

“PURIFY MY SOUL WITH YOUR SIGHT, FOR IN YOUR PRESENCE ONLY LOVE REMAIN”



From the writings of Mother Maria del Carmen

- There is need of only one thing: to love God with the whole heart, with the whole being; Demonstrating this love in always doing what pleases Him.
- The attitude of the soul is to let God live, love and act in her. This has an impact with respect to those with whom we live. It is all a sign: joy in the service of God, in life towards Him.
- Holiness goes in direct connection to prayer, if the soul is faithful to that union with God.
- To make the most of your time does not mean to be always doing something, but in every moment, every task, every duty, to catch the glimpse of the divine will to fulfill it with fullness of love. It is to sanctify the present, without saving oneself for later.
- I should never be guided by feelings, which are changeable, but by the Will of God, who is immutable.
- I thank the Lord and confirm myself in this way of acting: always moving at God's pace. God will tell and with His support we will act.

Newsletter

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Prayer

O God, Almighty Father, you bestowed a deep insight into the mystery of Christ the Priest on your daughter Maria del Carmen, who so moved by the Holy Spirit, gave up her life in prayer and offering for the sanctification of priests and the Church. Grant us, through her intercession, the grace we humbly beg of you, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory)

For private devotion. With ecclesiastical license

In accordance with the decree of Pope Urban VIII, in no way it is intended to prevent the judgment of the Church. This prayer does not have any purpose of public worship.

Biographical notice

Maria del Carmen Hidalgo de Caviedes y Gómez 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 the 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 given under the direction of Don José María García Lahiguera, they both committed themselves to founding a congregation of the contemplative life, to prolong in the Church the 'Priestly Prayer' of Christ: «I pray for them... And I consecrate myself for them» (Jn. 17). The Congregation of Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest received Pontifical approval in 1967. Mother Maria del Carmen founded monasteries in Madrid, Salamanca, Zaragoza, Huelva, Moncada (Valencia), Javier (Navarra) and Oropesa (Toledo). She worked tirelessly, together with Don Jose Maria Garcia Lahiguera, so that the Feast of Christ the Priest might be included in the Liturgical calendar of the Church. She accomplished her offering, full of the peace and joy of saints on February 1st, 2001. Her remains lie in the Mother House of the Oblate Sisters of Christ Priest.

To report received graces or to deliver donations

HH. Oblatas de Cristo Sacerdote
General Aranzaz, 22 - 28027 Madrid (España)
www.oblatasdecristosacerdote.com



Servant of God

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

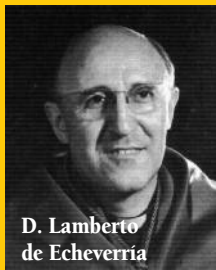
Founder of the
Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest

First foundation: Salamanca

Mother M^a del Carmen in her "History of the Congregation" has left us a lively description of her first foundation outside of Madrid: *The first dawn of the Salamanca Foundation was in October 1948. A group of priests from different dioceses, students in Salamanca—then Levitical city—gathered in our Chapel of Madrid. Then our Father spoke to them about the Priestly Work... They got enthusiastic, they vibrated in unison. One of the most fervent was D. José M^a Javierre, journalist, friend and collaborator of the professor of the Pontifical University D. Lamberto de Echeverría.*



Salamanca



D. Lamberto de Echeverría

Don Lamberto offered himself unconditionally to take the Work to Salamanca and thanks to him the Foundation went at the speed of lightning. In the first trip everything was settled and even the Bishop committed himself to officiate at the inauguration that was set for October 11, 1949.

For the temporary convent, two contiguous flats were rented on the upper floor of a residents building, still under construction although practically finished. *As the day drew near, the building work was far behind, and the owner of the house, in a hurry, wanted to persuade us to delay the date. We did not give in. And warning and apologizing to the Bishop for the uncomfortable access to the flat—he should climb by stairs under construction—on October 11, 1949, Solemnity of Divine Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Foundation of Salamanca was a fact.*

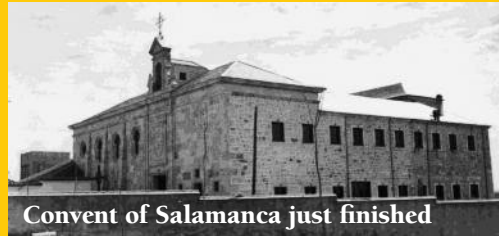


1952 - Blessing of the first stone of the convent

However, when the remaining flats were occupied, it was seen that the house did not meet even the basic standards to live in solitude and silence.

The situation in the narrow convent surrounded by noises, music and chats of neighbors became unbearable. Provisionally they had to move to an annex of the "School Maestro Avila" run by the Society of Laborer Priests. Nevertheless, something definitive had to be found.

But, how could Mother Maria del Carmen undertake the purchase of a plot of land and the construction of a convent in Salamanca after the last troubles with the building works in Madrid? She explains: Our economic situation had not changed at all; We were still in radical poverty. Was it temerity, then? No, it was faith, which always and on every occasion has held us firm, has driven ourselves, discovering us the Will of God. He, with his grace, embarks us upon these adventures... and through His Love keeps us really poor. We had nothing, nothing, nothing. But, as always, the Providence of God was manifested and we received a donation equal to the amount needed to buy the land, which, without resting a day in our hands, was paid.



Convent of Salamanca just finished



Inauguration: in the cloister with the donor

The construction of the convent was carried out on the basis of the same trust in the Lord. Mother M^a del Carmen remembers it, full of recognition: In reviewing the acting of God, the soul sinks in gratitude. We never lacked what was necessary, but He never gave us the superfluous. And necessary, and more than necessary, was the Convent. Thus, go on! Because God cannot fail. And He did not fail. Through His manifold action, we found ourselves in very great difficulties and in deep concerns... but also with very palpable aids and graces. So, in November 21, 1952, the Community was settled in a part of the new and definitive Convent.

Still it took another seven years to reach the completion of the building, with the well known obstacles and economic hardships. In all this, Mother M^a del Carmen admires the tireless action of Divine Providence: The Providence of God is a wide, inexhaustible river that flows from the immensity of God, but He only lets run a sort of little stream, thin, imperceptible, that winds over the arid field of works. Sometimes it seems to dry, but it never fails to provide the essence to get to the end.



Views from the convent

Graces and Favors



Inauguration of the convent of Salamanca - 1952. M. M^a Carmen and her sister Lucia M^a next to Mgr. G^a Lahiguera and the Bishop of Salamanca, Mgr. Fran isco Barbado, OP.

- For some graces granted to two relatives with surgery and very high risk diseases, thanks to Mother M^a del Carmen Hidalgo. Miguel—MADRID
- On Sunday, June 19, as usual, I went to Mass at the Cathedral Church. There I was given a booklet where I read the prayer of Mother Maria del Carmen to Christ. On Wednesday the 22nd I received the news that my little grandson 1 year and 7 months old was in Emergency of the Hospital Las Mercedes. On the 23rd he was still there with vomiting and diarrhea. The doctors could not prescribe anything, because he did not urinate so they could proceed with the analysis. I returned home from the Hospital, found the booklet in my room and began to ask Mother Maria del Carmen to intercede with the Lord Jesus Christ for the improvement of the baby, because he was getting worse: his belly was swelling and he could not pee. The doctors thought that some intestine had been twisted and had to perform surgery. The baby was crying. Finally, when the father caressed him and lifted him from the cradle to calm him down, it was as if the obstruction had been opened and samples could be taken for urinalysis. They found nothing on the exams. On the 24th, my son informed me that he had been discharged from hospital. I got home and found the baby playing and fooling around. I went to my room and thanked Christ and Mother Maria del Carmen, and I prayed for my son Luis Raúl, the baby's father, who was unemployed for 8 months. On Monday the 27th they called him from Cajamarca. Next day, the 28th, he started working. I thank Jesus Christ and Mother Maria del Carmen Hidalgo for listening to me. I will always pray her prayer.

Joaquín Ticliahuanca Santos - Chiclayo, Perú