

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

Graces and Favors

My son was out of work for several years; and, as Mother Maria del Carmen helped me once, I asked her to help my son in getting a job. And finally my son has gotten that job he craved so much. I give infinite thanks to Mother María del Carmen.

Félix Marcos Medina — Málaga



I feel blessed and very grateful for receiving many blessings praying every day to Mother María del Carmen Hidalgo de Caviedes y Gómez. I received another favor that I begged so much for my daughter Barbara, and now her problem is solved: She is next to defend her thesis for the degree of Computer and Systems Engineer. Many blessings.

Adela Estela Chiroque - Perú



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 any grace received or to deliver donations:

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General Aranaz, 22 - 28027 Madrid
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Servant of God

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

Founder of the
Oblate Sisters of Christ Priest

WHEAT SPROUTS

Without delay, they look for another home to move, close to the seminar, so that the Father may keep more frequent contact with the nascent Work. The December 20, 1940, they carry, almost at hand, their poor and scarce goods to a low floor in Plaza de Santa Catalina de los Donados # 6. Maria del Carmen relates it so: «A small cart carried the altar, and nothing more. At night, the janitor told us: “Hey, Sisters: if you don’t bring the furniture soon, you won’t be able to enter them, because we close at 10”. —“No, there is nothing else to bring”, we responded. The poor woman was astonished. That day we endured a great hunger. The larder was completely empty; we had only a musty banana and some crusts of bread. We shared them out, and stayed so happy and content». As beds, they used the doors of some rooms, decorated with deep ribbons, which they hung out from its hinges to sleep on them.

The December 24, 1940, Father, accompanied by another priest, blesses the House and celebrates there the first conventual Mass: the Christmas Eve Mass. In an atmosphere of kept back emotion, he speaks with vibrant accent of the «Priestly Work» birth: —«So far it has been a time of painful gestation, of purification, for only God’s work shine. Now we begin.»—«It was a night of indelible mark», recalls Maria del Carmen. She is appointed *Older sister* of the community, with this recommendation of D. José María: —«Be a Mother and take care and form these souls that the Lord has entrusted to us.»

They are four at the «convent apprentice»: María del Carmen, her sister Lucia Maria, Angela Romero and Dolores Martin. Even being so few, they live conventual order and discipline as if they were every inch a Community. Angela Romero goes shopping. What does she buy? Not telling it to Maria del Carmen, she begs in stands the thrown out leaves of vegetables. Those were post-war times, very hard for the poor. However, they lived really happy, as Mother Maria del Carmen says: «We had priceless treasures to live the richness of “only God!”: An extreme poverty... a very poor and scarce staff... and, for me, so nothing that ... really, my all was only God. What a pure life of faith, so full of God, so no complicated at all!» The evangelical spirit that animates them invades everything. Everything is simple, as a family in God .

For the first Christmas, Mother Maria del Carmen makes up on the sly a pair of sandals for each Sister, with a few pieces of old tapestry and scrap of black cloth. Finished at dawn, she arranges them *with some gravelly hallelujahs, but with much motherly love*. The most healthy and sincere joy overflows in many such details that go carving the spirit of simplicity, the truthfully lived charity, as another thread woven over austerity and deep life in God.

For more mortification they want to wear inside a wool robe at all times. The problem is they do not have a penny to buy fabric. Maria del Carmen comes up with asking her mother some old blankets. And her mother, not knowing for what they are, sends her some magnificent pure wool blankets, excellent for warmth. Of them they made two robes, which María del Carmen and Lucia Maria wore for the first time on 15 August.

D. José María fears the health of sisters go cracking, as the floor at Santa Catalina de los Donados is a place without the necessary light and outdoor and where the small community suffers real hunger. So moving to a new home is decided. This time is a villa in Calle Arturo Soria 247, with a small garden, secluded enough and good sized. It is inaugurated on 31 October; and the first two candidates enter there in November.

The Servant of God becomes more aware of the task which God entrusts her to be a mother and teacher. She prays, thinks, prays more... and starts to write down the «Rules of the priestly work». It is a short text: 18 points handwritten in a few pages. The first and the last points sound like this:

1) *To love, pray and suffer «pro eis» the Lord has called you, taking you out of the world and joining you around Him.*

18) *And be holy you all, very holy, giving glory to God unceasingly in fulfilling his Divine Will, that called you by pure love. Sanctify you with the sacrifice of yourselves and sacrifice you in continuous holocaust immolation for the sanctification of priests and candidates for the priesthood, making motto of your life «Pro eis sanctifico meipsum».*



At Santa Catalina de los Donados # 6 — 1940



Villa in Calle Arturo Soria 247