was always the pursuit of God's will. She served as Superior General of the Congregation until the General Chapter of 1993, in which she renounced to the position. She accomplished her offering full of the peace and joy of saints on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001. Her remains lie in the Motherhouse of the Oblate Sisters of Christ Priest.

## Newsletter

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### Prayer

O God, Almighty Father, you bestowed on your daughter Maria del Carmen a deep insight into the mystery of Christ Priest, so, moved by the Holy Spirit, she gave up her life in prayer and offering for the sanctification of the priests and the Church. We pray through her intercession You grant us with the grace we humbly plead, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory

*(For private devotion. With ecclesiastical license)*

*In accordance with the decrees of Urban VIII in no way it's intended to prevent the judgment of the Church.*

*This prayer does not have any purpose of public worship.*

To report received graces or to deliver donations:

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Servant of God

**Mother María del Carmen**  
**Hidalgo de Caviedes**  
**y Gómez**

Founder of the  
**Oblate Sisters of Christ Priest**

## MOTHER MARÍA DEL CARMEN

• Paul says: «By one oblation he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified» (Hb 10,14). One oblation: Christ's one, because there is no other which the Father accepts; there cannot be other. It is his oblation, but in his we are included.

• Am I aware that I am a living member in the Mystical Body of Christ? A member that shares the sorrow of all the other, that beats in unison with the priestly heart of Christ?

• It is hard to think that there are a large number of people created by God who live in dire conditions of spiritual poverty and material need and to think also that we might someday live as if they did not exist or even were members of our own body. This must not happen; this must not occur in any baptized soul, because we are indeed members of the same body.

• Prayer is the strongest weapon against the Devil's activity that tears the Church apart. Let's be deeply united in the Lord, so that our prayer can be pleasing to him and he may accept our offering.

• When prayer is truthful, it has to overflow into a saintly behavior, that manifests itself in three virtues which pervade all our actions: humility, charity and obedience.

• The exercise of perfect charity –to give life laying down our own life– demands a broad mind and a universal heart: to love with the same love with which Christ loves, without any distinction or preference; with no restriction in commitment, without expecting an answer. Constant practical charity that is continually requiring from us joy, humility, self-forgetfulness, right intention.



## THE GRACE OF BELONGING TO CHRIST THE PRIEST

In 1949, Mother Maria del Carmen thought the time was came to request from the Holy See the approval so that the «Pious Union» might be erected as a Religious Congregation: «Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest». In its first response, the Sacred Congregation for Religious requested the revision of several Constitution points and the most important was to change the name: *What a blow!* –the Mother said–. *Indeed, the «animadversiones» are not just a few. The first of them could leave us sunken from the beginning: «Mutare titulum» that is, «rename». And all others were more than enough to distort the calling of God that was so clear in my soul.* Thus, in late November 1949, together with D. José Maria, she went to Rome to defend what they saw as God's will for the nascent institute. After many visits to various Vatican dicasteries, it was confirmed that the insurmountable barrier was the name issue: in the Roman Curia they would not accept the word «priest» to appear in the title of a female institute.

Maria del Carmen decided to write directly to the Holy Father, and made her letter be handed over to Pius XII by a religious who assisted him. In these lines we can see that Mother Carmen was prepared even to give up the name «Oblates», but in no way could she renounce to being «of Christ the Priest». The reasons she exposed were simple: *As we do not find another (name) that reminds us who we are and what we live, I beg His Holiness, dearest Father, to kindly grant us this grace, to be called «Sisters of Christ the Priest».*

Finally, on May 13, 1950, the memorial day of Our Lady of Fatima, Rome's answer came: *Nihil obstat* for the erection as religious Congregation of diocesan right was granted. While taking the envelope with the Decree, all the anxiety of Mother Carmen centered on this question: the name. That's how she told it: *Believe it, the eagerness to read the text of the document made soul's gaze pass through and discover more than the eyes read. And so, as if the letters were lighted up, the first thing that caught my eye was:*




*«Nomen ut supra» «The name as indicated above: Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest» Yes, the Work is approved: We will be called «Oblate Sisters of Christ Priest» Laus Deo! It's God's doing. Since the intervention of Venerable Pope Pius XII in this approval was indubitable, the Oblate sisters keep special gratitude to him and maintain his memory joined to the singular grace he granted them.*


“PURIFY MY SOUL WITH YOUR SIGHT, SO THAT ONLY LOVE MAY REMAIN IN YOUR PRESENCE”




## Graces and Favors

 I thank Almighty God. Through the intercession of Mother Maria del Carmen I asked that my son could find a job, and he found it; and I kept praying for the renewal of his contract, and it was renewed. And through the intercession of Mother Maria del Carmen –to whom I prayed with faith and devotion for my son's work–, after two temporary contracts, he has got a permanent job in the company where he works. It is something miraculous in my point of view. I give infinite thanks and will keep on praying always. Thank You.

Félix Marcos Medina.  
Málaga

 I thank you for your prayers. The surgery was a success, thanks to the novenas to Mother Maria del Carmen. Let's hope we can see her soon on the altars. I send you a tiny donation, with my gratitude.

M<sup>a</sup> Lourdes Tristany  
Santa Creu de Jutglar

 I send these lines to show my gratitude for the intercession of M. Maria del Carmen, because with her help one of my daughters managed to sell in time an apartment whose amount she needed. I keep entrusting my needs to her, whenever I have any, and pray for the spreading of her holiness.

M<sup>a</sup> Victoria Vallejo Canalejo  
Barcelona