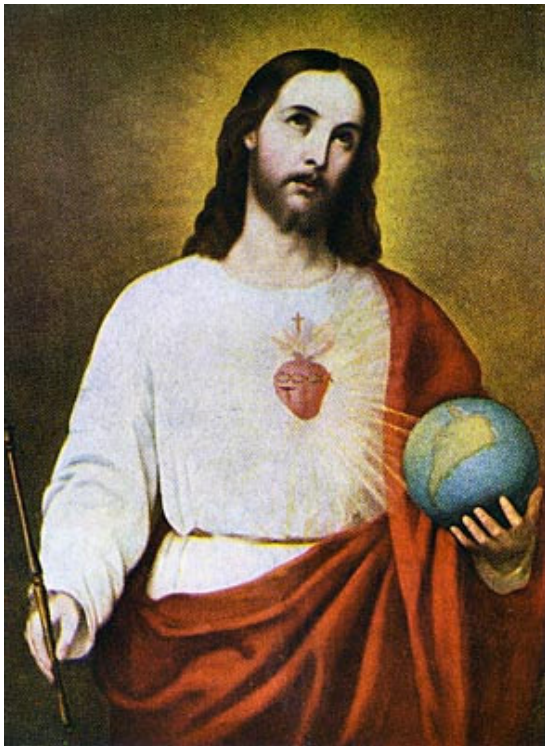


# Star of the Stormy Sea

Quarterly Newsletter of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success Vol. 5 June 2007

“... When your souls suffer temptations and are immersed in grief ...turn to her with confidence and say,  
*‘Star of the stormy sea of my mortal life, May your light shine upon me so that I do not stray from the path that leads me to heaven.’*” (Taken from “The Testament of Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres” January 16th, 1635)



*“Behold this Heart, which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming itself, in order to testify its love. In return I receive from the greater part only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this sacrament of love. And what is most painful to Me is that they are hearts consecrated to Me. It is for this reason I ask thee that the first Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi be appropriated to a special feast to honor My heart by communicating on that day and making reparation for the indignity that it has received. And I promise that My Heart shall dilate to pour out abundantly the influences of its love on all that will render it this honor or procure its being rendered.”*

## Dear Apostles of Our Lady of Good Success:

### In this issue you will find:

- ❖ *Devotion to the Sacred Heart –Why and How?*
- ❖ *Prayer Intentions for Apostolate Members*
- ❖ *Short Biography of St Mariana – the Lily of Quito*
- ❖ *Prayer to St. Mariana of Quito to obtain a favor*
- ❖ *What’s New?*
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- ❖ *Letters of correspondence from all over the world*
- ❖ *Question and Answers on the topic of Our Lady of Good Success*

Greetings on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary and this eve of the month of the Sacred Heart and the Sacred Priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

This month has been traditionally known as the month in which men are ordained to the priesthood. How is the feast of the Sacred Heart and the priesthood related?

The above quote is from Our Lord speaking to St Margaret Mary. Our Lord was lamenting about the lack of love shown toward Him - most especially in the Holy Eucharist. For it was His great Love that radiated from His Most Sacred Heart causing Him to die for us and to humble Himself in the Holy Eucharist- which is the ultimate expression of His Infinite Love for us. He states, “And what is **MOST** painful to Me is that they are hearts **consecrated** to me” Who are these consecrated hearts? These hearts consecrated to Him are the hearts of those who have embraced the religious life. We were taught many years ago that a priest is the “alter Christus” – “the other Christ.” We are to see Christ in our priests. At the command of the priest at the consecration, Our Lord humbly “obeys” the priest and allows Himself to become the Holy Eucharist. When in confession, it is Christ who is speaking through the priest. What a lofty vocation is the priesthood!

From “The Sacred Heart and The Priesthood” it is written:

*“The priest is another Christ; he is the anointed of the Lord. ... He goes about like Jesus; in the world, but not of the world.. If his soul, his priestly soul, reproduces the Soul of Jesus Christ; if his **heart**, his **priestly heart** is conformed to the Heart of Jesus Christ, it is no longer his own action, the action of a weak and limited creature; it is the action of Christ Jesus, the divine Priest.*

*The Heart of St Paul is the heart of Christ. Ah! If we could say always, “**the heart of the priest is the heart of Jesus,**” what admirable fruit this priest of Christ would produce in souls!”*

But what about those priests who do not have the “heart of Christ”? How do they thing affect souls? Unfortunately many of us have become personal witnesses to the results of un-Christlike priests. However this is what “The Soul of the Apostolate” says about this subject:

*“If the priest is a saint (the saying goes), the people will be fervent; if the priest is fervent, the people will be pious; if the priest is pious, the people will at least be decent. But if the priest is only decent, the people will be godless. Further on in this book, it quotes St. Alphonsus with these words, “The good morals and the salvation of the people depend on good pastors. If there is a good priest in charge of the parish, you will soon see devotion flourishing, people frequenting the Sacraments and honoring the practice of mental prayer. Hence the proverb; like pastor, like parish...”*

So it goes without saying that we have a definite need for holy priests. We are experiencing a crisis of the Faith due to an enormous lack of holy priests. All of us in some way must take it upon ourselves to do penance for priests and also to make reparation for these sins that have been committed by priests against the Catholic Faithful in these times. What better way than to go to the Sacred Heart? Devotion to the Sacred Heart along with devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary should be top priority in the homes of every Catholic Family whose goal it is to become fervent Catholics and yes, even saints.

This month of June would be a great month for families to make an effort to make (or remake) the Nine First Fridays in honor of the Sacred Heart. And even go one step further by enthroning Christ as Our King of Our Homes, consecrating our families to Him (including your extended families in these consecrations such as grandparents and in-laws for in this way you will help to spread the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart as well) and then establishing a Holy Hour in our homes on the Thursday before the First Friday of every month

In 1939, good Pope Pius XII wrote in his encyclical **SUMMI PONTIFICATUS** about the family's responsibility to keep the Catholic Faith alive. It was in a time in which Europe was being torn apart by war. He wrote:

*"... In our times, the family has a special mission, for it is the spirit of the family that exercises the most powerful influence on that of the rising generation. As long as the sacred flame of the Faith burns on the domestic hearth, and the parents forge and fashion the lives of their children in accordance with this Faith, youth will be ever ready to acknowledge the royal prerogatives of the Redeemer, and to oppose those who wish to exclude Him from society or wrongly to usurp His rights. When churches are closed, when the Image of the Crucified is taken from the schools, the family remains the providential and, in a certain sense, impregnable refuge of Christian life."*

We must work to reestablish this mission of the family under the protection of Our Lord's Sacred Heart. For at the present time, we are finding ourselves in a similar state once again, as many of our Catholic churches are closing and the name and image of God is forbidden in public places. History is repeating itself once again, but this time, dear friends, it appears to be repeating itself in a global and universal way.

We have a personal invitation to do this as the Sacred Heart summons us through His words to St Margaret Mary:

*"Every night between Thursday and Friday I will grant you to share in that mortal sadness which I chose to feel in the Garden of Olives. You shall keep me company in the prayer I then offered to my Father. In order to accomplish this, you shall arise between eleven o'clock and the midnight hour and remain prostrate with me during the space of an hour, and so appease the divine anger by imploring mercy for sinners. Thus, too, shall you assuage in some sort the bitterness I felt at that time because of the abandonment by my Apostles, having been able to watch with me for the space of one hour."*

This quote of Our Lord was the basis of a huge lifework of one saintly priest who was a living example of the Heart of Christ acting within a consecrated soul was Fr. Mateo Crawley- Bouvey SS. CC. He is known as the Apostle of the Sacred Heart, who began the awesome mission to enthrone the Sacred Heart in the homes of Catholics around the world. Father Mateo believed that night adoration will then be "an hour of reparation"- of reparation against all of the offenses that have been committed against Our Lord and His Sacred Heart. As Our Lord most particularly mentions the bitterness he felt with the abandonment of His Apostles, how much more bitterness has His Sacred Heart experienced since He witnesses Himself being abandoned by His consecrated souls, His priests, in so many countless seen and unseen acts in the past century?

Although Father Mateo wrote a great 708 page book called "Holy Hours", he still asked *"Night Adorers to begin their monthly adoration by reading carefully and lovingly the whole Canon and offering it in union with the thousands of Priests who, in other distant hemispheres, are at that same moment offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."* Father Mateo believed this prayer to be the most precious of all. Of course this makes sense as in it are contained the sacred words of Consecration in which the bread and wine is turned into Our Lord's body and blood. For those of us who cannot manage daily Mass or do not have it available, this practice would be an excellent way to become united to Our Lord and make a daily spiritual communion.

What exactly then should we do to begin devotion to the Sacred Heart?

- Receiving Communion frequently.
- First Fridays: going to Confession and receiving the Eucharist on the first Friday of each month for nine consecutive months. Many parishes will offer public First Friday devotions; if they do, you must perform First Fridays publicly. If it isn't so offered in your parish, you can do this privately, going to Confession, receiving the Eucharist, and offering your prayers for the intention of the Holy Father.
- Holy Hour: Eucharistic Adoration for one hour on Thursdays ("Could you not watch one hour with me?"). Holy Hour can be made alone or as part of a group with formal prayers.
- Consecrate yourselves, your family and even your parish to the Sacred Heart
- Celebrate of the Feast of the Sacred Heart – Prepare with a novena before the feast.

### **Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart**

(prayer cards available)

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before Thine Altar (outside a church or oratory say: in Thy presence). We are Thine, and Thine we wish to be; but to be more surely united to Thee, behold, each one of us this day freely dedicates himself to Thy Most Sacred Heart. Many, indeed, have never known Thee; many, too, despising Thy precepts have rejected Thee. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to Thy Sacred Heart. Be Thou King, O Lord not only of the faithful who have never forsaken Thee, but also of the prodigal sons who have abandoned Thee; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they perish of wretchedness and hunger. Be Thou King of those whom heresy holds in error or discord keeps aloof; call them back to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one fold and one Shepherd. Be Thou King of all those who even now sit in the shadow of idolatry or Islam, and refuse not Thou to bring them into the light of Thy kingdom. Look, finally, with eyes of pity upon the children of that race, which was for so long a time Thy chosen people; and let Thy Blood, which was once invoked upon them in vengeance, now descend upon them also in a cleansing flood of redemption and eternal life.

Grant, O Lord, to Thy Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; unto all nations give an ordered tranquillity; bring it to pass that from pole to Pole the earth may resound with one cry: Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to It be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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## What do we get out of this devotion or What are the promises Our Lord Gave to St. Margaret Mary?

### Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Persons and Families Who Honor His Sacred Heart

I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.

I will establish peace in their families.

I will bless every house in which the picture of my Heart shall be exposed and honored.

I will console them in all their difficulties.

I will be their refuge during life and especially at the hour of death.

I will shed abundant blessings on all their undertakings.

Sinners shall find in my Heart a fountain and boundless ocean of mercy.

Tepid souls shall become fervent.

Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.

I will give to priests the power of touching the most hardened hearts.

Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart never to be blotted out.

I promise you, in the excessive mercy of my Heart, that my all-powerful love will grant to all who communicate on the first Friday of the month, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My displeasure nor without their Sacraments: My Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

I WILL REIGN THROUGH MY HEART, DESPITE SATAN AND HIS AGENTS!

**Prayer intentions:** Please remember all of our members of the Apostolate. Let us remain united in the fight to keep the Catholic Faith alive in our hearts and souls. Let us continue to pray for the Restoration of the Catholic Church under the Reign of Christ the King and our Queen of Good Success! Pray for all religious. Pray for our future Carmelite who is ill at this time and Sr. Maria Fannie, Carmelite Sister who has cancer in Carmen Alto, Quito, Ecuador Remember to include the spiritual wellbeing and health of Carmelite Sisters and Conceptionist Sisters. With our email fundraisers for the Carmelites, we were able to raise a little over \$3,000 – this is not a lot for helping send a sister to the convent, pay for sacramentals (which cost over \$1,000 alone) and pay for medical bills. **Anyone wishing to contribute will have their names sent to the Carmelites for prayers as they will be considered benefactors of the Carmelites. They will NOT forget you!** Health of Anne Cillis

### St. Mariana Paredes: The Lily of Quito

by Kathleen M. Heckenkamp

(Picture to the left is of painting of St Mariana holding the Infant Jesus- Holy Cards of this image available with prayer on back)

Mariana de Paredes y Flores was born in Quito on the Eve of All Saint's Day-October 31, 1618, and baptized on November 22, the feast of St. Cecilia. She was the eighth child of Captain Jeronimo Zenel Paredes y Flores from Toledo, Spain and Dona Mariana Jaramillo de Granobles a native of Quito. Dona Mariana was middle aged when she became pregnant with Mariana. Her pregnancy was quite troublesome and miscarriage was feared. However despite all of this, Dona Mariana carried her to term, delivering a most beautiful and delicate baby girl. Interestingly enough, Mariana's arrival onto this earth was proclaimed in the Heavens on All Hallow's Eve. There, glimmering above the house where Mariana was born shone a cascade of stars in the shape of a palm leaf, not so unlike that blessed star above the stable in Bethlehem so many thousands of years ago.

**There are many examples of her sanctity in her youth...**Mariana was, in fact, no ordinary child. Like St. John the Baptist she did penance from infancy. It is said that she fasted taking nourishment only twice a day during her babyhood. Her mother was very concerned and had even procured several wet nurses to interest the baby in taking nourishment-all to no avail. Perhaps, the devil, noticing in this infant, her predilection for penance and suffering, and sensing that this child was destined for spiritual greatness, caused dreadful accidents to happen to Mariana. Several times her life was spared. She was miraculously saved from drowning, a deadly plunge off a remodeled second story building onto a pile of stones and rock, and she



even escaped a crushing death from stone walls collapsing where she had been playing with her friends just seconds before. In all of these situations she came out unscathed. Divine Providence was definitely demonstrating its power of direction in her life.

As she grew into childhood, she and her neighborhood friends and cousins would construct altars at playtime and process around the gardens imitating the church ceremonies they had participated in with their parents. She would lead hymns and prayers. On a number of occasions she was so successful at winning over souls for Christ that she convinced her friends to join her and leave home and go off to the missions to convert heathens, even risking life if need be.

These rather public attempts at a religious life at such a young age disturbed her sister and brother-in-law with whom she lived. Afraid of what the neighbors and friends would say about what some might call flagrant displays of religiosity and fanaticism, they asked Mariana if she would not like to be a religious in a convent. She agreed that she would indeed like to join a convent as she had already consecrated herself to Our Lord making vows of chastity, poverty and obedience at the age of ten. So it was decided that she would enter a convent. However through a series of failed attempts to enter numerous convents in Quito, Mariana discerned that Divine Providence did not consider a religious life for her.

At this point, it is said she had recourse to her confessor, Father Monosalvas. This good priest went to her family and made them see that Mariana should be allowed to live as a religious in seclusion in their own home. Inspired by God through this saintly priest, they resigned themselves to aid Mariana in whichever way she wished to live.

And so it was at the age of twelve her vocation was decided. Many people that knew her in the parish church were shocked by such a thing! First, she had been granted permission to receive the Holy Eucharist at the very young age of eight years old. Then at the age of twelve, she was allowed to receive Holy Communion daily. Now this! It was an outrage! This incident created such indignation in the community that the priest who had allowed it was called into question. He was asked to defend his decision before the religious of Quito including the bishop. In the end, the decision was upheld. This still did not put an end to the gossip about her living as a religious at home. Mariana suffered greatly because of all of this. However she did so very willingly as to imitate the sufferings of Our Lord in His own humiliations and insults.

Mariana wore the habit of a Jesuit and the veil and cord and scapular of the Third Order Franciscans. Her confessor regimented her days with 5 hours of prayer, and spiritual reading, one hour for weaving and sewing to earn her keep and 4 hours of rest. The money earned for her handiwork was given to the poor. The remaining time was spent in works of mercy. Every day at noon, the poor would come for assistance from St Mariana. She was not the most educated of people. She could read and write and play a musical instrument or two. Despite her somewhat limited education, she managed to found the first organized Catholic Action, the first free clinic in Quito and "a seventeenth century kindergarten" for the Indian and Negro children. She fed, bathed and clothed them. She took care of their ills with medicines. She was able to accomplish much in these hours with them.

#### **Her Sacrifice:**

In 1645, when St Mariana was 26 years old, Quito suffered from three terrible scourges. First there were earthquakes killing more than 2000 persons and destroying many churches. Then there were epidemics of measles and diphtheria which eradicated over 12,000 inhabitants. Finally, the volcano of Pichincha erupted after being dormant for over 80 years, terrorizing the city. The whole city of Quito felt keenly that the Wrath of Almighty God was upon them.

On March 26, 1645, the fourth Sunday in Lent, Mariana's confessor, Father Alonso de Rojas, declared from the pulpit of St Mariana's parish church "La Compania" that all of the disasters which had occurred were the result of sin and a call of God to the people to repent. He offered himself to God as a propitiatory victim and asked that he might die to save others from the punishment that they deserved. Sitting right in front of the pulpit, Mariana had been listening intently to his sermon. Then she rose from her seat and gracefully spoke in a loud and clear voice so that all could hear her. She proclaimed that she would take the place of Fr .Rojas as victim soul for Fr Rojas was greatly needed in Quito because he was an excellent priest. She asked Our Lord to accept her offering "in defense of her country, her compatriots and her kindred" and she besought Him "*that she might be chastised for everything in the city which deserved chastisement.*"

After Mass, she left silently and went straight home. God had accepted her sacrifice for she was immediately struck with a mortal illness. From that moment on, the terrible menace caused by the earthquakes, plagues and volcano was terminated. Quito, the city that she loved dearly, was freed from disaster. The word of her "sacrifice" passed quickly through the city. Quito feared to lose its dear friend. Many prayers and novenas were offered for their victim soul but without the desired outcome.

She suffered in her last illness for 2 months. On May 26, 1645, Ascension Thursday, she passed into Paradise.

Her Spiritual Adviser, Hernando de La Cruz on the event of her death stated: "*We have a new advocate in heaven, for Mariana is already there... Do not put on mourning and do not drape the house in black. This is a day of jubilee; it is Mariana's day of triumph. Therefore adorn the drawing rooms with tapestries, as you would on any other day of jubilee. Spread the bier on which the coffin is to stand with crimson and decorate it with the masses of flowers, which all the convents will send, vying with each other to provide the most beautiful offerings..... The servant of God is already rejoicing in His Presence.*"

**On the occasion of Mariana de Jesus' Canonization Day July 9, 1950 Pope Pius XII pronounced:**

*"A victim of her first love, she ended her days as a holocaust of charity in 1645, offering her life for her people. She did not live in a cloister, because Providence wanted her to be out in the world; but she aspired to the same perfection as the most observant religious. She was not a great historic figure, but today she is the pride of a great nation which acclaims her as its 'national heroine' She did not give her time exclusively to charity, but in the end she gave her life for her brethren. She loved the Church as much as the most zealous defender of its rights and she honored it with her virtues. Finally, she was not martyred by the fury of another but she knew how to mortify herself with her own hands."*

**Prayer to Obtain a Favor from St Mariana of Jesus – Lily of Quito:**

**Oh God, thou didst make to bloom an iris from amongst thorns, Saint Mariana of Jesus. By her virginal purity and continuous penance, we implore thee to grant our requests (mention request).**

**Through her merits and intercession, may we always be worthy to grow continuously in Thy love as she did, despite the temptations of this world. Amen**

**Blessed St. Mariana of Jesus, Lily of Quito, thou didst live a most innocent, pure and radiant life in this world by constant prayer and penance, by faithful love to God and by serving of the weak and less fortunate men, intercede for us that God may grant us the grace to imitate your virtues in order that we may persevere in the way of the Gospel and join thee in eternity. Amen**

**What's New?**

❖ **From Pro Multis Media: ( The Verdict is in- Members are loving these Beautiful CD's !!!)**

- 1 The Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary-** In this exclusive audio CD presentation, Fr. Patrick Perez recites the Traditional 15-decade Rosary accompanied by inspirational orchestral music. \$13.00
- 2 The Most Holy Rosary – Recited in Latin (our personal favorite!)** In this inspiring and enlightening audio CD presentation, Fr. Patrick Perez recites the Traditional 15-decade Rosary in Latin, accompanied by inspirational music.. \$13.00
- 3 The Scriptural Rosary DVD -** This remarkable new presentation combines the words of Holy Scripture and the sublime prayers of the Most Holy Rosary with a magnificent visual feast of Traditional Catholic art, accompanied by a lush orchestral soundtrack. \$23.00
- 4 The Sing-along Songs for Catholic Children –(our children's personal favorite- they sing-along while doing little chores for Mom!)** Now, for the first time, the big truths in these little songs come to DVD. Illustrated with traditional Catholic children's art, and accompanied by on screen lyrics, Sing-along Songs for Catholic Children will help young children with their catechism, as well as their reading, while they sing! \$23.00
- 5 The Way of the Cross for Children-** A combination of beautiful prayers, traditional music, and sacred images make this a perfect Lenten companion for the whole family. Ideal for homeschoolers and families with young children, this DVD provides a powerful devotional experience for the little ones. \$23.00

❖ **"La Dolorosa"Badges and prayer booklet - \$4.00**

❖ **"Divine Light"-** This is a prayerbook for children in English . Imprimatur from the Archbishop of Brisbane-1940's \$3.00.

❖ **Pilgrimage of Good Success 2007 –** DVD video of the some of the highlights of the January 2007 tour. View historical Quito with all of its grand churches, monasteries and historical sites while listening to Gregorian chant background music. 1 hr. \$10.00

**Future Projects**

❖ **Documentary on Our Lady of Good Success and Quito, Ecuador---Coming Soon from Pro Multis Media.!**

❖ **Our Lady of Good Success Holy Cards-** We plan on developing new holy cards of Our Lady of Good Success during 2007.

❖ **Traditional prayers and booklets --** We are looking for benefactors to assist us in our future printing projects. These projects are all focused on traditional prayers and booklets of different devotions that are not currently in print in English. Please, if anyone would like to help us get started, call us: 262-567-0920.

❖ **St Mariana badges, prayer booklet, holy cards and relic cards are ordered and will be in the office soon!**

**Testimonials:**

❖ **USA -**In the early morning hours of October 11, 2005, (the Feast of the Divine Maternity of the Blessed Mother) Anthony Resch, who was 45 years old at the time, was driving a motorcycle down a curvy road in upper Wisconsin in the fog. He lost control of his motorcycle and bounced on the ground hitting his head. Anthony was found 30 ft from his bike, unconscious and bleeding profusely from his head and nose. To this day, Anthony does not remember anything of what happened that night. However the reports on Tony were very critical. Diagnoses being: Acute traumatic brain injury, traumatic epidural hematoma left temporal, multiple skull and facial fractures and respiratory failure. "Prognosis is grim" was the last line of the report from St Vincent's Hospital in Green Bay, WI. Additionally, the cover page of the official police accident report reads in bold letters: **"Brown County Sheriff's Department Fatal Accident Scene Investigative Report"** Upon reading the reports given by the witness and police officers, it is apparent that all involved were certain that this would be considered a "Fatal Accident"

Tony was very fortunate to receive the Last Rites by Father Moreau from the Institute of Christ the King that morning. Tony was in a coma for almost 3 weeks. It was at this time that his mother, Mary Resch, said she had received many cards of promised prayers and Masses. In one of those cards she found the holy card of Our Lady of Good Success. It is then that she became acquainted with this devotion and began praying to Our Lady of Good Success for Tony.

Tony has since fully recovered except for the loss of vision in his left eye. This is relatively minor considering the general consensus was that even if he survived he would be a vegetable and have to live in a nursing home. As well, Tony was able to resume the work he was accustomed to before the accident.

We talked briefly with Tony on May 27th, 2007 as we wanted to know if he could express to us what he felt spared him from death. He said, "The Lord above and my guardian angel played the major roles in this accident." He expressed to us that if it were not for a local resident that had heard his motorcycle crash and the motorist who she subsequently flagged down for help and just happened to be a first responder, he was certain he would not be here today. He felt that all of the little details that fell into place at just the right time in this happening were not coincidences but were all due to Divine intervention. We asked Anthony if he wore the brown scapular and he replied that he always had worn it. On speaking to his mother, she relayed that about a week after the accident her niece went to look at the site where Tony had crashed to see if he had lost anything. There in the spot where Tony had been was a Sacred Heart badge – crumpled but still intact. He had always kept it in his wallet. It must've fallen out when the deputy on the scene took out his wallet for identification purposes as stated on the police report. So here you see the evidence—the brown scapular of Our Lady and the Badge of the Sacred Heart worn as protection... and truly Divine protection is what Tony got on that foggy and nearly fatal night in October, 2005.

Tony called us back later and asked if he could add one more thing, as he felt it was so important to tell others since we had asked him in particular what he thought made the difference. He added that he had always prayed a special prayer to his guardian angel before embarking on his motorcycle trips that goes like this:

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here;  
Ever this RIDE be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

He still continues to say this prayer when driving even though he no longer drives a motorcycle. Tony is not disheartened by his accident. He accepts the loss of the vision out of his left eye as he sees it "if God wills it, it will improve, if not, as a priest told me, perhaps I [will] see better spiritually because of it." He hopes that his story will "increase the Faith." We hope so too! God bless you Tony for your fine example to all of us!

- ❖ From USA -My introduction to OLOGS came when our priest, Fr. McMahon, who is devoted to her was in the process of starting Our Lady of LaSalette Boy's School. He asked the congregation to say a novena to her along with him asking for a favorable answer, as well as for our own intentions (this favor was granted). My second encounter was when one of our parishioner's daughter was going on a pilgrimage there (2yrs. Later after first introduction) and would bring our petitions. At that time, being widowed, it became extremely necessary for the house to be sold. It was on the market already a year and a half and the real estate market in our area was the worst ever, continually become more uncomfortable. Due in part to the loss of thousands of jobs here moving to Mexico, there were more homes for sale than there were buyers. My situation became a dire economic forecast of the very near future. Therefore, not surprisingly my main petition for OLOGS was the sale of the property if it was to be the Will of God. Many wonderful religious, relatives, friends and neighbors were praying for this along with my own poor prayers. There was a struggle to keep up with large unforeseen debts that seemed unending. In spite of our pleas, the property didn't move no matter what was tried. Perhaps God had another plan for my life. Daunting as it may be, we accept His Holy Will Trustingly since He can see the future and we can only guess. OLOGS was going to be my last hope. If this did not succeed, planning for the trials ahead would be the next course of action. So, I said the novena prayers at home along with those on the pilgrimage...and the house sold in March! Enough to pay off the loan and still have some left for a "cushion." How grateful I am to Our Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Good Success!! Perhaps God wants to reinforce our faith in the Blessed Mother's powerful intercession under this title! Not minimizing the good prayers, novena and blessings obtained for me prior to OLOGS surely they paved the path leading to her and her answer. The following October, wishing to offer her a special thank you, I was inspired to go on a pilgrimage in gratitude. Now, a trip to South America was never on my agenda, but gratitude to Our Lady certainly was. Whatever the cost would be, it really wouldn't matter if it took my last dollar- I could never thank her enough. Surprisingly, the cost is minimal compared to European tours to more popular places. Being among the pilgrims in Quito at OLOGS, I could hardly believe being so blessed! Having the Holy Tridentine Mass daily – the privilege of having our items touched to the miraculous statue. The added graces of visiting many holy shrines and churches. I continue to pray for the petitions that I had the opportunity to bring for others. May OLOGS bless them. One petition favorably answered was reported to me. It was for a person's release from prison who was incarcerated for murder which he (really) did not commit. The truth has come to light and he is being released! I am eternally grateful to OLOGS for her intercession for others and me! She is so awesome! I cannot describe the feeling of being in the presence of the miraculous statue of her painted by the angels and she herself having entered into it! How can one find the words?!?! Salve Regina!
- ❖ From USA: How wonderful to hear from you so soon! As I had mentioned, I grew up in Quito. My mother, and a dear aunt, who lived with us, but has passed on, brought me up with devotion to Mary and the Most Holy Eucharist. I grew up hearing about Our Lady. In fact, devotion to Nuestra Señora del Buen Suceso, and to the Dolorosa (Our Lady of Sorrows whose image wept in the Jesuit College) is part of the lives of many Quiteños. My mother has some friends that have a "traveling" replica of the statue that is taken from home to home in prayer. What has surprised me is that a few people in the States are aware of Our Lady of Good Success; I know of one lady here in my small town that has a great devotion to her. In fact I wanted to share some information with a couple of friends and I looked up your website for some booklets. Do you have something along those lines that would help share about the story of Our Lady of Good Success to those who might not have Internet access?  
I most definitely will pray for you during your trip to Quito, for a safe trip, and a wonderful pilgrimage. I plan on praying the novena and in so

doing join in prayer the family of God. We need Mary's intercession daily!!

We feel so blessed to be able to home school. It was difficult to come to the decision to do it, mainly out of fear, but through Christ all things are possible. We do pray daily as part of our school day. We believe that the Mass is the most perfect and complete of all prayers, and so we attend daily Mass 3 or 4 times during the Mon.-Fri school week. As part of our daily schooling we also do Catechism, Scripture study and apologetics. How wonderful it is to share the faith with the kids as part of the "school" day.... Please I ask that you keep us in your prayers. My second oldest son, Andrew, will be heading out to college next fall. He is still undecided as to where he would like to go. My prayer is that he will choose wisely and listen to God's voice to pick a place where he can serve God in the best way. Please join me in this prayer. Christ's peace, Ximena

- ❖ From **USA** – Not being able to go on pilgrimage at the present, to Quito, to thank Our Lady for so many graces granted, prayers answered and healing — I wanted to write this letter of gratitude acknowledging Our Lady's graciousness. So numerous, one stands out to be shared. My elderly mother was ill and suffering. Through answered prayer, my dear mother was healed of a life threatening illness without heroic intervention of a physician, medication or hospital. She was restored to health- the response was truly miraculous! Interestingly, I am a convert to the Catholic Faith and my mother and whole family is Protestant for many generations. Thank you Our Lady of Good Success for your prayers and your Son, Jesus, who lives, loves and reigns. In Christ's love...
- ❖ From **USA** – Please accept my humble offering... I give my thanks to Our Lady for her help in finding a good job. I am still recovering from my layoff almost a year ago but I promised Our Lady I will catch up. Please include me in your prayers.
- ❖ From the **Middle East Amman, Jordan** -Good Morning - Only last night I had the rosary prayer in my house and I mentioned your problems so that Our Lady will help and on this same day I received this your email of 25th. Yesterday Our Lady was near as we had a miracle at one of our churches where fire had started and everybody was frightened. They all shouted, "Marie! Marie!" and the fire went down. They all sang a hymn to Our Lady. More than a thousand witnessed the incident. I love you Mary! Thank you for being here yesterday. Hope Sr. Maria will be cured totally. Also I have an African friend with cancer. She needs also prayer. Please mention her near Our Lady of Good Success. May our Lord bless you and keep you safe and your family.

#### **Letters of petition, thanks and encouragement:**

England I have just finished Vol. 1 of "The admirable Life of Mother Mariana" and I am starting Vol. 2. I would be so pleased if you could send me a catalogue of all your products, prayer cards, pictures, books and statues etc I am very interested to promote this devotion here in England. I await your reply with eagerness. With assurance of prayers in and for Our Lady of Good Success.

- ❖ **USA** "...Please send me the remainder in your pamphlets on Our Lady of Good Success. It is excellent, concise and hits all the high points.... Thank you and God bless you and your work. In Jesus and Mary," Fr. X
- ❖ **Jerusalem:** Prayers for the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success are being offered by a Franciscan priest in Jerusalem. Please pray for him in return as he plans to spread devotion to OLOGS there amongst the Palestinian Catholics.
- ❖ **USA** -Thank you for your kindness in sending the newsletter. I hope this donation will help the Sisters. I also have a request for prayers for an acquaintance of my son. This man has an urgent need. He has suddenly lost his sense of balance – an extreme form of vertigo. He has lost his home and ability to make a living. In spite of extensive medical help, he is still not cured. His affliction is so debilitating, he is thinking of taking his life, please help – I have started a novena but hope others will add their prayers for a relief of his suffering. Thank anyone for their help. Yours in the Holy Trinity...
- ❖ **USA** - I'm enclosing a check for your newsletter, which we appreciate. Your notes on the pilgrimage, which you had sent to "Catholic Family News", must have been from our pilgrimage – a trip we treasure.... We pray daily to Our Lady of Good Success and Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres. We are asking people to say at least one extra rosary a week for the conversion and defeat of the Muslims whose goal is to make the USA a Muslim Republic. As you know, Our Lady's Rosary is our only real weapon. Love in Our Lady of Good Success....
- ❖ **USA** -Thank you so much for the English translation of the biography of Moreno. I am looking forward to reading it very soon.... Your alert on the Nativity [movie] was so appreciated here. I was trying to learn about the movie when I read your review- My daughter who is "computer literate" put it out on the home schoolers E-mail – the main points of the criticism- so we were able to inform a lot of people before the movie was shown here. Thank you so much. It was invaluable information and I reported it at the Curia meeting of the Legion of Mary. The discussion was lively – we really cleared up a lot of ignorance about the Virgin Birth and Perpetual Virginity of the Blessed Mother- It is sad to hear how uneducated the people are and even with their devotion to the Blessed Mother... Mary keep you!
- ❖ **Athens, Greece** - Dear sisters in Christ, I am 25 years old. I am Orthodox and I cherish a great respect for the Catholic Church and its Saints. I pray the Holy Rosary to Our Lady and I venerate many Catholic Saints and Blesseds whose life I admire. I am sending this email to ask you a great favor! I would be more than grateful and really blessed if you could send me a relic of St. Mariana of Jesus and a small icon of her and of **Child of Pichincha**. I promise to venerate it with respect in my personal altar dedicated to our Lady of Fatima. It will be a great blessing for my family and me. I am looking forward to your response and to receiving the relic of Mother Mariana. Please pray for me and my family.

#### **News from Prisons (only excerpts are given for privacy sake) :**

1. **From one inmate:** "...Greetings in Christ! God bless you in your efforts to spread the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ! I am told that you offer some free Catholic materials and I am interested. Being a prisoner, I need it bad! Anything that you send, I will share with my brothers at the Mass. Thanks! God bless you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! IN Christ... PS Please pray for my son who had cancer and now is wheelchair bound.
2. **From another inmate:** This letter comes to you in the form of a request. I am a traditional Catholic gentleman incarcerated in... I am looking for prayer cards, holy cards and any information you have available on Our Lady of Good Success. Any type of Literature. I read your information in the 2007 Feb "Catholic Family News." ... I am a traditional Catholic gentleman who

sometimes struggles to keep on the right path. So, I look for my inspiration in many different areas. I want to thank you for your time, service, understanding and patience. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Question and Answers on the topic of Our Lady of Good Success**

*Are there any shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Good Success in the USA like perhaps at the Immaculate Conception Shrine in Washington D.C. ?*

*To the best of our knowledge, we are not aware of any official shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Good Success in North America. Other than in Quito, there are only two other miraculous shrines to “Nuestra Senora del Buen Suceso” that we know of. One is in Madrid, Spain. The other is in Paranaque, Philippines. Both have interesting stories and miracles attached to them. There are numerous churches in Spain and Latin America with shrines to “Buen Suceso.” However, we do know many traditional chapels and homes in the USA and Canada are making shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Good Success. Let us pray that we may see the day when an official shrine dedicated to Nuestra Senora del Buen Suceso will be opened in North America.*

**Quarterly Newsletter** – In 2006, we started the project of a periodical to help spread the devotion to Our Lady of Good Success through the Apostolate members own testimonials. We are asking a \$10.00 donation annually. *Thank you for your continued support! Donations are accepted, greatly needed and appreciated!* The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success -1288 Summit Ave. Suite 107 Oconomowoc, WI 53066, USA Phone: 262-567-0920 [www.ourladyofgoodsuccess.com](http://www.ourladyofgoodsuccess.com)

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