

*“Purify  
my soul  
with  
your  
sight,  
so that  
only love  
remains  
in your  
presence”*



### From the writings of Mother María del Carmen

- I was like an ant who had to climb a mountain! I did not hesitate. The way had to be opened by force of prayer. Light and grace have no other channel than praying. And praying is the first thing I did, without rest.
- The Mother of Christ the Priest is also the Mediatrix of all graces. As our Mother, she knows how to pray for us; as the Mother of God, her intercession is omnipotent. She always obtains what the soul needs. She leads us according to the dictates of God, who is her Father and her Son.
- In our Mother we always find an imitable example. She belongs to our race. She is God's favorite creature, yes, uncontaminated and made according to God's will to be his Mother..., but of our race.
- Say FIAT with her, so that God carries out the great things he has prepared for the soul.

## 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 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 conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.*

### 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.<sup>a</sup> del Carmen  
Hidalgo de Caviedes  
y Gómez**

Founder of the  
Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest

## FOUNDATION OF SANTA MARIA DEL PILAR (ZARAGOZA)



Basilica or Our Lady of the Pillar

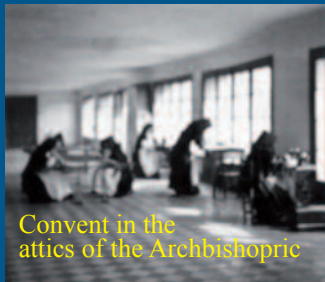
From 1950, when the diocesan approval was granted, the number of vocations kept increasing in the Congregation of Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest. It

was clear that it would be necessary to found another monastery. The Holy Marian Year of 1954 made Mother Maria del Carmen think about Our Lady of the Pillar and her town, Zaragoza; but she did not want to do anything according to her personal wishes, but rather according to what she understood to be God's will. When, in September 1955, Bishop Casimiro Morcillo, a great friend of Fr. Jose Maria Garcia Lahiguera and very close to the Oblates, was appointed Archbishop of Zaragoza, she saw it as a sign that they should go there.



D. Casimiro Morcillo

Bishop Casimiro expressed to the founder father his enthusiasm for the idea of the foundation in his archdiocese: "The coming of your nuns now is providential: I need them, because I need vocations, because I need holy priests". Given the difficulty of finding a suitable place for them, he provisionally offered them the highest floor of the Archbishop's Palace itself, quite abandoned at the time. Mother Maria del Carmen commented: "What a poor place! A long corridor, a corner and rooms/cells... I don't know! At first glance it requires an act of heroic faith to even think about turning it into a convent". Nevertheless, with some adaptation and a lot of cleaning, the task was achieved.



Convent in the attics of the Archbishopric

Thus, on October 12, 1956, the new "convent" would be inaugurated.



The founders with the founding community

On the eve of that memorable feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, the founding community arrived in Zaragoza. Mother Maria del Carmen, seeing the streets adorned in honor of the Patroness and the city full of people for the celebrations, showed her innate sense of humor: "It occurred to me to say that I did not expect such a feast and welcome, and a truly candid sister did believe that the celebration was actually for us. You



Our Lady of the Pillar

had to see her striking a gracious pose. We kept the joke going, and every time we went by a guard post, I told her to answer the greeting with a nod. We all laughed about it at recreation for a few months."

### A foundation with a marked marian sign

In this foundation, the maternal presence of Our Lady (the Oblates always call her "Mother") was very significant. The Servant of God wrote to that community the following year: "Is it not true that Mother is a Mother? We find in Her the same life... a life woven from the humble tasks of a poor house; a life that glides in union with God... a life sublime in content and simple in appearance... whose center is the Will of God and whose only revitalizing juice and sap is his Love.

In 1966, they had to move to a house on El Greco street. In 1995, they moved again to a new monastery, built in the Montecanal residential area. This one had to be closed in 2003, after the death of the Servant of God.



Chapel on El Greco Street

Mother Maria del Carmen, always confident in the protection of Our Lady of the Pillar, so revered in Spain since ancient times, said to her Oblate daughters in difficult times for their homeland: "Let us pray and pray and pray. Peace and grace can only come from God, so that Spain always remains a nation of faith and love to God and to Mother, the Virgin Mary" (CC 11/29/1978).

## Graces and Favors

- My son has been on sick leave, hospitalized in a clinic for an addiction, and risked losing his job. I entrusted him to the Servant of God Mother Maria del Carmen with all my faith. My son is now healed from addiction and has returned to his usual work, for which I give infinite thanks.

F. M. Medina — Málaga



In the monastery of Montecanal - 1995

On July 10, 2019, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints opened the diocesan acts of the cause of beatification and canonization of the Servant of God Maria del Carmen Hidalgo de Caviedes. With this opening began the different phases of the process in the Vatican.

On December 20, 2019, the same Congregation granted the legal validity of the diocesan acts.