

Claret and Antonia París committed to giving birth to a “New Order”

THE FOUNDATION IS BEING CONSOLIDATED...

The foundation is being consolidated and María Antonia always played a direct role in the formation of the first Sisters and in the development of the apostolic life.

The Founder left a special mark on the Sisters because of his apostolic and martyric life. The attack in Holguín left an indelible mark, and Mother Antonia, on February 28, 1856, wrote to him: "The Lord... wanted to give you the very great reward of shedding part of your blood for the zeal of the divine word. We can imagine how happy you are to have been wounded for teaching the holy law of Our Lord Jesus Christ... all these daughters of yours want to share in the great reward that the Lord will give you for this in eternal life... If we could only be so fortunate as to seal our lives by shedding all our blood in confirmation of the Lord's Holy Law!".

On March 18, 1857, Claret received a communication in which Isabel II asked him to move immediately to Madrid. He took with him the "Points for the Renewal", which María Antonia had written. During that sea crossing, the saint wrote, inspired by this writing, since both were moved by the same ideals, his "Notes for a plan to preserve the beauty of the Church".

On June 5, 1857, Claret was officially appointed confessor of Queen Isabel II. From Madrid, he made numerous arrangements for the foundation of a novitiate for his daughters in Spain, and obtained permission to establish it in Tremp (Lérida), diocese of Urgel, whose bishop was his friend Caixal. María Antonia, with two nuns, embarked for the peninsula in April 1859. They were accompanied by D. Paladio Currius. They arrived in Barcelona on May 23, where Fr Claret was waiting for them. The sisters thanked him for all the attentions he paid them during those days before travelling to Tremp, where the second house of the Congregation was established on June 13.

On July 30, 1859, the Founder signed the request addressed to Pius IX, asking for pontifical approval for the Fundamental Rules of the Institute.