

**“Purify
my soul
with your
sight,
for in
your
presence
only love
remain”**



From the writings of Mother María del Carmen

- The priest is the most intimate heartbeat of Christ; he is "another Christ". If the ministerial priesthood disappeared, Christ would not be among us, we would not have the Eucharistic Christ or forgiveness in our soul.
- May "they" be holy. The need is increasingly evident. Let's pray very deeply in the Mystery of Christ and in the Mystery of the Church.
- What does the heart of Christ feel? He turns them into "other Christs" and Christ has to become their whole life. They are not immune to danger, because, even though they do not belong to the world, they are in it. That world of dangers, of struggle, of difficulties, of temptation, of tension, of blurred paths, of little help... Christ "loved them to the end". And since he truly loved them to the end, he repeats: "Father, I pray for them and I offer myself in oblation."
- A prayer that has a constant approach: a full dedication of love, which is desired by Christ in order to repeat once and again through the Church: "Father, your will be done."
- "Follow me": it is the call from the Heart of Christ, to which the soul is attracted like a magnet, leaving behind all those things that are mere nothing, nonsense and foolishness, and gradually leaving herself behind. Putting her hand firmly on the plow, with her eyes placed only on God, she answers, overcome by gratitude: "Behold, I come."

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 the 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

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Servant of God

**Mother M^a del Carmen
Hidalgo de Caviedes
y Gómez**

Founder of the
Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest

LISTENING TO THE BEATING OF HIS PRIESTLY HEART



Three beats of the Heart of Christ found a deep resonance in Mother María del Carmen and were caught by her with singular depth in the brief and forceful words of Sacred Scripture, often repeated in Latin

♥ **Sitio** = *I thirst* (John 19:28)

♥ **Pro eis** = *For them* (John 17:9.19)

♥ **Ecce venio** = *Behold, I come to do your will* (Hebrews 10,7).

♥ From the cross, Christ calls her to participate in his "thirst for souls", thirst that God's loving plan be fulfilled, that the Holy Spirit be poured out in his Church. A thirst for holiness.

♥ In the Eucharist, he shows her his care for "those that the Father has given him" and invites her to live his priestly prayer and his sacrifice "pro eis".

♥ In Sacred Scripture, he reveals his first priestly heartbeat upon entering this world: "Ecce venio", which is a full surrender to the will of God, including the acceptance of the cross for the salvation of the world. Rooted in that unique oblation of Christ (cf. Hebrews 10:14), the entire existence of María del Carmen will be energized by this same heartbeat of loving oblation

«*I thirst*»

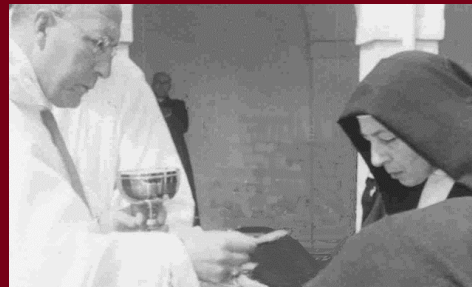
«I was 18 years old; it was March 1931, when I attended a Spiritual retreat that was decisive for me. I spent long hours of prayer with a constant and pressing longing: What does God want from me? And with a stronger impression than if I had seen it, with a deeper inner effect than if I had heard it, the *I thirst* of Christ on the Cross was engraved effectively in my soul. *I thirst!* How could I satisfy that thirst?»

The shining moment of illumination and call to live the *pro eis* occurred on July 20, 1936, in Madrid, in the Capuchin Chapel, during the bombing of the nearby Cuartel de la Montaña:

«*Pro eis*»

«As if attracted by a magnet, I approached the altar and, kneeling in the stands, within a hand's reach of the tabernacle, as if listening to the beat of the Heart of Christ, a ray of light passed through my soul, like something that imprisoned and illuminated at the same time, and, gaining an immensely deep understanding of what priests are, I offered myself as a victim *for them*.»

«The heartbeat of Christ, overflowing from his soul into mine... *Pro eis*: Priests, mediators between God and men, other Christs, ¡saints!»



Contemplating Christ the Priest in the Letter to the Hebrews, Mother María del Carmen finds the essence of his priestly oblation: *When he came into the world he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll: Behold, I come to do your will, O God'".* (Hebrews 10,5-7).

«*Ecce venio*»

«It is the first heartbeat of Christ, the heart of God full of infinite love and mercy, which responds to the salvific will of the Father with his offering: *Behold, I come, o Father, to do your will*».

«As it was then, it is now: it is the same Heart of Christ in yearning for the Glory of the Father; it is the same Thirst, the same strong beating, that comes from him in prayer «pro eis», the same love that is offered. As he did then, he repeats now from my soul: *Behold, I come, o Father, to do your will*».

(MARÍA DEL CARMEN HIDALGO DE CAVIEDES, *Writings*)

GRACES AND FAVORS



● My son went to the emergency ward with a severe pain in the abdomen, which worried us a lot. I entrusted it at once to the Servant of God Mother María del Carmen. After various tests and analyses, the pain persisted. A few days later, my son was able to return to work feeling completely recovered, for which I am very grateful. I continue to trust and ask the Servant of God Mother María del Carmen.

F. Marcos — Málaga

● I certify that Mother María del Carmen Hidalgo de Caviedes has granted me a very great pastoral grace in my priestly apostolate with young people and children. Also, after invoking her intercession for me to be able to perform my tasks well and with health — because I have lumbago and sciatica—, I noticed a substantial improvement. The truth is that this Servant of God has always listened to my requests effectively. For this reason, I pray and hope that one day she will be beatified and canonized by the Church.

Gustavo Johanson de Terry, pr.— Toledo

● A grandnephew of mine became seriously ill, with fever and a continuous cough. He had been admitted to hospital for a week, when an x-ray detected 3 black specks in his lung. Both the doctors and the family were alarmed. One of those days I received the leaflets of your Founders. I began to pray the prayer of petition through the intercession of both of them many times a day. Finally, the result of the tests was negative for tuberculosis and cancer. It was just a pneumonia that later healed. He was discharged from hospital and now is able to go to school.

Primi Domingo—Castellón

