

MARÍA ANTONIA PARÍS

friend
and companion
in the journey



RR. Mary Immaculate
Claretian Missionary Sisters

PRESENTATION

“... *one cannot miss a moment...*”

[Cf. Epistolario MP, 39]

In the Museum of Reus, dedicated to María Antonia París, there is a small area that represents the room in which our Foundress lived and died. In the corner there is an old clock which reminds us of convents in her time. It takes us back to history, to the passing of the hours, natural and vital rhythms. It leads us to imagine the schedules of the days, following the sound of the chimes and the singing.

I am struck by the fact that when she finishes writing the Points for the Reform, she notes the exact time and date: Day of Immaculate Conception, 11:37 p.m. 1855 (cf. PR 81). It is for her a fact of great importance to have concluded at a given moment which she felt so closely linked to her mission in life. Time is filled with a vocational meaning.

When we approach her writings, we discover her existential relationship with time. She feels that it is God who gives her time, and she writes it down when there are important events or experiences. We find different aspects of her living out the time.

For her there is a time of waiting, of patience, the right time to write a letter or to act. There are times in which God manifests Himself and others, in which He “hides”; times to experience strength and to feel fragility.

Time that is needed for a process, to mature a decision, a stage of formation. Time to write and to listen, to converse and to welcome. Time for health and illness.

Time to act quickly and time to wait so that the circumstances converge in the common good. Time which is a proof of fidelity and permanence.

WORDS TO THE READER

Time for impatiently wanting to see God's promises fulfilled, and time of inhabited silence, filled with meaning, in adoration and trust. Time to suffer and to offer one's suffering for others and for the Church.

Time is always of God and no matter how much we want to anticipate it, it does not come "without his divine disposition". María Antonia teaches us that time does not belong to us, yet we live time as a gift.

For us, heirs of an age characterized by agitation and accelerated rhythms, this book offers us a daily rhythm of pauses, a resource that can help us take care of time. But, above all, it gives us the opportunity to get to know a concrete person, María Antonia París, and her experience in light of the Word of God.

We are also invited to choose her as a companion in our pilgrimage through history, collected in brief narratives, pieces of the calendar of her life. Walk with her. As it usually happens, when we make a shared journey, it makes us enter into complicity and grow in friendship with her, because it allows us to join her heart, her preferences, and values. María Antonia mentors us to undertake, like her, the new ways of God, with faith, audacity, and trust.

It leads us, finally, as María Antonia used to say, to see ourselves as pilgrims on earth, and thus to place ourselves today in communion and harmony with the synodal spirit of the Church. Pope Francis said it with these words at the opening of the Synod on October 10, 2021: «May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel, open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. Let us miss not the graced occasions of encounter, of mutual listening, of discernment. With the joy of knowing that, as we seek the Lord, it is He who comes first to meet us with His love».

Jolanta Kafka
Superior General

Before you begin reading this book we wish to invite you to read it with an open heart, with a thoughtful, attitude, seeking and tasting its words as a message of and for life. Its content is, pure life, interwoven with biography, history, and cultural-epochal context but, above all, with the response of a heart in love with Jesus Christ who seeks only to do what pleases God, for the good of his Church and his brothers.

Yes, we do believe these words sum up the life of María Antonia París, the protagonist of this journey that we propose to you to make step by step, every day of the year.

Under the guidance of a phrase that runs every month, you will find day by day, a fragment or episode of the life of this great woman, a biblical text that illuminates, brief words of guidance for reflection, prayer, and a historical approach to an event or some events related to the experience of María Antonia and her missionary work. The contents extend from the days of her birth to her departure to the Father's house, as well as the testimony of people who knew or heard about her, witnesses of the extraordinary work of God in her soul and the continuity of her mission. All the charismatic and historical texts have their quotes to confront, to broaden knowledge, and to situate ourselves in that moment, all helps to remember the charismatic roots of our identity.

We have prepared this text with dedication, fundamentally with the deep affection of daughters, hoping that it will help us to know more in-depth María Antonia París, to appreciate her struggle hoping against all hope, to be and to do what she understood was her vocation and the way in which God wanted her to carry it out, because she never doubted that her happiness was to be faithful to the captivating Word of God.

ABBREVIATIONS

NEW AMERICAN BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT

<u>Gn</u>	Genesis	<u>Ez</u>	Ezekiel
<u>Ex</u>	Exodus	<u>Hos</u>	Hosea
<u>Lv</u>	Leviticus	<u>Jl</u>	Joel
<u>Nm</u>	Numbers	<u>Am</u>	Amos
<u>Dt</u>	Deuteronomy	<u>Ob</u>	Obadiah
<u>Jos</u>	Joshua	<u>Jon</u>	Jonah
<u>Jgs</u>	Judges	<u>Mi</u>	Micah
<u>1 Sm</u>	1 Samuel	<u>Na</u>	Nahum
<u>2 Sm</u>	2 Samuel	<u>Hab</u>	Habakkuk
<u>1 Kgs</u>	1 Kings	<u>Zep</u>	Zephaniah
<u>2 Kgs</u>	2 Kings	<u>Hg</u>	Haggai
<u>1 Chr</u>	1 Chronicles	<u>Zec</u>	Zechariah
<u>2 Chr</u>	2 Chronicles	<u>Mal</u>	Malachi
<u>Ezr</u>	Ezra	<u>Dn</u>	Daniel
<u>Neh</u>	Nehemiah	<u>Bar</u>	Baruch
<u>1 Mc</u>	1 Maccabees	<u>Ps</u>	Psalms
<u>2 Mc</u>	2 Maccabees	<u>Sg</u>	Song of Songs
<u>Ru</u>	Ruth	<u>Lam</u>	Lamentations
<u>Tb</u>	Tobit	<u>Prv</u>	Proverbs
<u>Jdt</u>	Judith	<u>Jb</u>	Job
<u>Est</u>	Esther	<u>Wis</u>	The Book of Wisdom
<u>Is</u>	Isaiah	<u>Eccl</u>	Ecclesiastes
<u>Jer</u>	Jeremiah	<u>Sir</u>	Ecclesiasticus/Sirach

NEW TESTAMENT

<u>Mt</u>	Mathew	<u>2 Thes</u>	2 Thessalonians
<u>Mk</u>	Mark	<u>1 Tm</u>	1 Timothy
<u>Lk</u>	Luke	<u>2 Tm</u>	2 Timothy
<u>Jn</u>	John	<u>Ti</u>	Titus
<u>Acts</u>	Acts of the Apostles	<u>Phlm</u>	Philemon
<u>Rom</u>	Romans	<u>Heb</u>	Hebrews
<u>1 Cor</u>	1 Corinthians	<u>Jam</u>	James
<u>2 Cor</u>	2 Corinthians	<u>1 Pt</u>	1 Peter
<u>Gal</u>	Galatians	<u>2 Pt</u>	2 Peter
<u>Eph</u>	Ephesians	<u>1 Jn</u>	1 John
<u>Phil</u>	Philippians	<u>2 Jn</u>	2 John
<u>Col</u>	Colossians	<u>3 Jn</u>	3 John
<u>1 Thes</u>	1 Thessalonians	<u>Jude</u>	Jude
		<u>Rev</u>	Revelation

At the end of the book, you will find the names of those who, with dedication, effort, and joy, have worked together in this edition: Claretian missionary sisters and lay people who by vocation are part of this great family dreamed by our Foundress. To each one, a warm thanks!

We continue to present this great woman as intercessor before God the Father for the needs of the world, of the Church, of individuals, and we are confident that the miracle, that can bring her to the formal recognition necessary for her name to be inscribed among the saints, will happen.

Those of us who, with a simple and trustful heart, ask her intercession, feel her presence as a friend and companion on our journey, enjoy her teachings, and her example, which inspires and animates us with the hope and faith that never disappoint the wait.

Your sisters

María Luisa García, rmi
Ana María Mandrile, rmi

<u>Aut. PC</u>	Autobiography of St. Anthony M ^a Claret.
<u>Aut. MP</u>	Autobiography Venerable M. Antonia París.
<u>EC-I/II/III</u>	Claretian Epistolary I/II/III.
<u>EPCL-I/II/III</u>	Pasive Claretian Epistolary I/II/III.
	ÁLVAREZ GÓMEZ, Jesús. <i>History of the RR. of Mary Immaculate Claretian Missionary Sisters.</i>
<u>Hist. I</u>	...Tome I, Rome 1980.
<u>Hist. II</u>	...Tome II, Madrid 1999.
	LOZANO, Juan Manuel. <i>Escritos de María Antonia París</i> , Barcelona 1985.
<u>Aut. MP</u>	...Autobiography.
<u>RCX</u>	...Report to Caixal.
<u>RN</u>	...Memories and notes.
<u>Diario</u>	...Journal (Diario).
<u>PR</u>	...Plan for the Renewal of the Church.
<u>MA</u>	...The Apostolic Missionary.
<u>Const. 1869</u>	...Constitutions.*
<u>RF</u>	...Fundamental Rules.*
<u>R 1862</u>	...Rules 1862.*
<u>TMP</u>	...Testament.
<u>Pos. MP</u>	RUIZ, Carmen y VELASCO, Encarnación. <i>Positio sobre la vida, virtudes y fama de santidad de M^a Antonia París i Riera</i> , Roma 1987.*
<u>EMP (letter number)</u>	LOZANO, Juan Manuel, <i>Epistolario de María Antonia París</i> , Roma 1993.*
<u>CO (letter number)</u>	Misioneras Claretianas. <i>Cartas de los Orígenes</i> , Madrid 2009.*
<u>Const.</u>	Constitutions 1984.
<u>Dir.</u>	Directory 2011.
<u>DC 1969</u>	Documents of 1969 Chapter.
<u>DC (year)</u>	Documents of Chapters (+ Chapter Year).
<u>PAC</u>	Congregational Apostolic Project.
<u>C. Sup. Gral (year)</u>	Circulars of the Superior General.

*These documents are not translated



january

Nothing else
I want,
nothing more
but Christ

Nothing else I want, nothing more but Christ

This is the sentence that guides the spiritual life journey of María Antonia París.

In 1855 she founded, with Saint Anthony Mary Claret, the Congregation of the Claretian Missionaries Sisters. Along her life she founded six houses, two in Cuba and four in Spain.

She died in Reus, Tarragona, Spain, on January 17, 1885, after a hidden life between the cloister of the convent (typical of the time) and classes of girls in schools founded by her together with her companions and enriched by the experience of an extraordinary relationship with God, that place her among the mystics of the XIX century. The Vision of Christ in his suffering humanity makes her walk on paths of contemplation and union with God.

The aspects presented throughout this month are located approximately between the years 1813 to 1841.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

january
1

So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. [Lk 2:16-21]

“ One day within the octave of Epiphany, at the moment of receiving the Sacred Host in Holy Communion, the most Blessed Virgin Mary showed me the sweetest feet of the newly born Divine Child Jesus. I experienced a great consolation, and my soul received much grace. What beauty is that of the Divine Child! What candor and grace I saw in my Most Holy Mother, most blessed Mary! May she be blessed for such great goodness!

[Aut. MP 69]

Blessed Mary, mother of God and our mother, teaches us to keep in the heart and to adore in silence the mystery of Jesus in the humility of his incarnation.

1862

God reveals to María Antonia the resistance of her Prelate (Caixal) to respond to His will (Caixal). God asks her to warn him about it. [Cf. Diario 79]

1870

Claret writes to María Antonia explaining her the reason for the delay in the final approval of the Constitutions: the Church makes it difficult for the foundation of new orders. [Cf. CO 289]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1869

Claret answers
María Antonia's request
about the three degrees
of darkness she saw.
They are: love of riches,
love of pleasures
and honors.
[Cf. CO 279]

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. [Jn 1: 9-14]

“...even before I was born (...) because of an accident my poor mother suffered (...) it seemed impossible to save the creature she bore in her womb. [Aut. MP 18]

They arrived to Vallmoll and the parents of the servant (...) received her as a daughter assuring her that she would be with them as in her own home. [Notes G. Barril, Pos. MP p. 9]

A word, a look, a gesture of welcome immerses the human heart in the divine experience of the Living God made man. Activate your faith, you will behold his glory.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1860

Claret to Currius:
ask Mother Antonia
what she wants me to do.
I want to do God's will
and fulfill it.
[Cf. CO 172]

...When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. [Mt 2: 13-14]

“M. María Antonia de San Pedro (...) was born on June 28, 1813, in the village of Vallmoll (...) by the provision of the Lord that she who was so faithful would be born an expatriate and an orphan of a father, who had died two months before the birth of the child... [Notes G. Barril, Pos. MP p. 9]

Be home, be an open house, be free space for the one who comes. Be bread, be warm home, inclusive word for the poor, the immigrant, the homeless.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1858

Claret writes to Caixal
about the transfer
of the sisters
from Cuba to Tresp.
It is better to wait since
the weather is very cold.
Only three should come.
[Cf. CO 89]

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased".

[Mt 3: 16-17]

“ ...the day after her birth, they took her to the Church, the feast of the Apostle Peter, where in Baptism she was adopted as a daughter by the Heavenly Father (...) Her mother taught Antonia good principles and an austere and serious formation. [Cf. Pos. p. 3 and Notes G. Barril. Pos. MP p. 9]

The new life received from the Spirit makes us sons and daughters of God, a family, community of faith and witnesses of love beyond cultures and borders. We are universal brotherhood and sisterhood.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1862

Claret writes to Caixal
letting him know that
the Rules for the Sisters
are being printed
as sent by mother
María Antonia.
[Cf. CO 210]

By now it was already late, and his disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place, and it is already very late. Dismiss them so that they can go to the surrounding farms and villages and buy themselves something to eat". He said to them in reply, "Give them some food yourselves." (...) he gave orders to have them sit down in groups on the green grass. The people took their places in rows by hundreds and by fifties. Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to [his] disciples to set before the people; he also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied. And they picked up twelve wicker baskets full of fragments and what was left of the fish. Those who ate were five thousand men. [Mk 6: 35-44]

“ At an early age she was advanced in knowledge, so that before the age of nine she received communion, and she herself confessed that she did not remember having acquired any greater knowledge of anything of this world with respect to natural things, as the knowledge she attained from the Divine Person of the Savior. [Notes G. Barril. Pos. MP p. 9; Cf. Hist I, p. 53]

Jesus, Bread of Life, who transforms the heart that receives him, may he give us the knowledge of Himself and invite us to be broken bread for the world.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1862

María Antonia has the vision of the star that repeats itself at important moments in her life as Foundress.

[Cf. Diario 80; Aut. MP 45-47]

After their audience with the king, they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star. [Mt 2: 9-10]

“ Our Lord said to me not to doubt that the star was the symbol of the one that the Holy Kings had seen, and that as he wanted to make known his first coming by means of a star (that was seen only by some persons) because most of the people were attached to earthly things. In this same way he wants that a second star be the manifestation of his second coming. The Lord told me that this star was more hidden than the first because the doctors of the Church live more attached to the earthly things than the people of that former time. [Diario 13]

To go beyond ... the darkness, the attraction of worldliness, to go to Bethlehem following the star to simplicity and humility.



Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the father loves [also] the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.

[1 Jn 5: 1-4]

“ At the age of ten her mother entrusted her with the care of the house, giving her an older woman to help her with the heavy work she could not perform because of her tender age...

[Notes G. Barril. Pos. MP p. 9]

To educate the sense of personal and community responsibility is to build up the family, the social texture and citizenship. It is to build the person.



1859

Claret informs Currius that the foundation of Tremp is already approved.

[Cf. CO 141]

1877

María Antonia writes to the Prioress in Reus expressing her joy because the postulants are fine.

[Cf. EMP 225]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1858

The Apostolic Nuncio in Spain gives permission to Claret for the transfer of 2 or 3 sisters from Santiago de Cuba to the Diocese of Urgel. [Cf. CO 90]

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

[Lk 2: 39-40]

“ Antonia's education was complete, within the possibilities offered by the time: reading, rudiments of arithmetic, and above all catechism, and prayer, much prayer (...) embroidering, drawing and, painting (...) The piety of the Christians of Tarragona received vitality with the teachings of the Franciscans, (...) the spiritual climate can be summarized in the Rules for living well and being saved: Attending Mass on Sundays; Doctrine and Rosary; confessing every eight days; celebrating the festivities of the Virgin and patrons; giving alms to the poor; seeking a good spiritual director... [Cf. Hist. I, p. 50-53]

A man's greatest wealth is a profound human and evangelical formation that gives him wings of freedom, hands ready to work and feet ready to move forward.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1860

Currius writes to Claret, about the supporting documents for the Points for the Reform of the Church. [Cf. CO 173]

In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles... [Lk 5: 12-13]

“ ...she did not spare free time (...) to surrender to her natural retreat where she meditated on the wonders of God (...) drawing always an ever ardent desire to make life more withdrawn to engage fully in the holy exercise of prayer. [Notes G. Barril. Pos. MP p. 9]

Friendship with God grows in the cradle of silence and in the personal encounter in prayer.

1867

Claret writes to María Antonia, informing her about the Documentation for the foundation of Reus. He also tells her about this painful period in Madrid: «In this Court people oppress me a lot. There is nothing more than to offer it to the child Jesus. Oh, how much I want to leave the Palace! I wish to do like the kings of the East who left Jerusalem to go to worship Jesus in Bethlehem and go on the way of the missions. For this the Lord has raised me and not for the palace. For me the Palace is my exile, my torture». [Cf. CO 254]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1867

Claret writes to
María Antonia,
on the Documentation
about the Foundation
in Reus.
[Cf. CO 254]

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. [Mk 2: 1-2]

“ The Christian piety of the time (childhood and adolescence of M. A. París) received strong vitality with the teachings of the Franciscans spread by word and pen (...) missionary propaganda leaflets, popular missions, recommendations of Rules for living well and be saved, books of piety.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 52]

God makes his way with the men and women of every age, manifests himself and moves hearts to discover him present in the midst of his people. !

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and [the] sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. [Phil 3: 8-11]

“ God taught me the best of perfection as soon as I knew him; what a perfect mortification! What a genuine self-denial! (...) what a pure and intense love for the Crucified Christ! All my wishes were the holy cross and to live and die crucified with Christ! [RN 1]

Knowing Jesus is a gift of grace and a task that cannot be delegated. It is a path of fullness. It is to live in such a way that others want to do the same. !

1861

María Antonia writes to Claret telling him her anguish for having the closure open by a fallen wall in Tremp. [Cf. EMP 15]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1978

The Archbishop of
Mendoza (Argentina)
Msgr. Olimpo Maresma,
asks the Holy Father
to introduce the
cause of beatification
of María Antonia París.
[Cf. Pos. MP
Doc. 1 b, p. 323]

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God". Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it"...
[Mt 16:15-18]

“ Our Lord gave me the grace to see my unworthiness and my nothingness, thus I never acknowledged in me any gift, either of grace or of nature, so much that I looked at me as the most unfit creature for everything and from this knowledge emerged to consider myself unworthy to relate to any creature. I only knew the greatest grace that God Our Lord was giving to me in pardoning the multitude of the offenses I had done to Him... [RN 5]

Knowing oneself is the ripe fruit that comes from knowing God through Jesus Christ. !

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am are sounding gong or a clashing cymbal (...) Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

[1 Cor 13:1-7]

“ Our Lord gave me always the greatest love for my neighbor, and much love to endure his defects and bad condition, and always the conviction that they suffer me more. Thus, I was always happy with everyone. [RN 6]

Where is your brother? Answering this question with transparency, solidarity, and self-denial, this is to love our neighbor. !

1859

María Antonia awakes in the night and prays for the Pope and for the ills of the Church.
[Diario 34]

1860

María Antonia is pleased with Caixal's return, but her joy is in the Lord.
[Diario 47]

1878

María Antonia to Curriús, she writes from Carcagente about alms for masses and wool fabrics for habits.
[Cf. EMP 212]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1875

María Antonia requests
the Chapter Vicar of
Tarragona to have an
extraordinary Confessor
for the retreats before
the renewal of vows.

[EPM 153]

...For 'In him we live and move and have our being', as even some of your poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring'. [Acts 17: 28]

“ The presence of God was continuous and without becoming tired and without doing anything on my part, being clearly everything grace of God: and not even in the conversations I was distracted from my purpose, because if they did not speak directly to me, I did not hear.

[RN 7]

Seek God deep within yourself, it is there that his presence has its dwelling place to be permanent companionship. The life received is an opportunity to learn to perceive that inner voice.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

...Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers. Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. [1 Pt 4: 7-10]

“ God gave me such an attractive virtue, and a moderation in all my works, and in the relationship with people that I stole the hearts for God and all that treated me had much love for me.

God might have done it because he wanted to steal many hearts for himself by means of this sinner, as in the past God said to this the sinner. [RN 8]

A sober, simple, balanced behavior, capable of understanding and living what is important, is a key that opens the hearts to the good and to the truth of the Gospel.

1854

Nine new aspirants
arrived to Santiago de
Cuba from Spain.
[Cf. Hist. I p.198]

1860

Currius and Claret, ask
her to write a review of
her life to accompany the
Points for the Renewal to
present it to the Pope.
[Cf. CO 174]

1860

The Lord expresses to
María Antonia that Caixal
needs to take to prayer
the matters at hand.
[Diario 48]

1862

María Antonia to Caixal,
consults, from Tremp, the
situation of a sister: she
is concerned about her
vocation and health.
[Cf. EMP 18]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1875

Letter of Rev. José María Orberá to Cardinal Barrio y Fernández, Archbishop of Valencia, requesting the establishment of a convent in Carcagente dedicated to education. Request previously approved by María Antonia París in Reus. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 463-464]

He was saying, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel".

[Mk 1:15]

“ She was probably between 12 to 13 years old, in 1826 or 1827, when the Priests of Escornalbou were giving a mission In Tarragona, she felt touched by the Divine Grace to see more clearly the path through which God wanted to lead her, and after having confessed all her sins, she began, as she used to say to her confessor, a new life, considering it the beginning of her conversion (...) and being in her little prayer room she heard him call her three times by her own name.

[Notes G. Barril. Pos. MP p. 9]

A new heart is the one that recognizes to be powerless by itself and abandons itself in the hands of God to continue hoping in his promises.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1860

"While in prayer Our Lord said to me: 'Go, write and say... I give intelligence how and when it suits and to whom I want to.'" [Diario 51]

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? (...) Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". [Jn 14:1-2; 6]

“ María Antonia París died in Reus (Tarragona, Spain) on January 17 1885 after a long illness, in which she showed great patience and charity. After her death some particular graces happened. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 670-674]

The gift of Easter is the true hope about a new time, it is the full trust in God who transforms the existence traversed by love.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1858

Claret to the Queen,
he asks authorization
to transfer the sisters
from Cuba to
the Peninsula.

[Cf. CO 92]

1865

Claret to María Antonia,
he writes on the
foundation in the Diocese
of Tarragona.

[Cf. CO 235]

1868

María Antonia to the
Archbishop of Tarragona,
she communicates that
the preparation for the
renewal of vows will be
done by a retreat
of three days.

[Cf. EMP 88]

Then I heard the voice of the Lord
saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will
go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!".

[Is 6: 8]

“ ...I had always believed that all
persons who profess perfection
served God faithfully and for this I
wanted to be a religious sister. (...) Here,
once more our Lord put, as of what I can
understand, before the eyes of my soul,
(...) His most Holy Law and Evangelical
Counsels. [Aut. MP 4 and commentary]

Consecrated vocation, gift and
loving answer to the Father, service
to God, to the brethren and to the
cosmos, proclaiming the joy of the
Gospel of Jesus and his Kingdom.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1858

Claret to
the Bishop of Urgel,
he let him know that
he has the authorization
from the Nuncio for the
sisters from Cuba
to travel to Tremp.

[Cf. CO 93]

1860

Claret to Currius,
he sends him
a copy of the notes
about the Renewal
by M. María Antonia.

[Cf. CO 175]

1861

María Antonia
experiences mystically
the memory of the
apocalyptic vision of
November 1st. 1855.

[Cf. Diario 72]

Then Tobias said to his father Tobit,
"Everything that you have commanded
me, father, I shall do (...) But I don't know
the roads to take to get to Media (...) Tobit
answered his son Tobiah, "(...) So then go
find a reliable man who will go with you,
and we will pay him for his time until you
return." (...) Then Tobias went out to look
for a man who knew the way to Media
and would go with him. He went out and
found the angel Raphael standing near
him, but he didn't know that he was an
angel from God (...) Tobiah said to him,
"Do you know the way to Media?" He
replied, "Yes, I have been there many
times. I know the place well and am
acquainted with all the routes. I have
often traveled to Media... [Tb 5: 1.3-5]

“ Since her youth, M. Antonia put
herself under the wise spiritual
direction of canon Caixal, who devoted
himself with pastoral ardor to confession
and direction of souls. His people skills
attracted the friendliness of children and
youth as well as adults. His intervention
was decisive in many moments of the life
of María Antonia and of the Institute
founded by her. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 56-57]

To accompany is to journey besides
someone, listening from wisdom,
it is understanding and proximity,
it is to help in discerning the voice of
God, to encourage to transcend oneself
and fulfill his will.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1864

*María Antonia to Caixal,
asks that the confessor
may be a man according
to the spirit of God
and asks for the title
"Mother" for two sisters
(María Josefa Caixal and
Gertrudis Barril) after
10 years of profession.*

[Cf. EMP 61]

At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? (...) If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned these innocent men. [Mt 12:1-7]

“ The vigils and fasting caused her a long and painful illness that put her on the verge of death at the age of 15. On May 13, 1835, her confessor and Dr. Gatell, determined to stay in prayer vigil all night. At midnight an extraordinary noise was heard throughout the house, which she did not perceive because she was absorbed in her fervent prayer, and she found herself free from all those sorrows and sufferings. They gave thanks to the Lord and to Mary Most Holy for the rest of the night.

[Cf. Notes G. Barril. Pos. MP p. 10]

Allow the mercy of God to enter in you to transform your heart, illumine your nights, purify your thoughts, convert your gestures in tenderness, your hands in compassion and your feet to "go forth".

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. [Mt 11:25-27]

“ ...her life from her childhood has been extraordinary, and no human being has taught her, God himself taught her mental prayer, and everything she knows; in some things, and certainly the most important, she knows more than the learned. [Letter of Caixal to Curríus, Nov 14 1855, Hist. I, p. 57]

The greater we are in humility, the closer we are to greatness.

1948

Nine years after the end of the Spanish civil war, the archbishop of Tarragona authorizes Pedro Bertrams cmf to carry out the appropriate operations aimed at preserving the mortal remains of María Antonia París.
[Pos. MP. Doc.3 d, p.312]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1860

María Antonia asks Caixal to receive Currius and together discern about the will of God, Our Lord, on the Fundamental Rules and Points for the Renewal, before Currius took them to Rome.

[Cf. Diario 52]

...but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

[1 Cor 1: 23-25]

“ The passion and death of my Lord Jesus Christ was my continuous meditation weeping ardent tears.

[Cf. RN 2]

All my wishes were the holy cross and to live and die crucified with Christ... [RN 1]

No one can approach and touch the Cross of Jesus without leaving something of himself or herself there, and without bringing something of the Cross of Jesus into his or her own life. [P. Francis, *Vía Crucis* in Río de Janeiro July 26, 2013]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So, you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. [Gal 4: 4-5]

“ ...our Lord has given me the grace to have him ever present, and to have very intimate communication with His Divine Majesty, especially with the Most Holy Humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the Blessed sacrament. [Aut. MP 12]

May the Lord grant us the grace to find and taste the depth, the beauty, the truth, and the good that his love offers us.

1853

Claret to Caixal, communicates that he has received good news on the evaluation of the files of the sisters, sent to Havana for the approval of their installation in Santiago. [Cf. CO 22]

1862

María Antonia receives the answer from Caixal, approving the departure of a sister in Tremp. [Cf. EMP 35]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1862

María Antonia
receives from God
a warning for Caixal.
[Diario 81]

1876

María Antonia to the
superior of Reus,
from Carcagente
she writes on
various matters.
[Cf. EMP 167]

My soul rests in God alone, from whom comes my salvation. God alone is my rock and salvation, my fortress; I shall never fall. My deliverance and honor are with God, my strong rock; my refuge is with God. Trust God at all times, my people! Pour out your hearts to God our refuge! [Ps 62: 2-3; 8-9]

“ As I was praying with great recollection (...) I saw Our Lord from the Tabernacle as if he was looking for a person in whom he wished to rest: his heart looked like if it was impatient (...) and His Divine Majesty said to me, “I look for a heart where to rest, my daughter let me repose”; I was greatly moved by pity and humiliating myself to the ground I offered him the smallness of my heart... [Diario 71]

The emptiness of self is an open door to God's rest in the soul. Meditation and silence teach that path.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”. [Mk 15: 24; 37-39]

“ Another day Our Lord said to me do not be surprised my daughter that I speak to you from the Cross, because the Cross is my cathedra and through the Cross is the way to the Kingdom. [Diario 38]

The message of the cross is salvation and life for the world. It is recognized by those who welcome as a gift the mystery revealed by Jesus who dies for love of humanity. Speak to me, Lord, from that wellspring of grace!

1860

“...after Communion as I was asking God to give me the grace to write what His Divine Majesty had made me know (...) on the restauration of the Church.”
[Diario 53 bis]

1873

María Antonia to the Chapter Vicar of Tarragona, letting him know that on the 29th they will do the retreat for the renewal of the vows in the House of Education in Reus.
[Cf. EMP 129]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1971

Report of Josefa Ballester, religious of the Society of Mary, born in Vallmoll, hometown of María Antonia París, who claims to have heard of her holiness from the neighbors of the place.

[Pos. MP

Doc.1 h, p.298]

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. [Mt 6:19-21]

“ Why does he not begin his mission (...) forming them in practice as I did with my Apostles, and thus, the disregard for wealth will be rooted in their hearts by the great delight I will give to them for my Holy Evangelical Poverty, that they will not change for any of the monarchs of the earth (...) I did it (...) beginning by one, two, three and four up to twelve companions. [Diario 90]

Make your life a temple of poverty; you will attract and others will learn to like to depend on God. They will be a credible message of Jesus among men. !

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time. For this I was appointed preacher and apostle (I am speaking the truth, I am not lying), teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. [1 Tm 2:5-7]

I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel (not that there is another). But there are some who are disturbing you and wish to pervert the gospel of Christ.

[Gal 1:6-7]

“ My Gospel is one and my Church cannot be restored completely until the Gospel stands again. [Diario 108]

The Church exists to proclaim and communicate the light of the gospel that is Jesus Christ, until it is the law of life and liberty for all. !

1851

María Antonia to Archbishop of Tarragona, requesting permission to leave the Convent of the Company of Mary.

[Cf. EMP 1]

1862

María Antonia receives a response from Caixal, approving the departure of a sister in Tremp.

[Cf. EMP 36]

1875

María Antonia to his Excellency Cardinal Archbishop of Valencia, thanking him for his interest in the foundation of Carcagente.

[Cf. EMP 154]

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1851

María Antonia departs
from the Company of
Mary with
Florentina Sangler.

[Aut. MP 109]

1857

Six years later María
Antonia relates it in the
second account of her
autobiography.

[Aut. MP 109,
footnote page 55]

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

[Rom 8: 14-16]

“ It is time, daughter, to temper your fears and that you serve me more out of love than out of fear: do you not know that I washed your soul with my precious blood? [Diario 112]

If you rest in the knowledge of God's love, the shadow of fear will be just a memory. Love, worship, and trust in Jesus, your God and Lord.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1853

Claret to Caixal,
communicates the
procedures with the
Captain General of Cuba
for the foundation of
the Institute.

[Cf. CO 22]

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; For Love is strong as Death (...) Deep waters cannot quench love, nor rivers sweep it away. Were one to offer all the wealth of his house for love, he would be utterly despised.

[Song 8: 6-7]

“ Look, for you alone I would have locked me up in the Tabernacle (...) to give you the pleasure to visit me (...) Oh! the tenderness of a loving God! (...) I am so confused (...) that I did not want to write this tenderness of His love, (...) Our Lord said to me: why do you want me to tell my things to you if you lessen my glory hiding the tenderness of my love? [Diario 25]

Whoever discovers Jesus as the greatest good, as the hidden treasure of the Gospel, will carry it engraved like a seal on his heart and proclaim him with life and words, because love is stronger than death.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

1862

Claret to María Antonia,
on the public testimony
of Poverty.
[Cf. CO 213]

1880

María Antonia to Orberá,
on the constitutions,
the sisters in Cuba
and other matters.
[Cf. EMP 298]

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away; behold,
new things have come. [2 Cor 5:17]

The commandment is very near to
you, in your mouth and in your heart, to
do it. [Dt 30:14]

“ Tell my servant, for the love
I have for him, to renew the
first fervor which I gave to him for the
evangelical life, (...) it is time to separate
the straw from the grain, because not all
the prelates of my Church have my spirit
(...) But tell him, (...) I want him to be of
the most dedicated, communicating the
light of the Gospel to his brothers...

[Diario 108]

The Word of God, contemplated,
lived and proclaimed, is a
transforming force that liberates
and makes us a new creation in practice.
This is how the Church is reformed and
witness is an evangelizing force.

Nothing else I want,
nothing more but Christ

But may I never boast except in the
cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through
which, the world has been crucified to
me, and I to the world (...) but what is
important is to be a new creation. Peace
and mercy be to all who follow this rule
and to the Israel of God. [Gal 6:14-16]

“ The confessor asked if she
wanted something else (...) she
answered that she neither desired
anything else, nor wanted anything
more but Our Lord. [Pos. MP Doc. 1ab. p.244]

Whoever could, live with such a
conscience, who repeated with
his lips and heart: I want nothing
else but Jesus. Pronounce that name as
music of the soul.

1860

(Month of January)
As for the title (the
name) of the Order (...) it
will please very much Our
Lord that His Holiness, dedicate
it to the Immaculate
Conception (...) since
through His grace she has
given birth to this Order in
the same year as her Dogma...
[Diario 53]



february

**To Follow in
the Footsteps
of Christ Our
Highest Good**

To Follow in the Footsteps of Christ Our Highest Good

*“Master where do you live?
Jesus said: Come and you will see.”*

It is an unavoidable question at some moment of our Christian life and, in a larger sense, for each young person. Each one responds from his or her own circumstances, context, formation.

María Antonia discovered deep inside the strength of the question and the challenge of the answer and responded throughout her life bringing to the fullness her vocational option, with the sole purpose of doing the will of God.

The points covered in this month range approximately from the initial vision in the Company of Mary (1842) to the interview with Claret, before his trip to Cuba in 1850, and her subsequent departure from the Company in 1851.

To Follow in the Footsteps
of Christ Our Highest Good

february
1

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. [Jer 1:5]

“ Although making not my profession, was tearing my soul because I had been ardently desiring it not only during my ten years of novitiate but since I had use of reason. But, as soon as this saint would have said that to leave the convent could be for the glory of God (which was to divide my soul) I would have conformed myself to God's will...

[Aut. MP 97]

A believing gaze at God's ways in our lives makes us discover that nothing is accidental, it is God weaving the threads of our history, even without us. It is He who calls.

1856

Claret suffers an attack in Holguin (Cuba) He is wounded on the cheek and arm.

[Cf. Aut. PC 573-581]

1869

Claret to Currius, he rejoices that the sisters return to the convent. After the glorious Spanish revolution, they had remained refugees in the Hospital of Reus.

[Cf. CO 280]

1860

Currius to Claret, he reports on the sending to Rome the Plan for the Renewal of the Church. [Cf. CO 176]

1860

María Antonia to Dionisio González, she asks him to recommend her daughters to the new Prelate of Santiago de Cuba. [Cf. CO 177]

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. [Mt 5:14-16]

The Sisters of the Company of Mary, who had a convent in Tarragona decided to receive as students some young women who wished to be sisters, with the goal to be able to continue the work of education, and among these was Sister Antonia París who joined the sisters when she was 28 years old on October 23, 1841.

[Cf. Hist. I, pg. 65-66]

Religious life is a gift of love that is received to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in poverty, obedience and self-giving to God and to our brothers and sisters.

He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. [Mt 4: 23]

The testimony of the Abbess of the Convent is explicit: "dressed as a lay woman she accomplished the responsibilities of a novice, and with the job as teacher of laces, for which she had a good aptitude". But Sister Antonia's mission of education stretched out also to the formal education. [Hist. I, p. 66]

Teaching awakens the conscience of the human being, transforms, projects and confronts him/her with the evangelical wisdom offered by the knowledge of Christ Jesus.

1858

Caixal to Claret, communicating the confusion caused by the Royal Order from the Office of the Minister, to open a novitiate in Tremp. [Cf. CO 94]

1884

While in Reus, her health worsened, and María Antonia enters the house infirmary. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 667]

1870

Currius to Claret,
consultation on how to
present the Rules and
Constitutions in Rome.
[Cf. CO 290]

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another...

[Jn 13: 34-35]

“ Everything was the work of God nor mine (...) With the older sisters care; with the young sisters, great kindness, respect. (...) I was all for all, great love for the sick sisters, with charity corresponding love...

[Cf. RN I Serie, 12]

The source of the vocation to fraternal communion is to seek Jesus in our brothers and sisters and to be able to embrace them even in their human poverty.



Now, our God, hear the prayer and petition of your servant; and for your own sake, Lord, let your face shine upon your desolate sanctuary. [Dn 9: 17]

“ YEAR 1842. one night while I was at prayer pleading to Christ crucified to remedy the necessities of the church, which in that time were many, that had cost him so much, I offered him my life in sacrifice as I have done before many times, well aware that my life was not of much value to sacrifice for so many ill. [Aut. MP 2]

What can I offer You if You are all I have? With your grace I am willing to become nothing, to leave everything, to lose everything, to gain everything.



1858

Caixal to Mr. Joaquín María de Sullá, he writes about the search for a plot of land, for the construction of the house for the nuns in Tremp.. [Cf. CO 95]

1877

María Antonia to Bishop Orberá, she writes from Carcagente about how to ask for the permits for the sisters who will go to the new foundation of Baracoa (Cuba). [Cf. EMP 226]

1859

Claret to Currius, he writes to let him (Currius) know that he had already sent the License for the voyage of three sisters from Cuba to Spain.

[Cf. CO 143]

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

[Mk 10: 21]

“ In this petition which, later I understood, was very much to the liking of His Divine Majesty, because it was done with much simplicity and good will, our Lord has deigned to teach me with much pleasure how He would like to be served by this ungrateful creature, it was in this how He set before my eyes the observance of His most Holy Law and evangelical counsels...

[Aut. MP 3]

Happiness is not possession; it is letting go and finding joy in God's will. If someone does not serve God where he is, he will not serve God anywhere else. Bloom where you have been planted.

1868

(Month of February) Claret to Maria Antonia, telling her that he will talk to the Archbishop of Cuba on the approval of the Rules in Rome. There is no doubt that he will do everything possible on his part.

[Cf. CO 270]

See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you; your walls are ever before me. [Is 49: 16]

“ I was very attentive, overwhelmed to what was happening, and it seemed to me that I was reading the Holy Law of God, but without seeing any books or letters; I was seeing it written, and I was understanding it so very well, that it seemed to me it was being imprinted in my soul but in a particular way the book of the Holy Gospels, which till then I had never read, neither the Sacred Scripture...

[Aut. MP 5]

An experience consolidated in faith and love is imprinted in the soul and becomes a reference of life. Remember a vocational word imprinted in your heart. It will illuminate your nights.

1858

Claret to Currius,
he has no problem for
girls to be admitted to
half board in the school
of Santiago de Cuba.
[cf. CO 96]

My sheep hear my voice; I know them,
and they follow me. [Jn 10: 27]

“ Beside what I saw in these
sacred letters (without seeing
anything with my bodily eyes as I have
said above) an interior voice in the
depths of my soul was explaining me
their meaning and the way to practice
them. In that I stayed (for a moment) in
a sea of confusion, because in the convent
where I was then, they did not observe
what I had just read in that Sacred Book
(I say book because I do not know how
to express where I saw these sacred
letters written: To my understanding I
saw everything in Christ Crucified who,
as he was teaching me the divine letters,
was explaining me their meaning...

[Aut. MP 6]

Seekers of God, we become familiar
with his soft voice in contact with
his Word. That faint voice is light
and guidance on the path of life.

For I know well the plans I have in
mind for you, oracle of the LORD, plans
for your welfare and not for woe, so as
to give you a future of hope. [Jer 29: 11]

“ My Lord and my God, if you do
not tell me in what religious
order you want me to enter so as to
comply with your command, I do not
know how this will be done. Because
by all means I wanted to be a religious...
[Aut. MP 7]

Finding and welcoming our
personal vocation, a call within the
call, is the key to responding to God's
will and bearing fruit in abundance.

1850

Claret to Caixal,
on the novices of
Tarragona, María Antonia
and Florentina. He says
that he needs more time
to entrust this matter
to God.
[cf. CO 2]

1853

Claret to María Antonia,
seems to be well-pleased
with what she says
about the Rules of the
Foundation and the way of
subsistence of
the Sisters.
[cf. CO 23]

1858

Claret to Caixal,
on the proceedings with
the Government of Spain
for the foundation in
Trempe and other matters.
[cf. CO 97]

1867

Claret to María Antonia,
on the difficulties with the
foundation in Reus.
[cf. CO 255]

1877

María Antonia to the prioress of Baracoa, she encourages and guides her to be in the hands of God in the face of the situation that this community was experiencing because the city was closed due to the insurrection. [Cf. EMP 227]

Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

[Jn 1: 42]

“...My God, perhaps you want something new? (...) I asked this question by Divine inspiration (...) and if this seemed an indiscreet question, because in God there is nothing impossible, our Lord did not take it wrong, because it was not asked out of curiosity, much less of mistrust in the infinite power of God, but it came from a heart determined to fulfill the divine will whatever it costs (...) Thus, our Lord told me with much pleasure: "Yes, my daughter, I want a new order, but not new in doctrine but new in practice." And here our Lord gave me the traits of the whole order and told me that it should be called: "apostles of Jesus Christ in imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

[Aut. MP 7]

We are called to be a new order in practice and we are given a new name, a new mission and a new vocation in the Church: Apostles of Jesus Christ. To serve, to love, and to announce.

Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. [Eph 4: 23-24]

“...saw our Lord Jesus Christ (...) it seemed as if his Divine eyes were bursting into tears, and He told me sorrowfully: "look, my daughter, if with tears I would be able to renew the spirit of my church, I would shed tears of blood. Because I did not spare myself to shed all my blood for her creation, but I left myself as pledge and memory of my infinite love for her, for her conversion until the end of time... [Aut. MP 9]

Renew your life by choosing Christ again every day. The Church will shine by the coherence between your words and your deeds. This is how it will be renewed.

1860

Currius to Claret, on the presentation of the Constitutions in Rome. [Cf. CO 178]

1874

María Antonia to the prioress of Tremp, she encourages the community to keep the Rules and Constitutions because it is the work of God, not the invention of men. [Cf. EMP 141]

1882

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, asks him for information about other congregations regarding the governance of the Institute and the vows. [Cf. EMP 365]

In the same way, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple. [Lk 14: 33]

“ Ever since this vision I have loved very much evangelical poverty (I already loved it very much before) because our Lord told me that Holy Poverty should be the foundation of these new Apostles, and for lack of this holy virtue all religious orders have collapsed. [Aut. MP 11]

Poverty is the attitude of the heart that reflects the humanity of Christ; it is the requirement and foundation of being new apostles. Do you live poverty like Jesus?

1851
(without date)
Claret to
His Majesty the Queen;
he explains to her
the need for Christian
instruction in Cuba
and for the Government
to entrust elementary
education to some
Religious Institute or
Religious Congregation.
[cf. CO 6]

You shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart... [Dt 6: 5]

...serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”. [Gal 5: 13b.14]

“ One day Our Lord made me see the beauty of His Most Holy Law, presenting to me in plain sight a very beautiful and very extensive meadow, all full of beautiful flowers of all kinds; they gave a scent that smelled like all the most exquisite scents. And I saw that all were stained, some more and some less: there were some that had but some small spot, but anyway, it made so precious flowers look ugly. And Our Lord said unto me, “Do you see, my child, the beauty of the divine Commandments? These stains that these beautiful flowers have is the breaking of my Most Holy Law, which I have no one to keep it because there is no one who fulfills the precept of charity”. [Aut. MP 27]

God’s Law is stained when justice and respect for oneself, others, creation, and God are not practiced. Restore that Law of life with love.

1853
Currius to Claret,
on the purchase of
a house to be used as
a convent in
Santiago de Cuba.
[cf. CO 30]

1861
María Antonia to
Juan Peyró,
she has nothing to pay
the workers of the
convent of Tremp and
she asks him for help.
[cf. EMP 17]

1880
María Antonia to
Enrique Gomis,
she informs him that the
Archbishop of Tarragona
does not consent to her
going to the foundation
in Vélez Rubio.
[cf. EMP 299]

1883

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, on the need for the approval of the constitutions, "the sooner they give the approval, the better to be able to act, and if it comes out in a way that does not suit us, then we will see how to remedy it".
[EMP 381]

And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore, they will be your judges (...) Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

[Mt 12: 27. 31]

“ In the morning of the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, after communion our Lord told me that Fr. Claret together with his sons in the order of the Apostles of Jesus Christ, will be the bright star that with their clear and apostolic doctrine will dispel the ignorance of the present century that those who are most blind, I think call it the century of the enlightenment; His Divine Majesty added: this priest is the first, and I wish that he establishes the first houses of the order.

[Aut. MP 32]

Providence is the helm with which God conducts history. Nothing is accidental and without a purpose. Trust, with a child's heart in God's provident paths.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths'". [Mk 1: 2]

“ This, my daughter, is the apostolic man whom you have asked me for so many years and with so many tears... [Aut. MP 19]

If God is all you have, then you have all you need. Rest in Him.

1853

Claret answered Currius about the admission of Cuban natives to the institute.
[Cf. CO 25]

1870

Claret to María Antonia, from Rome about the First Vatican Council, and communicates of the receipt of her letters and the death of two Spanish Bishops.
[Cf. CO 291]

1877

María Antonia, from Carcagente to Currius, she asks him to visit the Community of Tremp which has separated itself from the rest of the institute and asks him to help them focus.
[Cf. EMP 228]

1884

Gertrudis Barril, on behalf of María Antonia, writes to the Archbishop of Tarragona, asks him to pray to the Lord for bodily and spiritual health.
[Cf. EMP 413]

1850

Claret asks Caixal to act as he deems prudent in regard to the departure of María Antonia from the Company of Mary. [Cf. CO 3]

1851

Claret arrives in Santiago de Cuba and two days later takes possession in the cathedral. [Cf. Aut. PC 509 y CO 12]

1857

In the experience narrated by María Antonia, the communion between Christ and his Church is manifested: "My daughter weep, with me my sorrow for losing the members of my Church". [Aut. MP 244]

1877

María Antonia from Carcagente to the Prioress of Santiago de Cuba, on holy obedience. [Cf. EMP 229]

The days are coming -oracle of the LORD- when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days, at that time, I will make a just shoot spring up for David; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Jerusalem shall dwell safely; this is the name they shall call her: "The LORD our justice".

[Jer 33: 14-16]

I told him (Claret) that the Lord had made it known to me that he desired to arrange our order to observe in it His most Holy Law and the evangelical counsels. (...) He replied that the fruit was already ripe but not yet in season, that I could rest leaving the care to him. And then, with one of those jokes that he used when speaking, he said: "Now, I know already that you are here". [Aut. MP 61]

Waiting is a challenge of patience and trust. Everything comes if you learn to wait.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. [Phil 1: 6]

...So, I remained in my convent as before, and he continued in his mission, maybe without remembering me; until it was the time that God, from his eternity, had disposed for us to transfer to this new world, where he wanted to start his Work. [Aut. MP 62]

Abandoning ourselves into God's hands we learn the mystery that He reveals to us.

1862

María Antonia to Caixal, she asks him to consult Claret on the admission of poor women to the Institute. [Cf. EMP 37]

1881

María Antonia from Reus to Enrique Gomis, explaining the non-admission of some candidates proposed by him. [Cf. EMP 352]

1860

Currius to Claret, he describes his audience with the Pope to whom he showed the Rules of the Sisters of Cuba, that would be examined by the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. [Cf. CO 179]

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! [Rom 11: 33]

“ The civil laws prohibited the admission of new novices. On April 10, 1850, young Queen Isabel II in her official visit to the city found a space in her heavy schedule to go to the Convent-School of the Company of Mary. The prioress took advantage of the occasion to request from the Queen the necessary authorization for the postulants to receive the habit and profess. Isabel II gave the authorization with pleasure (...) On the 21st of April 1850 (...) she (María Antonia) received the habit (...) she was 36 years old. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 78-79]

We believe we know the right way; God leads us through the necessary one. Let us ask for the grace to always be with Him, to understand and follow His unfathomable ways.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. [Mk 1: 35]

“ Our older sisters, who were companions of Mother París during the novitiate, used to tell us when someone spoke of those times that Sister Antonia was very edifying, given completely to God, always yearned for solitude, and as soon as she finished the classes she retired in her solitude, within her soul, without speaking outside the recreation times, and then as little as possible... [Testimony of Antonia Virgili, Prioress Comp. Mary. Cf. Hist. I, p. 67]

To pray contemplating is to fix one's gaze of faith on Jesus and to remain in silent exchange of love.

1859

“...and Our Lord said to me, 'Hear my daughter; lend your ear to my voice that speaks to you the Truth'...” [Diario 35]

1861

María Antonia to Caixal, on some difficulties in the construction of Tresp. [Cf. EMP 19]

1855

Claret to María Antonia,
he asks her to read some
letters he sends to her
and give him her opinion.

[Cf. CO 45]

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
on your own intelligence do not rely; In
all your ways be mindful of him, and he
will make straight your paths.**

[Prv 3: 5-6]

“ When God our Lord had decreed
from eternity that I would
leave the convent, His Divine Majesty
disposed, for my greater affliction the
coming of the royal permission for the
profession. For more than 15 years it
was forbidden by the government and
almost ten since I was a novice, eagerly
expecting the happy day of my profession.
A moment of true anguishes!

[Aut. MP 94]

Uncertainty and affliction are
strength of the soul if we are in tune
with the voice of our inner Master.

1858

Caixal to Sullá,
Mayor of Tremp,
on establishing the
House of the Teaching
Sisters in the town
of Tremp.

[Cf. CO 98]

**Jesus said to them in reply, “Amen, I
say to you, if you have faith and do not
waver, not only will you do what has
been done to the fig tree, but even if
you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up
and thrown into the sea’, it will be done.
Whatever you ask for in prayer with
faith, you will receive”.** [Mt 21: 21-22]

“ His Excellency, Msgr. Claret,
already consecrated a bishop
was at the point of sailing for his Diocese.
Since God our Lord gave me such a firm
certainty in the words this servant of God
told me when he came to talk with me, as
I have said, that I should not doubt that
the work would become a reality, I was
unable to remove from my memory how
could it be to profess in that convent if it
was God's will for me to go on with the
work His Divine Majesty had entrusted
to me. [Aut. MP 95]

Faith in God allows us to see the
invisible, believe in the incredible,
and receive the impossible.

1852

In Barcelona, they
embark for Cuba.

María Antonia París,
Florentina Sangler,
Antonia y María Gual,
and María Josefa Caixal.

[Cf. Hist. I, p.120]

1861

Claret sends the new
Archbishop of Cuba
the Royal Order that
authorized the
Teaching Institute
in Santiago de Cuba.

[Cf. CO 200]

1877

María Antonia to the
Prioress of Reus,
from Carcagente she
gives thanks for the
goods the Prioress
has sent for the new
community as a sign of
the union among
the houses.

[Cf. EMP 230]

The LORD came and stood there,
calling out as before: "Samuel, Samuel!"

[1 Sm 3: 10]

“ ...I had no desire to leave or
stay; although the profession
tore my soul away, for I had not only
desired it with great desire the ten years
of novitiate, but since I had reason; but
as soon as this Saint had told me that it
was convenient for the glory of God to
leave the convent (which was to divide
my soul) I would have conformed in the
Divine Will: because ever since Our Lord
God had made me see the holiness of that
soul and the gifts of grace that His Divine
Majesty had entrusted to him, was great
the trust that I had him, that by his voice
seemed to me heard that of God...

[Aut. MP 97]

Conviction and readiness to the
will of God are deepened in the
personal encounter with the Lord,
in the temple of daily life.

There is an appointed time for
everything, and a time for every affair
under the heavens. A time to give birth,
and a time to die; a time to plant, and a
time to uproot the plan. [Ecc 3: 1-2]

“ ...we were doing the holy
exercises for the profession
when His Excellency Claret came to
Barcelona to embark, and my confessor
told me to write telling him the
predicament in which I was, because it
was necessary to profess or to leave, and
that he had the goodness to answer me as
soon as possible as the situation required,
and let me know if I had to proceed with
the profession or if we would stop it, since
there were no more than twelve days left.
This was the last step left for my peace
of mind... [Aut. MP 98]

In Him I put my hope; he leaned
towards me and he heard my
cry [Cf. Ps 40:1] God will provide:
Get ready!

1856

Claret to Pope Pius IX, he
reports the establishment
of the convent of the sisters
for the education of girls.
[Cf. CO 51]

1860

Claret to María Antonia,
on his book 'La Colegiala
instruida', (The instructed
schoolgirl) the book of the
spiritual retreat for girls.
[Cf. CO 180]

1863

Claret to María Antonia,
he advises on the formation
of the community of Tremp.
[Cf. CO 221]

1867

Claret to the Archbishop
of Tarragona, he relates
the procedures of the Reus
Foundation. [Cf. CO 256]

1868

María Antonia receives an
important sacramental
grace; she feels that
Christ remains in her
after communion. She
experiences a great
recollection with a vivid
feeling of the innumerable
offenses made to the Lord
and she offers herself in
reparation. [Cf. Diario 100]

1862

(Month of February)

The first canonical election of prioress is held in Tremp according to all the requirements indicated in the constitutions when the community had already six members. Mother María Antonia was unanimously elected.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 301; Pos. MP p. 103]

On the day I cried out, you answered, you strengthened my spirit. [Ps 138: 3]

“ ...but God our Lord who never willed me to put my trust in men but in His Divine Providence, permitted him not to answer and to depart from Spain leaving me in a sea of confusion, without having anything determined. [Aut. MP 98]

Men put ellipsis on history, but God erases them before uncertainty hurts hope. !

Jesus answered and said to him, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him”. [Jn 14: 23]

“ ...The days of the spiritual retreat were nearing the end (...) I only chose not to choose anything but to hold onto obedience. [Aut. MP 99]

Understanding and acceptance of God's will is expressed and manifested in obedience to His will, even in the midst of darkness and problems. !

1982

The Holy Father, in a General Audience, granted to the Cardinal Prefect (for the Causes of Saints) ratified and confirmed the instance in the Congress approved by that Congregation on January 17 of the same year. With this document the approval is given to introduce the Cause of the Servant of God María Antonia París, in instructing the corresponding Process in the Archbishop's Curia of Tarragona.

[Cf. Pos. MP p. 346]

1851

(Month of February)

María Antonia to Claret, communicating that she was already free to do whatever seemed convenient (...) for the greatest glory of God.

[Cf. Aut. MP 117; Hist. I, p. 91]

Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. [1 Pt 4:12-13]

“ God our Lord was pleased in this occasion to make me taste the summit of affliction. I thought very seldom of the promises the Lord had made to me and, if I remember them sometimes it was for a great torment because at once my old anguishes assaulted me—that all that my confessor told me to be the spirit of God was perhaps the evil spirit to get me out of the convent and then, to leave me unable to become a religious. This was for me the cruelest torture because I cannot explain the love I have always had for religious life. And the devil all the more reinforced these fears in me seeing that the confessors and the good bishop Claret, who assured me of the work, did not dare to define the case. [Aut. MP100]

Afflictions make the heart wiser and deeper, more able to sustain, contain, and experience God. Staying in Him is the challenge. **!**

But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. [Jn 16:13]

“ As for me, everything was to cry and to pray day and night to my God and most blessed Mary to deign to enlighten them so we could go out at once from the situation. I said to myself what will they say at home if I make them spend uselessly and I will not profess? And what will Mother Prioress say except that all is a fiction and a lie? How I can repay her delicacies with such ingratitude? [Aut. MP 103]

In the Word of God we find the light that no one can extinguish, the guide to know and discern the mystery that He has in store for us. **!**

1873

First canonical election of Prioress in Reus; María Antonia París was elected by a unanimous vote. [Cf. Pos. MP p. 129]

february
28

1856

María Antonia to Claret, on the occasion of the attack in Holguin. She senses the joy that shedding his blood for the Lord, had caused in him.
[Cf. CO 52]

1858

Currius to Claret, expresses that María Antonia is very happy for the prompt call to Spain.
[Cf. CO 99]

1859

Dionisio González to Claret, the sisters prepare their trip to Spain accompanied by Currius.
[Cf. CO 145]

1869

Claret to María Antonia, recounts the need to exercise patience in present times, suffering the slanders and persecutions caused by the "glorious revolution" in Spain.
[Cf. CO 281]

To Follow in the Footsteps
of Christ Our Highest Good

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me". [Mt 16: 24]

“ Tell me, Lord, what do I have to do in this difficult predicament. Do not be any deafer to my tears (...) Love for the cloister was invincibly powerful, but love for your most holy will, O Lord, makes me surrender to any sacrifice (...) may your most holy will be done, O Lord!
[Aut. MP 106]

You become stronger only when you are weaker; when you surrender your will to God, you discover the resources to fulfill what He asks of you with love. !

march

Hope
against
all
hope



1877

María Antonia to Currius, she asks the superior of Tremp to send through him, her Rituals and books of the Common Rules, in deposit there, for Carcagente and Baracoa and other houses that will be founded.
[Cf. EMP 231]

Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick. The laborer deserves his keep.

[Mt 10: 9-10]

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. [Mt 10: 37-39]

“ *I left the Company of Mary with my companion Sr. Florentina Sangler, on January 28, 1851, without knowing where we would end up.*

[Aut. MP 109]

The dispossession of oneself and of things liberates and disposes to find and do the will of God. !

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

[Mt 14: 14-15]

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. [Ps 103: 13]

“ *My companion was suffering seeing how the Lord was having me so forsaken in this affair (...)
I was very sorry to see her so anxious (...)
I was already used to these plans of God...*

[Aut. MP 110]

To have compassion for the brother or sister who suffers and needs our support, comfort and tenderness, is to share his-her condition. Do you do it? !

1851

Claret visits Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre to whom he entrusts all his pastoral activities, a few days after his arrival on the island.
[Cf. CO 12; Aut. PC 510]

1858

Caixal to Claret, on the enthusiasm of the population of Tremp for the foundation in that town.
[Cf. CO 100]

1866

From the Archbishop of Tarragona to Claret, on difficulties of the procedures with the Government for the foundation in Reus.
[Cf. CO 236]

1876

María Dolores Gual was canonically elected prioress of Tremp, a position she held without interruption from 1876 to 1903 and from 1906 to 1912. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 554]

Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch". [Mk 14: 34]

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? [Ps 22: 2]

“ ...I feel it really, as if I were in the wildest desert, without seeing or hearing any human person nor feeling any kind of consolation, human or divine (...) the Lord wants me to understand the greatness of his love through the extreme intensity of the suffering. [Aut. MP 111]

Discovering and experiencing God's love even in the midst of loneliness and absence is a grace. Let us ask for it with humility.

1863

Claret to María Antonia, on the occasion of the death of a young nun from the community of Tremp, he recommends that this event serve to reflect on the importance of doing good works while we have time. [Cf. CO 223]

So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. [Mt 6: 31-32]

“ The pastor of the cathedral gave us the best place of his house (...) and my companion said, "How good it is to throw oneself in the hands of the Divine providence". [Cf. Aut. MP 114-116]

Repeat this phrase during the day: I abandon myself in your divine providence.

1859

Currius to Claret, on the preparation of the Sisters' trip to Spain for the foundation in Trempe. [Cf. CO 146]

1860

María Antonia receives from the Lord a message on the good effect of the renunciation of the temporal goods, of the riches in the Church. [Cf. Diario 54]

1867

Claret to María Antonia, he sends a copy of the Catechism he wrote for the whole Kingdom of Spain; and he explains some errands he has done for the foundation in Reus. [Cf. CO 257]

He (Abraham) did not doubt God's promise in unbelief; rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God and was fully convinced that what he had promised he was also able to do. [Rom 4: 20-21]

Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free". [Jn 8: 31-32]

... the confessor (Caixal) told me to write to his Excellency archbishop Claret, informing him about (...) my departure from the convent (...) and how I was completely free to do whatever his Excellency Archbishop Claret, would see more convenient for the glory of God. [Aut. MP 117]

Trusting in God's power generates freedom of spirit. The Holy Spirit will guide your decisions, listen to His voice.

A scribe approached and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head". [Mt 8: 19-20]

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him... [Jn 6: 4]

... Several young women came to me (...) I only accepted three of them (...) because I was very sure of their good spirit. [Aut. MP 118]

Following Jesus requires being enlivened with a good spirit. Take care of it as a treasure within you.

1853

(Month of March) The first encounter of Currius with María Antonia took place during the first spiritual exercises that the incipient community made in Lent 1853. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 218]

1856

Claret writes to Caixal about the joy of the sisters for the Brief of Pope Pius IX for the foundation of the convent of Santiago de Cuba. [Cf. CO 53]

1879

María Antonia communicates to Fr. Pablo Bofarull, confessor canon, that due to the difficulties arisen from the union of the houses and the first mother, she wishes to go to Reus to talk with him about these issues in the Constitutions presented to Rome, and she believes that they must remain as they are until the Holy See gives its opinion. [Cf. EMP 266]

1882

María Antonia writes from Reus to Rv. Silvestre Rongier, Orberá's agent in Rome: "I must say to you, my Lord, very strongly, that the main basis of our Institute is the perfect effective poverty, living from the work of our hands..." [Cf. EMP 367]

Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you".

[Mk 10: 28]

How can I repay the LORD for all the great good done for me? (...) I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. [Ps 116: 12-14]



I gathered the young women I had admitted as companion (...) we received communion with great devotion and fervor, offering ourselves to God and vowing to cross the seas and going to any part of the world without division among ourselves, nor to depart in any way from the opinion of our Superior.

[Aut. MP 121]

The offering to God with a vow entails an availability of total surrender to his will.



So that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. [Jn 17: 21]

How good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together as one!

[Ps 133: 1]



This vow was made by me and I proposed it (...) to those young women who had come to us until now (...) for two purposes: the first (...) to ensure their vocation (...) through Holy Obedience (...) and the other end is to assure them that I would never abandon them (...) [and to remain] without division among us. [Aut. MP 123]

Path to build: living in harmony and unity, forming one family and one heart.

**1858**

Claret asks Currius that either him or Fr Llausàs or Fr Barjau accompany the sisters who come to Spain. [Cf. CO 101]

1860

Currius to Claret, he recounts the procedures carried out for the approval of the Rules and Constitutions in Rome. [Cf. CO 181]

1836

Some articles of the Decree of Mendizábal, Minister of Finance (suppression of monasteries, beateries, reduction of number of convents... etc.) which have to do with the difficulty encountered by the young María Antonia to enter a convent, taken from the "La Gaceta de Madrid" n° 444. [Cf. Pos. MP p. 23]

Call to me, and I will answer you; I will tell you great things beyond the reach of your knowledge. [Jer 33: 3]

...for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. [2 Cor 4: 18]

“ How certain it is that nobody can resist or force God's will! (...) this Almighty God has all the hearts in his hands and moves them when and how he wills! [Aut. MP 125]

Knowing God's designs, the will, with his grace, bends gently. !

Be strong and take heart, all who hope in the LORD. [Ps 31: 25]

Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD! [Ps 27: 14]

“ Claret was pleased to answer (...) saying that we could go (...) we ought to sail as soon as possible (...) I did not harbor the least doubt that this New World was the place where God our Lord had determined to start His work. [Aut. MP 126-127]

Hope in the Lord is a source of boldness and courage. He tells us, "Fear not." !

1879

María Antonia to Currius, on the mode of cession of a land in Cambrils, so as not to have any property or anything that sounds like that. [Cf. EMP 267]

1883

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, on fixing the choir arch in Carcaixent. [Cf. EMP 382]

1865

Claret to María Antonia,
on the formalities of the
foundation in Reus.
[Cf. CO 237]

The LORD is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusts. I am helped, so my heart rejoices; with my song I praise him. [Ps 28: 7]

When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you. For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. [Is 43: 2-3]

“ ...I put all my trust in God sure and certain that I would always walk under his shade (...) and, thus, we left Tarragona for Barcelona... [Aut. MP 131]

Let us rest in the loving arms of our God, full of confidence and renewed enthusiasm. !

1860

Currius to Claret from Rome, he tells him the positive progress of the Rules of the Sisters. [Cf. CO 182]

...The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted; his compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning great is your faithfulness! [Lam 3: 22-23]

If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. [2 Tm 2: 13]

“ O, My Lord and my God, you are the most loving father and the most faithful friend! (...) Oh, who could shout all around the world to say how faithful you are to your friends! [Aut. MP 140]

Whoever experiences God's faithfulness cannot but proclaim: He is faithful and merciful. !

1860

María Antonia to Caixal, she would like to have the competent permission to expose to the public veneration the Blessed Sacrament of the altar in the day of Corpus Christi and its octave, the three days of Carnival, the days of renewal of Vows, Ascension of the Lord, feast of Pentecost. [Cf. EMP 10 bis]

1867

María Antonia to Claret, she thanks him for the Catechism he had made for the whole Kingdom of Spain and for the holy cards, also for the procedures in the Court for the approval of the foundation in Reus. [Cf. CO 258]

Hope against all hope

Behold the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him 'Emmanuel'. [Is 7:14]

Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. [Lk 1:28]

“...We recited the holy Rosary at the lower deck and the crew answered from the upper deck with great devotion and often with tears of tenderness... [Aut. MP 141]

The Virgin Mary is our Mother and companion on the journey.



Hope against all hope

Do not fear I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I strengthen you, I help you, and I uphold you with my victorious right hand. [Is 41:10]

Surely, I wait for the Lord, who bends down to me and hears my cry. [Ps 40:1]

“...I spent all night praying to God (...) and telling him not to let us perish, at least for the love of those creatures who (...) he had entrusted to me; and they, by their love, so willingly had offered themselves to go through the horrors of a stormy sea. All night I spent in this prayer, suddenly fearing a great mayhem on the ship. [Aut. MP 145]

Rest on the certainty and love of our Savior Jesus Christ, intensify your prayer in the difficulty.



1863

María Antonia to Caixal, enjoys the good news of the new Archbishop of Cuba who visited the Community of Santiago and he is happy with the poverty and order in the house. [Cf. EMP 52]

1851

Pius IX and Isabel II signed a Concordat whose article 30 does not envision the recognition of new feminine Institutes with simple vows. In our case, we wanted the foundation of a new Order where contemplation and action would be united. This would be possible only if our order would adhere to an existing order with solemn vows. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 154]

1858

Claret to Caixal, he says that, at the beginning, it is convenient that the sisters appear to be Nuns of the Company of Mary of Tarragona. [Cf. CO 103]

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, on the foundation in Almería and on her unwillingness to write constitutions for each one of the houses. [Cf. EMP 300]

...And when they had been long without food, then Paul stood among them and said, "men, you should have taken my advice and not have set sail from Crete and you would have avoided this disastrous loss, only the ship. I urge you now to keep up your courage; not one of you will be lost. For last night, an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood by me and said: "Do not be afraid, Paul. You are destined to stand before Caesar; and behold for your sake God has granted safety to all who are sailing with you. Therefore keep up your courage men! I trust in God it will turn out as I have been told." [Acts 27: 20-25]

“ The struggle in imminent danger of death lasted 29 days. (...)Looking for a port of refuge against so difficult and fatal incidents in which it seemed we were going to perish at any moment (...) after 24 hours of casting anchor, a violent storm suddenly arose that threw us out of the port with a tremendous risk of the ship being shattered against the rocks. In this port, our Lord taught me experientially his fatherly care towards his creatures... [Aut. MP 151]

In the midst of tribulation, to trust in the presence of God who does not change, is to believe in faith and hope.

Behold the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, upon those who count on his mercy. To deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive through famine. [Ps 33: 18-19]

Magnify the Lord with me; and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, delivered me from all my fears. [Ps 34: 4-5]

“ I had done many acts of abandonment and offering in the arms of the Divine Providence, in the midst of so many dangers... [Aut. MP 152]

The offering of our heart to God leads us to the transformation of our life in praise of his provident and merciful love.

1886

Medical certificates from Dr. Martín Segarra and Dr. Gerardo Vilardell, of Santiago de Cuba describe the sickness of Sr. Esperanza de San Simón, and the grace granted through the intercession of María Antonia París. [Pos. MP Doc. 2c and 2d, p. 302-303]

1851

Claret takes possession
in the Cathedral of
Santiago de Cuba.
[Cf. CO p.12]

1856

Claret is called to Madrid
by the Queen to be
her confessor.
[Cf. CO p.12]

1858

Caixal to Claret, he
transfers to him the
canonical file for the
foundation in Tremp.
[Cf. CO 104]

Now the one that has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a first installment. So, we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. [2 Cor 5: 5-7]

...the one who is righteous by faith will live. [Rom 1: 17]

“ This faith so alive, that God has put in my soul made me rest in the midst of so many trials. And thus, in this occasion, God willed to show that the one who puts all his hope in his infinite power will never be confounded.

[Aut. MP 152]

The believer keeps his faith anchored in the rock of the love of the One who promised to be present until the end.



The generous will be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. [Prv 22: 9]

For according to their means, I can testify, and beyond their means, spontaneously, they begged us insistently for the favor of taking part in the service to the holy ones, and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us through the will of God. [2 Cor 8: 3-5]

“ After we reached the port in less than an hour, all the city knew already the news that 'Rosalia' had entered. Everybody considered it lost by fatal information spread everywhere. (...) I do not know how it could be known because, since the day when the water started to enter, God our Lord who made himself our helper, did not permit us to meet any other ship so that nobody could get us out of the peril but his omnipotent hand. (...) God moved a very devout lady to pity so intensely, that in that very moment she sent her husband to offer us their whole house and personnel...

[Aut. MP 153]

Solidarity and generosity are typical of those who live service and selfless sharing.



1858

Caixal to Claret,
on foundation
procedures in Tremp.
[Cf. CO 105]

1867

María Antonia to Claret, she asks him to insist that Caixal manage, in Rome, the approval of the Constitutions.
[Cf. CO 259]

1868

Claret to María Antonia, on allowing herself to exercise patience, peace, humility... in the works of God and conformity to his holy will.
[Cf. CO 271]

1877

María Antonia, from Carcagente, writes to the Superior of Reus, that it is not convenient to carry out the construction works, given the situation of the Church.
[Cf. EMP 233]

The LORD preceded them, in the daytime by means of a column of cloud to show them the way, and at night by means of a column of fire to give them light. Thus, they could travel both day and night. Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire by night ever left its place in front of the people.

[Ex 13: 21-22]

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you.

[Is 49: 15-16]

“ ... Being unable to disembark in this port because of the storm, this good gentleman sent a recommendation (...) to a friend he had in Lanzarote... [Aut. MP 153]

To be under God's care as his children, is to live with the trust and security to be in the hands of the Father, who never abandons "the work of his hands".

We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father. [1 Thes 1: 2-3]

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. [1 Pt 3: 8]

“ We arrived in the port of Lanzarote on March 29 and we left on May 3. They treated us with the same love and care on the last day as in the first, and they showed an affection so great that they offered me a house and promised to do all the negotiations to found there a monastery, with at least two of us... [Aut. MP 154]

The affection of people and the closeness of God, flourish in a joyful and grateful attitude for the love that is shared.

1827

(Month of March)
In the season of Lent, at the age of 14, María Antonia attends the Mission for young people preached by the Franciscans of Escornalbou in the cathedral of Tarragona, the starting point of her conversion.
[Cf. Hist. I, p.54]

1854

The Deed of Sale of the House of San Germán 72 was signed, putting it in the name of Mother María Antonia París de San Pedro, although the community already lived in it. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 147]

1857

Claret embarks to go from Santiago to Havana on his return trip to Spain; he takes with him the manuscript of María Antonia on the Reform of the Church in two notebooks that he was reading during the journey. [Aut. PC 588] [Cf. Hist. I, p. 714]

It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed. [Dt 31: 8]

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him (...) his mercy is from age to age. [Ps 103: 13.17b]

“ The Lord has given me this grace of being loved extremely by the persons with whom I have lived. Blessed be God our Lord who did so for his glory! O, my heavenly Father, you are a true Father and men do not know You! What more caring father and more compassionate mother could come to care and assist us in all our needs? No one. [Aut. MP 154]

Those who experience in their heart the love of God the Father, seek to please Him in everything and make history with optimism and wisdom. !

1863

Claret to María Antonia, he gives his opinion on the Ceremonial book, the Constitutions and on the foundation of a house in the South of Spain. [Cf. CO 224]

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all his works (...) you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. [Ps 145: 8-9.16]

“ We had not yet anchored in the pier when this individual appeared offering us his help, but we were anchored already in the most Holy Heart of our Father in whom I had placed all my trust. Oh, who could have no other father on earth to possess the immense riches of heaven! [Cf. Aut. MP 155]

The goodness of God gives the human being reasons to receive, welcome, and distribute his blessings with openness. !

1858

Caixal to Claret,
he asks Claret to send
the Constitutions with
the Dossier of the
foundation in Tremp.
[Cf. CO 106]

1862

Claret to Currius,
he sends books and the
Rules for the Sisters that
he wants him to read.
They are paid for and at
the disposal of Mother
María Antonia.
[Cf. CO 215]

Therefore, we who are receiving
the unshakable kingdom should have
gratitude, with which we should offer
worship pleasing to God in reverence
and awe. [Heb 12: 28]

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks, for this
is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

[1 Thes 5: 16-18]

“ God granted me other graces
in this land of Lanzarote. We
attended all the celebrations of the
Holy Week in the church. We went to
confession and received Holy Communion
everyday with great fervor and joy that
our Lord gave me, especially on Palm
Sunday, when our Lord granted me the
great grace of a profound recollection...

[Aut. MP155]

We perceive the presence of God
in our life beyond the difficulties,
in all the graces received from his
generosity and fidelity.

1851

Claret to Caixal,
he approves that María
Antonia and Florentina
go to Santiago de Cuba.
[Cf. CO 5]

1858

Claret to Caixal,
on not requesting a new
dowry from the sisters
that go to found
in Tremp.
[Cf. CO 107]

Of this I became a minister by the gift
of God's grace that was granted me in
accord with the exercise of his power.
To me, the very least of all the holy ones,
this grace was given, to preach to the
Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ
and to bring to light [for all what] is the
plan of the mystery hidden from ages
past in God who created all things.

[Eph 3: 7-9]

Proclaim the word; be persistent
whether it is convenient or
inconvenient; convince, reprimand,
encourage through all patience and
teaching. [2 Tm 4: 2]

“ ...During the time we were
in the house of our good
host many sins usually committed by
ignorance were prevented (...) especially
during the days of Holy week. On this
matter, our Lord thanked me for having
corrected them with so much gentleness
and prudence (God has given me this in
his infinite mercy). [Aut. MP156]

The testimony of those who
announce the Gospel, message
of salvation, peace and wisdom
brings to the world light and hope.

1860

Currius to Claret, he comments that it is convenient to wait in Rome the news about the processing of the Constitutions.

[Cf. CO 183]

1862

Claret to María Antonia, he communicates that the Religious Bookstore will send her the rules printed and bound.

[Cf. CO 216]

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you -oracle of the LORD- plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. [Jer 29: 11-12]

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. [Rom 12: 12]

“ At last, ‘Rosalia’ was restored, and we left this port of Lanzarote where we had received so many graces of God. They fixed the Holy Cross made of the blessed palms in the main mast together with a miraculous medal because it was by miracle that we arrived to that island, and with another miracle, if necessary, we hoped to reach our desired destination... [Aut. MP 157]

Patience is necessary to face hardships in search of our life's longings and goals.



Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.

[Rom 5: 3-5]

“ The memory of the dangers from which God had delivered us widened more and more my hope in God. This hope that the Lord has placed in my heart from my childhood has delivered me from so many dangers...

[Aut. MP 158]

Hope, which gives meaning and fulfillment to life, is an invitation to recreate existence with joy and enthusiasm.



1853

Office of Claret, to the Governor of the province, with the Dossier and the Bases on the necessary foundation for the education of the girls.

[Cf. CO 26]

1858

While in Cuba, María Antonia sends Caixal a copy of the Basic Rules, that were sent to the Government for the foundation in Santiago de Cuba, by which it determines how the novitiate planned in the Villa of Tremp, and others that will be established in the future, will be governed.

[Cf. EMP 6]

1861

María Antonia to Caixal, on the process of the works and situations of the sisters of Tremp.

[Cf. EMP 22]

1859

Dionisio González to Claret, he reports that María Antonia and two other sisters will travel with Curriús to Spain. [Cf. CO 147]

Yours, LORD, are greatness and might, majesty, victory, and splendor. For all in heaven and on earth is yours; yours, LORD, is kingship; you are exalted as head over all. Riches and glory are from you, and you have dominion over all. In your hand are power and might; it is yours to give greatness and strength to all.

[1 Chr 29: 11-12]

“ The more we went into that immense sea of waters, the more my spirit plunged into the immense sea of God. When I looked at myself surrounded by that immensity of water, then I saw myself clearer than in a mirror in the middle of the heart of my God and Lord... [Aut. MP 159]

To contemplate the greatness of God in the silence of our being, prepares us for the active listening of God, of our brethren, of reality, and of creation.

1852

The ship 'Rosalia' had a serious breakdown. Antonia's fortitude and the serenity of all the sisters was great. They supported the entire crew. The prayer to Mary was constant; they felt that favor as proof of her protection over the nascent Congregation. They had to disembark in the Port of Lanzarote where they stayed for a month until the ship was fixed. [Cf. Hist. I, p.124]

The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands. Day unto day pours forth speech; night unto night whispers knowledge. There is no speech, no words; their voice is not heard. A report goes forth through all the earth, their messages, to the ends of the world. He has pitched in them a tent for the sun. [Ps 19: 2-5]

“ ...The immensity of the sea reminded me of the immensity of God and those skies so wide brought to my mind the immense spaces of the glory of the saints... [Aut. MP 159]

God is Mystery, and from this depth of his being, he calls us to happiness, freedom, and to sing life together with all creation.

1858

Claret to Caixal, he sends the Rules that will guide the sisters in Tremp. [Cf. CO 108]

1858

Caixal to Sullá,
on the buying of a piece
of land for the Foundation
of the Convent for
the Sisters in Tremp.
[Cf. CO 109]

1869

Claret separates from
the Court and leaves
Paris for Rome. He is
received by Pius IX.
He dedicates his stay
in Rome to studying,
preaching, visiting
hospitals, teaching the
catechism, writing, and
preparing for the First
Vatican Council. He also
carried out the procedures
for the approval of
the Constitutions.
[Cf. CO p. 13]

Let us hold unwaveringly to our
confession that gives us hope, for he
who made the promise is trustworthy.
We must consider how to rouse one
another to love and good works.

[Heb 10: 23-24]

My strength and my refuge is the
LORD, and he has become my savior.
This is my God, I praise him; the God of
my father, I extol him. [Ex 15: 2]

“ The Lord granted me the grace
that none of these things made
me suffer in view of heaven and hell.
Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ who pays so abundantly the
graces which he himself gives.

[Aut. MP 159]

Strength as an attitude of life
opens us to a continuous and
fruitful search for experiences of
faith and hope animated by the loving
gaze of the Father.

1858

Caixal to Claret,
the building and the
Dossier for the
foundation in Tremp
are ready.
[Cf. CO 110]

1862

María Antonia to Caixal,
she wants to send sisters
to Cuba with the new
archbishop of Santiago de
Cuba to strengthen that
community.
[Cf. CO 217]

There was a wedding in Cana in
Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was
there. Jesus and his disciples were also
invited to the wedding. When the wine
ran short, the mother of Jesus said to
him, “They have no wine”. Jesus said to
her, “Woman, how does your concern
affect me? My hour has not yet come”. His
mother said to the servers, “Do whatever
he tells you”. Now, there were six stone
water jars there for Jewish ceremonial
washings (...) Jesus told them, “Fill the
jars with water (...) Draw some out now
and take it to the headwaiter”. (...) And
when the headwaiter tasted the water
that had become wine, without knowing
where it came from (although the servers
who had drawn the water knew), the
headwaiter called the bridegroom and
said to him, “Everyone serves good wine
first, and then when people have drunk
freely, an inferior one; but you have kept
the good wine until now”. [Jn 2: 1-11]

“ One day a little bit of tide moved
(...) at the moment I invoked
Mary Most Holy (...) And she said to
me, “Good cheer, my daughter,” and she
stretched out her cloak and I saw that he
covered us all and said to me, “Look, so I
walk to the stern of the ship defending
you from the shots of hell”. [Aut. MP 160]

Mary always on the way, goes to
meet and accompany God's plans
of love for humanity.



april

Knowing
God's will,
no difficulty
is offered
to me

†
JUNTARÁN
LA ACCIÓN
CON LA CON
TEMPLACIÓN

VENID EL MAS
NECESARIO
DE NUESTRO
INSTITUTO

†
CATECHISMO

Knowing God's will, no difficulty is offered to me

Knowing what God wants and bringing it to fulfillment is a source of indescribable joy; also of pains, aversions, and misunderstandings.

The arrival in Cuba, the excitement of the beginnings, the start of classes in a precarious school, the expected encounter with Claret, the foundation, the religious profession of María Antonia París, and the first sisters, the community and apostolic life of the first community are described between the events of May 26, 1852 and September 1855.

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds. (...) Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. [Jam 1: 2.12]

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

[1 Pt 1: 6]

“ We landed in Santiago de Cuba on May 26 of the same year of 1852. We were greeted with a lot of applause from all over the city...

[Aut. MP 161]

What a happiness we find in the Lord when we respond to his call and when the people wait with joy and faith.

april
1

1865

Claret to
María Antonia París,
sends the booklet
"Summer afternoons in
the royal site of the Farm
of Segovia" and tells her
that he prepares a book
for the Reform of
the Church.
[Cf. CO 238]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1862

Claret to

María Antonia París,
communicates that the
sisters destined for Cuba
can travel with the new
Archbishop of Santiago.

[Cf. CO 218]

1869

Claret arrives

in Rome from Paris,
for the preparation
and intervention in the
First Vatican Council.
He stays at the convent
of the Mercedarians of

San Adrián.

[San Antonio María

Claret. Autobiography,
p. XLII, Edit. Claretiana,
Buenos Aires 2008]

1882

María Antonia París to
Enrique Gomis,
invites him to visit her
in Reus, passing through
to Rome. She will deliver
a book of the Rules of
the institute.

[Cf. EMP 369]

Job answered: (...) "If we accept goods
from God, are we not going to accept
evil?" [Jb 2: 10]

For his anger lasts only a moment, but
his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may
stay for the night but rejoicing comes in
the morning. [Ps 30: 6]

“ God Our Lord who in all things
makes me taste the sweet and
the bitter, or rather I will say, the bitter
and the sweet, took away my pleasure
of meeting in it the archbishop, who was
the only person I knew in this new world.

[Aut. MP161]

Grief over loneliness can become
a horizon of encounter. "A ship is
safe in the harbor, but ships are
not built for that". [J. Shedd]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus
and Achaicus arrived, because they have
supplied what was lacking from you. For
they refreshed my spirit and yours also.
Such men deserve recognition.

[1 Cor 16: 17]

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters,
to acknowledge those who work hard
among you, who care for you in the Lord
and who admonish you. Hold them in the
highest regard in love because of their
work. Live in peace with each other.

[1 Thes 5: 12-13]

“ ... But, although God took away
from me the just satisfaction of
meeting the Prelate, he arranged for the
Provisor and other collaborators to treat
us very well, making us all their offers,
(...) after (...) they and all the ladies who
had accompanied us from the dock to the
house that they had prepared.

[Aut. MP162]

The awareness of the good received
fills us with gratitude and leads to
the recognition and acceptance of
that good. The heart is responsible for
revealing it.

1861

María Antonia París
to Currius,
about the martyrdom
she feels when someone
is disgusted with her
and the more if they are
the superiors (Caixal).

[Cf. EMP 23]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1879

María Antonia París asks Currius "for God's sake to return that House (of Reus) in the way that I left it with that Holy Peace and intimate union". [Cf. EMP 268]

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

[1 Thes 5: 16-18]

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, always praising you. A day in your court is worth more than a thousand in my house. [Ps 84: 5.11a]

“ ...So, we were very happy, without any fear, but we locked ourselves for modesty in a room that had been prepared for us with five cots, one for each, the only furniture of the house (or room) since there was not a nail on the wall. [Aut. MP 163]

The joy of fulfilling God's will makes His presence felt regardless of the situations faced.



Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your goods, give it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven; then follow me". [Mt 19: 21]

There was no one among them in need because those who owned fields or houses sold them and gave the money to the apostles, who distributed each according to his need. [Acts 4: 34-35]

“ In the living room (...) there were ten chairs, and a table in the dining room. In the kitchen there was a chocolatier and a pan. I was so happy to see the house so unpopulated, that jumping with joy I said: «Long live holy poverty my sisters». This was the accommodations of this our first convent... [Aut. MP 164]

In the simple, laborious and poor life, one experiences the joy of the heart that only possess God.



1859

Dionisio González to Claret, sends the Decree designating the sisters María Antonia París, Josefa Caixal and Gertrudis Barril accompanied by Father Paladio Currius to embark for Spain in order to found in Tremp. [Cf. CO 148]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1858

Claret to Currius,
asks him to accompany
the sisters who travel
to Tremp and leave
organized their
responsibility in the
diocese of Santiago
to Llausas.
[Cf. CO 111]

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

[1 Thes 4: 9-12]

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labour; blessings and prosperity will be yours. [Ps 128: 1-2]

“...We managed with the grace of God, who very soon provided us with work to sustain us (...) God gave us so much grace and strength, that I can say with all truth that the four of us worked more in a year, than thirteen could have in three years. [Aut. MP 165]

Daily work, in poverty and humility, in addition to providing self-sustenance, it allows us to better glimpse God's creative will in the world.

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1868

(Month of April)
One day after receiving
Communion I lamented
with my Lord for the little
devotion I felt in Holy
Communion and our Lord
told me, 'Daughter, it
is me'. This single word
filled me with comfort
and a sweet recollection
of all my powers in the
depths of my soul...
[Diario 102]

When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or when an enemy besieges them in any of their cities, whatever disaster or disease may come, and when a prayer or plea is made by anyone among your people Israel-being aware of the afflictions of their own hearts, and spreading out their hands toward this temple- then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act; deal with everyone according to all they do, since you know their hearts (for you alone know every human heart.

[1 Kgs 8: 37-39]

Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.

[Éx 33: 7]

“The Provisor did us so much favor, that (...) he wanted to give us an oratory at home, with the privileges of being able to celebrate all the Masses you want and receive the holysacraments of confession and communion.

[Aut. MP 166]

How good to have an oratory at home and another in the heart for the meeting alone with Him sharing in dialogue, like a friend with another friend.

1868

(Month of April)

Another day our Lord called me very strongly to prayer and told me at the moment of entering the choir: «Tell him, referring to my director N., who wishes to embrace a more perfect life, that if he removes the enemies of perfection that he desires, he will live quietly like the angels; because once the impediments are removed, the light enters the soul and sweeps it all away.»

[Diario 103]

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven". They said, "Sir, always give us this bread". (...) Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty". [Jn 6:32.34-35]

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" [Jn 6:27-28]

“ The first Mass was celebrated on the day of St. Anthony of Padua. I believe that the Provisor and the Father Confessor did so, to further honor the feast of the archbishop. We received communion with great joy and delight and overflowing my soul especially because through the intercession of my Patron Saint, the maid had communion with us. It had been 30 years since she had not confessed or received the Bread of the Angels... [Aut. MP 167]

The Eucharist, the bread of life, nourishes our walk towards God. This presence makes us capable of contemplating God in our brothers and sisters and creating with Him the fraternity of the Kingdom.

The boat was already at a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid". And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God"... [Mt 14:24-27.32]

As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. [Lk 6:47-48]

“ ...the earthquakes disturbed a little our peace and quiet because of the many people who came to our chapel under the pretext of confessing and hearing Mass (...) it seemed to them that in our house they were free from the earthquakes... [Aut. MP 169]

The faith of a simple heart perceives the presence and protection of God even in circumstances of extreme need. Vulnerability is a meeting place.

1860

Currius a Claret, reports that he remains in Rome awaiting the response to the approval of the Rules.

[Cf. CO 185]

1867

Claret to Maria Antonia Paris, on the help requested to obtain soon the Foundation File in Reus.

[Cf. CO 260]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1859

Claret to Caixal,
sends him annotations
on various topics
including the reform
of the clergy.
[Cf. CO 149]

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

[Ps 46: 1-4]

“...the house was intact after the earthquakes, without falling or even wiggling the paper prints that we had hanging on the wall (...) it was meant for the glory of God, and for this he preserved us... [Aut. MP170]

The profound experience of the God of Life generates feelings of peace, protection, and care as a beloved child.

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” He replied, “Come, and you will see”.

[Jn 1: 38-39]

Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote -Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph”. [Jn 1: 45]

“Because of the disasters (...) from the earthquakes the Archbishop came from the Holy Visit to console the people who were in great distress, and on this occasion came to visit us on the same day he arrived and that was September 3 (...) we had the pleasure of seeing our Prelate, after four months had passed since our arrival in Cuba. One can imagine how much we wanted this visit. [Aut. MP 172]

The true encounter between friends broadens the horizons, broadens the heart and makes the personality grow.

1876

Caixal was released after being imprisoned for a year for supporting Carlism, which was a Spanish political movement of the supporters of Carlos María Isidro, who wanted to become king of Spain after the death of his brother Fernando VII, instead of Fernando's daughter Isabel II. [Cf. Pos. MP p. 155] [Cf. Hist. I, p. 556]

1857

Claret leaves Havana on the ship 'Pizarro' back to Spain.

[cf. Hist. I, p. 246]

En la travesía leyó los "Puntos para la Reforma de la Iglesia" escritos por M. Antonia y preparó sus "Apuntes para conservar la hermosura de la Iglesia".

[cf. María Antonia París, Writings, PR Introduction p. 303-304]

1880

María Antonia París responds to the new Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba about the accusations that have come to him: «... by the mercy of God I have always worked in everything according to the obedience and opinion of my immediate superiors, always looking to them as representatives of God Our Lord, in all foundations and transfers of religious».

[EMP 302]

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still; their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?", he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place". [Lk 24:17-21]

“...the day he came (Claret) to deal with our affairs, the first word was to ask me what did we want to do? Implying (...), that he knew nothing of the project, and as one who says that he did not know why we had come; when he himself had told me years ago not to hesitate, that the Work would be done...

[Aut. MP 174]

When uncertainty, bewilderment and doubt come, the more successful it is to put trust and security in the love and goodness of God.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died". When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died".

[Jn 11:21.32]

Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there". [1 Sm 19:1-2]

“ After finishing drinking this first drink that was the most bitter for me, the detachment of the Archbishop (...) the most painful blow was the suffering of the sad separation from my esteemed companion Sister Florentina who was taken from us by death on the 20th of the same month of September. [Aut. MP 179]

The painful blow of absence makes the heart grow, whenever it passes into the presence of the One who bases all friendship.

1860

Claret to María Antonia París, on the restoration of his health and evangelizing work in the Court and outside it.

[cf. CO 186]

1862

María Antonia París to Caixal, ask the Holy Father to admit poor young people without dowry and with a true vocation.

[cf. CO 219]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1857

How will we try not to delay the time of the approval of the Order any longer? (...) And as I was falling apart in tears Our Lord said to me, «My child, why don't you allow me? Look, my daughter, I want to do great things in you!»
[Diario 1]

1879

María Antonia París to the Superior of Reus, says: «Our Lord wants us humble and that we know ourselves».
[Cf. EMP 269]

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

[Jn 11: 33-36]

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. [Ecc1 6: 14-16]

“ The sorrow that flooded my soul on this very sad occasion can only be understood by those who know the sympathy felt by two hearts that God unites for himself with the same spirit. The pain I felt was equal to the love I had for her, for it was no less than the same love that God composes, and I loved her as part of my soul. So, I felt so much pain in this sad separation, as my soul being taken away from the body!...

[Aut. MP 180]

Friend... it is deeper, its scope is infinite. It begins in this world, culminates with Christ. [Wally Fabré]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

(The shepherds) went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. [Lk 2: 16]

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed". [Lk 1: 46-48]

“ ...on Easter Monday, 1853, our Prelate celebrated Mass in the new church, which was so small that there was no room for more than the celebrant, the sacristan, and three or four other people. It gave me much devotion because its smallness and poverty reminded me of the holy and fortunate cave of Bethlehem. [Aut. MP 188]

Smallness and poverty are the necessary situations where God manifests himself and does, as in Mary, "great things".

1872

(Month of April)
During this month María Antonia París concludes her Diary, which covers 15 years of her life, from April 1857 to April 1872.
[Cf. María Antonia París, Writings p.202-203]

1872

(Month of April)

The Carlist War
(see April 11 explanation)
begins again.

Caixal gives himself
fully to the cause of
Don Carlos María Isidro,
in his claim to the
throne, accepting the
appointment of General
Military Vicar of
his troops.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 556]

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour". And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing". [Lk 4:16-21]

“ On June 7th of the same year the cloister was established, the Archbishop closed the door, and on the 15th of the same month and year, we opened classes. [Aut. MP 189]

The Spirit awakens and encourages us to enter the apostolic paths of the kingdom of God. What are the new peripheries, new languages, and missionary options for today?

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake -for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people". And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

[Mk 1:16-20]

“ On December 13, 1853, we moved into this house, and on January 15, 1854, nine Postulants arrived from Spain to receive our holy habit that I handed on to them on the feast of the purification of the same year.

[Aut. MP 199]

Receiving the blessing of new vocations brings a breath of life: it is the work of God in our missionary path. What attracts and impacts new vocations today?

1978

A group of sailors testify to the impression received upon hearing about María Antonia París, highlighting her example in virtue and Marian experience.

[Pos. Doc. 1 II, p. 300]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1874

(Month of April)

María Antonia París to Rev. José Mañanet, shows him the suffering for the division in the Institute, makes him see how important the unity of the institute is.

[Cf. Pos. MP

Doc. 6, p. 163]

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about". Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?". "My food," said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest?' I tell you, 'open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest'". [Jn 4: 32-35]

“ When the royal permit came from Madrid, for the foundation (...) they began to suspect that the Archbishop could not give me the profession and then the Provisor began to research books and saw that the profession could not really be made without a professed nun, or direct permission from the Pope.

[Aut. MP 203 y 205]

Following Jesus involves the cross, persecution, setbacks. How do you assume in your existence the mystery of pain, failure, the death of yourself and the prominence in your works?

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things (...) For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. [Mt 16: 21-23.25]

“ I told him (Claret) that I saw no other means but to send or write to Rome, and that I had certain hope that it would come very soon. He said to get it out of my head, that it was crazy. (...) The next day, (Paladio Curríus) (...) came on behalf of the Archbishop to read to me the draft of the request which he was thinking to send Rome.

[Aut. MP 206-208]

Our changing world demands discernment that differentiates in faith, what are the plans of men and what are those of God in human history. What level of discernment illuminates your following of Jesus?

1863

Claret to Curríus, notifies the order he has given to make money available to the sisters.

[Cf. CO 225]

1881

María Antonia París to Enrique Gomis, opines on the arrangements and painting of St. Joseph in the chapel of Carcagente and asks for explanation of other matters of the house.

[Cf. EMP 353]

1885

The appointment of María Gertrudis Barril as First Mother of the Institute is ratified by unanimous vote of the sisters of the motherhouse of Santiago de Cuba, according to the will of the Mother Foundress.

[Cf. Hist.I, p. 775]

1879

(Month of April)

The Vicar Capitular
(vacancy of archdiocesan
see) decided to call

María Antonia París who
was in Carcagente to fix
the internal problems of
the convent of Reus.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 608-610]

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive(...) When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah". But some asked, "Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So, there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. [Jn 7:37-44]

Who does not admire in this case, the traces of God in afflicting his creatures? And the sudden change of hearts? Yesterday such a different view, and today it seems that he (Claret) is writing the thoughts of my heart. Blessed be God for so much mercy, who makes such benefits to those who correspond with innumerable ingratitude! [Aut. MP 209]

And God acts: Christ becomes manna that nourishes and water that quenches thirst and speaks to the heart of the believer. It is Love that acts and illuminates the way, despite the darkness.

The windblows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. [Jn 3: 8]

And so, it has happened in this foundation, which without the Archbishop wanting to understand this, nor in that, has understood in everything, by divine impulse (...) I believe that my silence itself gave rise to them asking me, and God made them more willing to advance the Work than I had manifested, because this is the trace of His Divine Majesty in this, His Work. I say this so that those who will come may learn to wait on God against all hope. [Aut. MP 218]

Jesus' obedient existence translated into a total Yes to the will of the Father, which passes through his cross and resurrection. We participate in that obedient filiation to "hope against all hope". Do I identify with that loving obedience?

1850

María Antonia París,
along with nine other
young women, takes up
the religious habit
and begins the Novitiate
in the Company of Mary
in Tarragona, after
9 years of Postulancy.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 79]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1863

Claret to

María Antonia París,
communicates that he
is writing "The Educated
Schoolgirl" as she has
asked him to do.

[Cf. CO 226]

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother..." He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth". Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me". When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. [Mk 10:17-22]

“ They were so humble that the Archbishop have always commanded me to give my opinion (...) and for Holy Obedience, I had to say what I felt and I could not say anything else, but that I wanted to be poor with Christ, more than to have income to distribute...

[Aut. MP 221]

For the radical following of Jesus, fulfillment is not enough. It is necessary a totalizing love in poverty, like that of Jesus, who makes us find the true and total wealth: God.

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands". But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying. [Lk 9:43b-45]

“ ...and I did not resist the positions of my Prelate, as I have already said, that God Our Lord gave me grace to submit in everything. It pierced my soul to see them unable to determine one thing or another and being so displeased... [Aut. MP 223]

If it is not in your hands to change a situation that causes you pain, you can always choose the attitude with which you face that suffering. [V. Frankl]

1901

(Month of April)

Cardinal Casañas informs the community of Tremp, first of all, that Pope Leo XIII approved on March 22, 1901, the Constitutions as independent Convents. Then to everyone else... They had changed the unity so desired by the Founders. Independence made each Community live on its own and languish due to lack of young sisters and communication, especially those of Cuba. [Hist. I, p. 940-942]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1860

God makes María Antonia París understand that he had already taught Caixal the Evangelical Poverty and still he did not understand its scope. [Cf. Diario 60]

To another he said, "Follow me". But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father". But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God". Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home". Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God".

[Lk 9:59-62]

“ This submission that God gave me to the will of my Prelate was the strongest bond by which Our Lord had me bound to the will of my Prelate, so that the opinion of the Provisor would not be followed completely; so, the Archbishop took notes seeming to him that in that way it would be well, and we would be able to move forward. Then came the Provisor, saying that according to laws could not be. [Aut. MP 222]

Faith doesn't make things easy; it makes them possible. The challenge: Learn that God's ways are not ours and trust Him.

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1858

Claret to Caixal, awaits to give course to the foundation document that is still in Urgel for the foundation of the sisters in Tremp. [Cf. CO 112]

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah". He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. [Mk 9:2-9]

“ But our Lord (...) he didn't fail to comfort me. Because in a time of such tribulation he sent me my director (...) But when this good Father of mine [Currius] arrived, it seemed to me that everything was done, because as soon as the confessor assures me of my conscience, I have no sorrow. I was so helped by this good servant of God. Blessed be forever Our Lord Jesus Christ who is pleased to send comfort in time of the most precise need! [Aut. MP 223]

When your heart bursts into praise and blessings to God, despite the contradiction and shadow of the Cross, it is that you authentically seek the Lord, and not just God's comforts.

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1880

María Antonia París from Reus to Enrique Gomis, tells him that it is the opportune time to go and found in Vélez Rubio, Almería. [Cf. EMP 303]

When he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, "Blessed is the belly that carried you and the breasts that raised you!" He replied: "Blessed, rather, those who hear god's Word and fulfill it!" [Lk 11: 27-28]

“ The poor [Curríus] had much to suffer, and fortunately the Archbishop had in him all his trust (...) This foundation weighed so heavily on hell because it was to be this house, similar to the Holy House of Nazareth and its inhabitants. Finally came the Provisor (...) and the Foundation was arranged in the way our Lord had told me. Blessed be he for being the same Truth, for he never fails to keep his word. [Aut. MP 224]

The Word of God is historicized in the gratuitous love of God, incarnate, committed to history. Listening to it, loving it and living it in fidelity is the source of the realization of every human vocation.

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord -as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'- and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'. [Lk 2: 21-24]

“ Thus, I made my long-awaited profession on August 27 of the same year in the hands of my Prelate (Claret). Eight days after my profession we professed my sisters, who with my profession were very fervent, they were nine... [Aut. MP 225 and 227]

The greatness of missionary consecration at the service of the Kingdom consists in entering into the dynamism of the Mystery of Jesus, as a response to the Love of the Father. We communicate what we see, hear and experience in that communion.

1853

Claret to Caixal, explains that in Cuba the proceedings to open the school of the Sisters of the Institute of Teaching are slow by the laws in force. [Cf. CO 27]

1855

Pius IX allows the Foundation of the Institute with a Bull. This Decree arrives in Cuba on July 16 of this year. [Cf. CO p.17]

1858

María Antonia París to Caixal, sends two official letters attaching the Rules and Bases of the Institute. These are the two oldest communications between them that have been preserved. [Cf. CO 113]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

1883

María Antonia París
to Enrique Gomis,
gives him condolences
for the loss of his mother
and informs him of the
opinion of the prior of
San Pedro, Reus,
so that some sisters of
this house go to Cuba
at the request of the
Archbishop of Santiago.
[Cf. EMP 384]

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. [Eph 1:11-12]

“ The favors that God Our Lord made to me on this most happy day, which cost me so many years of desires and sighs... [Aut. MP 226]

The historical signs with which God shows his favor and his mercy to the world require a response of the same love concretized in options of justice and unconditional service to the brothers and sisters.

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them". So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. [Mk 6:7-13]

“ Eight days after my profession, my sisters professed. They were very fervent since my profession; they were nine. [Aut. MP 227]

The disciples were invited to the experience of "Coming and Seeing." Some stayed and followed the Master. Does your consecration also have the vocational force of "Come and See" that summons others?

1962

(Month of April)
During this month
Pilar Antín, Claretian
missionary sister, who
was general secretary
1920-1926, after the
Chapter of the Union,
testifies how she heard
religious who lived with
María Antonia París talk
about the holiness of
Mother Antonia.
[Cf. Pos. MP
Doc. 2 h, p. 305]

april
30

1854

A Royal Order allows the foundation of the first House... "the file had already been dispatched favorably on April 30". [Cf. Hist. I, p. 166]

1857

Mary Most Holy instilled in María Antonia a certain hope that the Queen "would be our greatest protector in this religious house". [Aut. MP 246 and Cf. Journal 2]

1857

Currius to Claret, asks if he took the two notebooks of María Antonia París on the Points for the Renewal. [Cf. CO 57]

Knowing God's will,
no difficulty is offered to me

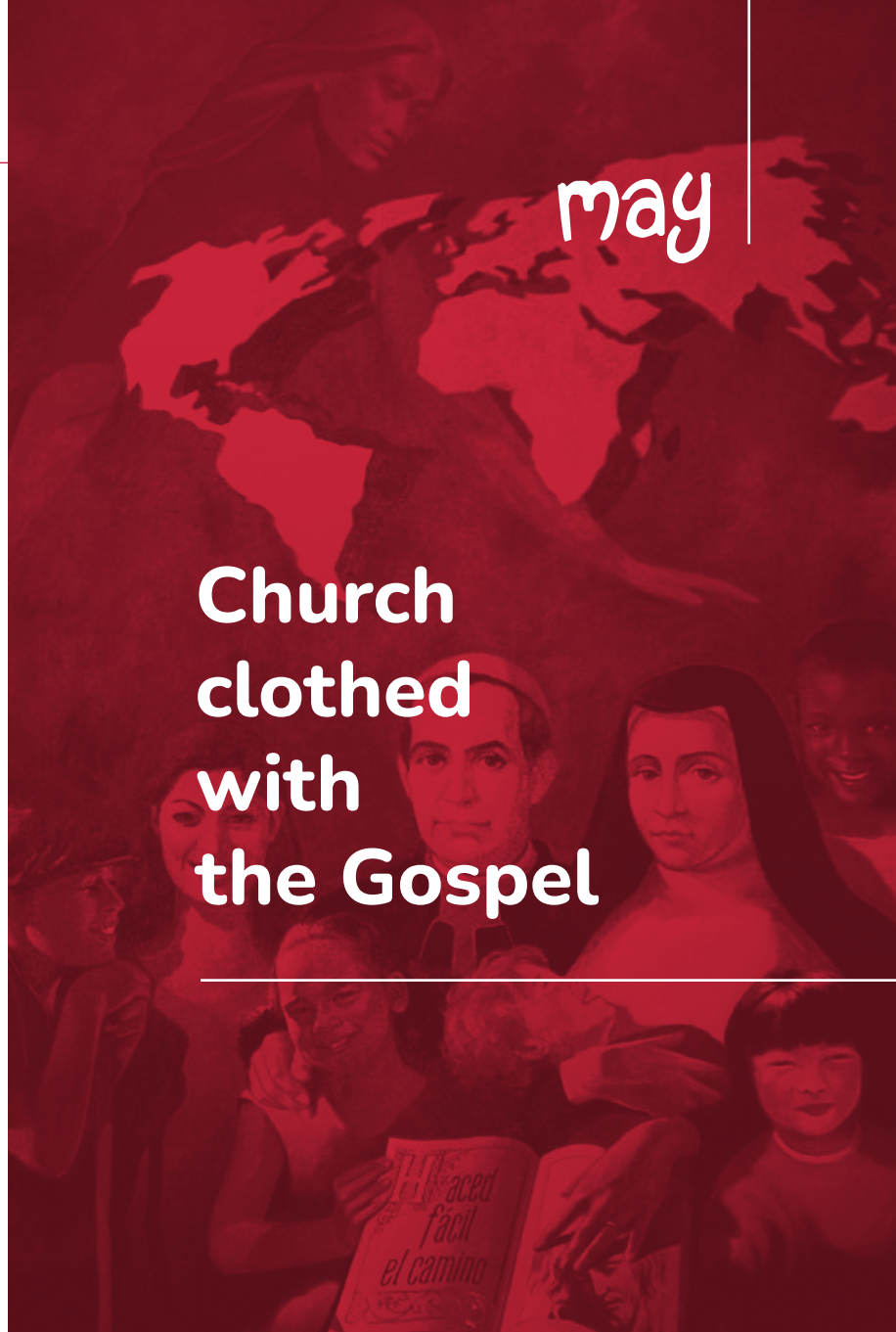
"I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him". They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him". [Jn 8: 26-29]

“ A few days after my profession, I was asked by my Prelate (...) [Claret] to put in order the original points of the Order [Constitutions] that I wrote in 1848, asking me to write them more extensively according to what God Our Lord manifests to be his Most Holy Will. [Aut. MP 228]

To obey is to partake of the paschal mystery of Christ. It is to live the depth of Love for the Father and to historically embody that loving will.

may

Church clothed with the Gospel



1867

Claret encourages María Antonia París in her illness so that, with it, she may become more like Jesus. [cf. CO 262]

Blessed be God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, compassionate Father and God of every comfort. [2 Cor 1: 3]

(...) Which he will bring about at the right time -he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. [1 Tm 6: 15]

“ Considering, my God, that you order me, I will speak so that whoever will read it might magnify your works Lord, and seeing the inadequacy of the instrument, may remember that to establish the Holy Church you chose twelve poor fishermen and now to revitalize it, you deign to give the fundamental plan to another poor creature without comparison more miserable. Blessed be forever your Power and Goodness. [PR1]

Blessed are you, Father, for you sow simplicity and humility in the poor heart. !

1863

Currius to Claret, asks to read the preface to the Constitutions sent to him by María Antonia París and to give him his opinion as well as the approval for the Ritual. [cf. CO 227]

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! [1 Cor 9: 16]

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring the Good News to the poor. [Lk 4: 18]

“ To Our Most Holy Father and bishops God Our Lord asks to conform their lives and customs with those of the Holy Apostles: this will be achieved very easily when adopting as their own the words of the Holy Gospel; for there can be no doubt that the words of God Our Lord will be totally fulfilled, and for them Jesus Christ said them as well as for the Apostles. [PR 6]

The gospel is not just a faith to be felt. The gospel is also faith that is thought, meditated, prayed, and engaged. !

Church clothed with the Gospel

1863

Claret to Currius, agrees to include at the beginning of the Constitutions a preface with the certified attestation of Antonia Paris as first religious of the Institute, expressing that the Rules and Constitutions written by her secretary Gertrudis Barril are the same ones that God inspired her and Claret asked her to write them, and that he later presented to the Congregation of Bishops and Religious in Rome. As for the approval of the Ritual, he feels it corresponds to Caixal, as archbishop of Urgel. [Cf. CO 228]

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. [Mk 3: 24-25]

And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. [1 Tm 5: 8]

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come before him. Worship the LORD in holy splendor. [1 Chr 16: 28-29]

“ The Holy Father must send a circular letter to all the bishops ordering and entreating them to reform their houses and communities; in this letter, he should entrust them the supervision of all the Religious Orders belonging to their dioceses. [PR 9]

God's initiative, passion for Jesus, and his Kingdom, and love of neighbor are the origin of every missionary family and the unique key to conversion.

Church clothed with the Gospel

1860

«I have received great hope by the grace of Mary Most Holy, that Pope Pius IX will give beginning to the great work of the reform of the Church». [Cf. Diario 60]

1866

The Archbishop of Tarragona to Claret, announces that he will support the Foundation in Reus. [Cf. CO 236]

And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. [Rev 21: 14]

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. [2 Tm 1: 1-2]

“ Look at with what haste and zeal the Holy Apostles and the first bishops came together to deal with the sanctification of his flock. So did the Early Fathers and Founders of monastic life... [PR 42]

Being an apostle of Christ implies the permanent search for configuration with Him to be a mission with Him.

1859

Sisters María Antonia París, Gertrudis Barril, and Josefa Caixal leave Cuba for Spain accompanied by Paladio Currius. [Cf. CO p. 17]

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [Jn 14:15]

This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. [Jos 1:8]

“ The Bishops, with all diligence, should look at the Rules of all the Religious that they have in their Diocese, and command their punctual observance with all accuracy. Whether there are houses of men and women religious, Bishops must visit them to get information of how the Rules and Constitutions are kept; this, even if some houses of any Order were not previously subject to the Ordinary.. [PR 37]

The law of God, engraved on the heart, cared for in the intention, cultivated in the relationship, is light and guidance in the following and witness of Jesus in words and deeds.

1883

María Antonia París answers from Reus to three Claretian sisters from Cuba: "Dear daughters I am very glad that you like the Holy Rules so much, and thus try to fulfill them all very well ... in particular I entrust to you, my daughters, the silence that is the guardian of religious houses, and the love of work to imitate Mary Most Holy. Courage then, and every day that you begin, imagine it is the last of your life, and say to yourself: For a day, are you going to cower? [Cf. EMP 385]

Do we then overthrow the Law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the Law. [Rom 3:31]

Now we know that the Law is good, if one uses it legitimately. [1 Tm 1:8]

“ The way to begin this task which appears both difficult and impossible if looked upon with human eyes only is very easy for a Prelate zealous of the Lord's Holy Law; for the Lord himself knows how to accept the barriers of holy prudence; but not that prudence considered holy by not so zealous souls, because they put together or want to put together the world and God and we know for sure that no one can serve two lords. This second prudence is the one that governs my Church and because of this it has become such a horrendous monster that causes terror and fear to the children of the true law, if I do have any in the midst of all this. [PR 14]

The Holy Law, the Word of Life in abundance, is the way of freedom and liberation for those who serve and love God with righteousness of heart.

1856

From His Holiness Pius IX to Claret, he thanks him for the foundation of the two schools in Santiago Cuba, our first school to educate girls and the Jesuit school for boys. [Cf. CO 54]

1856

(Month of May)

María Antonia París to Curriús, gives him the Points for the Reform to review them before delivering them to Claret when he returns from his visit to Puerto Principe. [Hist. I, p. 714]

All who believed were together and had all things in common. [Acts 2: 44]

“ The Bishops must live in community with their relatives (means co-workers), without having among them yours or mine: you must give them everything, everything necessary being very careful that they do not lack anything that religious modesty allows... [PR16]

The bond for and with Christ generates new relationships between brothers and sisters who share life, faith, and material goods.

Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it. [Prv 21: 20]

When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost. [Jn 6: 12]

“ The first thing they must do, (the Prelates) is to reform their lives, houses and communities, that is, they must fix their houses with the most precise and absolutely necessary, (...) without allowing superfluous things that serve vanity more than necessity... [PR15]

Faced with the temptation of corruption, there is no better antidote than austerity; that moral and personal austerity that, in addition, is a way of evangelizing. [Pope Francis]

1860

María Antonia París to Caixal, is glad that the Pope has received the Points for the Reform. She shares her concerns and inner struggles. [Cf. CO 188] This is the oldest preserved letter of Antonia París.

1862

Orberá, appointed provisor and vicar general along with the new archbishop of Santiago embarks in Cádiz for Cuba. Orberá from the first moment was a great admirer, friend and benefactor of the sisters there and through them of María Antonia París and of the entire Institute.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 417 and 419]

1880

María Antonia París from Reus to Enrique Gomis, giving him instructions on various details for the locutory in the construction of Vélez Rubio.

[Cf. EMP 305]

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me".

[Lk 18: 22]

We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth, we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

[2 Cor 4: 2]

“ May His Holiness order the entire College of Cardinals to gather and communicate to them the general renewal of the whole Church, beginning with the same College of Cardinals, followed by the Bishops, renouncing their money earned through interest, and after them, all the Religious Orders. [PR 5]

The renunciation of easy and excessive money, individualism, the desire for greed and openness to moderation and sharing in solidarity will make it possible for God to reign and for men to be brothers.

For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

[Prv 19: 17]

“ Everyone's income from properties and interest from dowries belongs to the poor (deducting exactly what each one needs), and therefore it should be given to them, and among these it could be taken into consideration if there is someone poor who is a relative of one of the associates...

[PR 18]

The follower of Jesus is recognized for his closeness and service to the poor, small, excluded, forgotten. He carries in his heart the words of the Master: "Love one another as I have loved you". [Jn 13: 34-35]

1860

Claret to María Antonia París, asks for guidance to write the book of 'The Educated Schoolgirl' that she has requested.

[Cf. CO 189]

1859


María Antonia París with The Sisters. María Josefa Caixal, María Gertrudis Barril and Fr. Paladio Currius arrived in the Bay of Cadiz at sunset on the frigate "Venus" that came from Puerto Rico.

[Pos. MP p. 85]

...You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. [1 Pt 1: 23]

But He answered and said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God'". [Mt 4: 4]

“ *The Bishops must therefore, after reforming their person and family, devote themselves fully to the distribution of the bread of the Divine Word. This is a point that has his Divine Majesty very displeased and regretful because it is not preached as it should be... [PR 20]*

The Lord gave us His Word to transform us and configure us with Him. 

1859


María Antonia, Josefa Caixal and Gertrudis Barril and Paladio Currius disembark in the Port of Cádiz. The Bishop of Cadiz informed by Claret and Caixal went out to meet them. They were housed in the Convent of the Discalced of the Immaculate Conception. Pleasant memory of their welcome.

[Cf. Pos. MP p. 85; Diario 40]

...proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. [2 Tm 4: 2]

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation". [Mk 16: 15]

“ *What at first glance would seem to the bishop of little importance (strict poverty), is the only weapon with which they must defend the Holy Law that they must preach and understand that, without this, all their work will be fruitless... [PR 19]*

Love the truth, and live in it; preach the truth and defend it because Christ has set us free for the truth. 

1859

Currius to Claret, recounts the arrival and pleasant reception in Cádiz. [Cf. CO 150]

1883

Mother María Antonia from Reus to Silvestre Rongier, was surprised he had not received the story of the foundation of the Institute. She sent it twice through Orberá. [Cf. EMP 390]

Alas for you who get evil gain for your house, setting your nest on high to be safe from the reach of harm! [Hab 2: 9]

I thought it necessary to encourage the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for your promised gift, so that in this way it might be ready as a bountiful gift and not as an extortion. Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [2 Cor 9: 5-6]

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... [Mt 6: 19]

“ They will have Seminaries where the young men who will be ordained should be educated. They should provide God-fearing men, who are also zealous of his Holy Law, as the Teachers of these young men. They should educate them detached of all interests, without there being a distinction of what is yours and mine in all Seminaries; this even when they themselves cover the expenses, and if anyone gives any sign that what he really desires is to be ordained for his own benefit, or to help his family, rather than for God's glory, he should not be ordained. Greed has destroyed religion. Greed has its foot on it and does not allow it to breathe. [PR 22]

It is not poor he who has little, but who covets a lot. Free yourself from this trap by living in service and solidarity.

No one is like you, O LORD, great are you, great and mighty is your name. [Jer 10: 6]

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced! [Ps 126: 3]

“ In view of what I have just written and of that unfathomable sea of the greatness of God, I find myself so terrified in the center of my weaknesses, that I do not know how to continue what I have begun, because all the reasons that my crude speech presents to the pen are nothing more than a very ugly blur that show the end of the works of infinite wisdom where I should magnify them... [PR 81d]

The limits of our logic cannot comprehend the immense greatness of God, but we can humbly ask him to teach us to love him above all things.

1815

(Month of May) María Antonia París receives confirmation in this month when she was not yet two years old; it was the usual norm in Spain then. [Cf. Pos. MP p. 5]

1879

María Antonia París to Fr. Pablo Bofarull, Confessor from Tarragona. He believes it is not convenient to wait for the new archbishop to transfer Fr. Currius; he must leave before her arrival from the house of Reus. [Cf. EMP 272]

1877

María Antonia París to the prioress of Reus, expressing her bewilderment at a matter of communication. The dissent between María Antonia París, the prioress, and Currius is worsening towards an independence of the houses.

[Cf. EMP 240; Hist. I, p. 589 et seq.]

So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me. [Jn 11: 41-42]

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart... [Lk 18:1]

“ It should matter to the bishop having convents of well-ordered nuns; even more, they should buy them, or at all expense sustain them, because the religious are persons dedicated or consecrated markedly to the service of God and who can most unsettled give themselves to prayer, for who will stop the justice of God so irritated against such a corrupt people, but daily prayer, without which all work will be nothing, or like dust thrown into the wind?

[PR 45]

Whatever you ask for in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.

1854

Claret to the Captain General of Cuba, on the File and procedures for the installation of the sisters in Santiago. [Cf. CO 36]

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases. [Lk 9:1]

All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great". [Acts 8:10]

“ These people must be of all confidence, and full of apostolic spirit; fuller of virtues than letters... [PR 10]

Let the virtues of prudence, justice, strength, and temperance flourish in our lives; we will remain faithful to ourselves and to God.

1859

Claret to Caixal, communicates that the sisters of Cuba have arrived with Currius for the foundation in Tremp. [Cf. CO 151]

This is the will of God: that they be holy. [1 Thes 4:3]

Thus, you shall keep my commandments and observe them: I am the LORD. You shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel: I am the LORD; I sanctify you. [Lv 22:31-32]

Just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. [Eph 1:4]

“ Look at with what haste and zeal the Holy Apostles and the first bishops came together to deal with the sanctification of his flock. [PR 42]

Tell these Bishops, to whom I have entrusted my flock, and have chosen for great things, that to banish so much impiety from the earth, the only thing necessary is their sanctification. They will reach this with great perfection, measuring their deeds with those of the Apostles. What His Divine Majesty wants most in these unfortunate final times is the sanctification of the people in charge of his service. [PR 44]

We are sanctified by the grace of conversion and are on a path of growth through the knowledge and love of the Lord.

You cannot serve God and wealth.

[Mt 6:24b]

But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

[1 Tm 6:9]

“ Notice (the Prelates) that he did not say (Jesus) detach your heart from riches and follow me, but: sell your riches or goods, give them to the poor and follow me. [PR 49]

What Jesus criticizes is not the fact of being rich or possessing riches but being attached to them and having a materialistic and superficial vision of life.

1877

(Month of May)

A month of intense progress towards a schism or separation of some of the convents from the Institute. The prioress of Reus gradually moves away from María Antonia París and the rest of the convents. She comes to ask for the original of the Rules that the foundress kept until its final approval. The latter sends her the Rules of 1862. With them she seeks to present the situation to the ecclesiastical authority of Tarragona.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 587-591]

1867

María Antonia París to Claret, begs him to insist that Caixal take steps in Rome for the approval of the Constitutions and if not, that he obtain from Pope Pius IX the permission to profess in the Congregation without dowries.

[cf. EMP 79]

For all that is in the world, the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches, comes not from the father but from the world. [1Jn 2:16]

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. [Ps 24:3b-4]

“ The bishops must put an end to so much neglect if they want to fulfill their duty. The time of such simplicity has passed! It's all vanity and lies in our disgraceful days! [PR 31]

Vanity makes one lose the center and essentials of life; it pushes the heart into the waves of superficiality until it drags it into the existential void. !

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. [Heb 4:12]

...and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. [Eph 3:17]

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work. [2 Tm 3:16-17]

“ If I were a person of authority, it seems to me that in this hour I could not hold the pen to write to all the Fathers and Pastors of the Church communicating to them that ray of evangelical light that with its clarity and strength dispels the thick fog that has so covered their eyes. There is no remedy, the justice of God is not satisfied because the Pastors of his Church do not measure their works with the compass of the Gospel... [PR 54]

With our gaze on Jesus, who is the center, we move like the other end of the compass, according to the inspirations of his Spirit, to the rhythm of the Gospel. !

1858

The civil government of Lleida, in the person of Rev. Joaquín Alonso informs at the request of Caixal about the usefulness of the house of Tremp and his work of teaching for the Villa. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 264-265]

1896

Florentina de San Mateo dies, second successor of María Antonia París, who had convoked the General chapter in Carcagente. She died three days before it began. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 920-921]

The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful -for he cannot deny himself. [2 Tm 2:11-13]

Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good. [1 Pt 4:19]

“ No one is excused by the impossibility, and corruption of customs or of the times, because God, Our Lord, has all the times present and has not given us more than one Holy Gospel... [PR 8]

Our fidelity is the answer to God's faithfulness. [Pope Francis] The Gospel is the light that guides us along that path.



1880

María Antonia París from Reus, to Orberá, tells him: "...I have always wanted only what the Pope wants, and I believe that by the goodness of God no one has greater and more complete adhesion that I have to him; in the Constitutions there is nothing of mine everything is assembled and approved by Fr. Claret and by Caixal, and Dionisio González himself." [Cf. EMP 306]

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. [1 Pt 2: 21]

(Jesus said to his disciples): "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you". [Jn 15:12]

“ To the bishops (...) God asks them to conform their lives and customs with those of the Holy Apostles. Our Lord wants living copies of his Apostles in his Bishops, because they govern the same Church, which they planted, it is necessary to water it with the same waters that they fertilized... [PR 11]

A living copy in the manner of the Lord Jesus and his Gospel: it is our commitment and mission.



1859

María Antonia París to Fr. Dionisio González, writes that María Antonia París, Gertrudis, Josefa, and Currius, were very well received on the arrival in Barcelona by the archbishop. There they met Claret and talked for several days about the foundation. They stayed in the convent of the Augustinian nuns.

[Cf. EPM 7]

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. [Mt 5:17-18]

“ *Our Lord does not ask for anything new in his Church; he only asks all of us what we have promised. Our Divine Redeemer asks us to observe his Holy Law, and he asks this particularly of the Bishops in such a special way, and with so much eagerness that I do not know how to express; he only demands it of them, as if the world's well-being depended on them. [PR12]*

My joy, is to do your will, my God, your law I carry within me, engraved in my innermost being. [Cf. Ps 40]

1896

General Chapter of Carcagente convened by M. Florentina de San Mateo, Prioress of Carcagente, whom the Foundress had appointed as successor and First Mother.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 810-815]

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

[Mt 6:33]

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly.

[Ti 2:11-12]

“ *My spirit is so busy contemplating divine justice that it seems to me I find myself in the plazas in Rome listening to the cadavers from their ruins or buried in their ashes, both the good and the bad, crying out; the latter for their shame and the first for their glory: observance, observance, observance; poverty, poverty, poverty; retreat, retreat, retreat; fidelity, fidelity, fidelity, to the Lord's Holy Law... [PR55]*

Righteousness contains the sum of all virtue; and every righteous man is good. [Theognis]

1852

After a difficult navigation the first five arrived in Santiago de Cuba, they were received "with much applause from the whole city" but they did not have the joy of meeting Archbishop Claret among the crowd, because he was still on his first pastoral visit to the diocese... «...after honoring us more than we deserved, they and all the ladies who accompanied us from the pier until the house they had prepared for us». [Cf. Hist. I, p. 129] [Aut. MP 162]

1862

Claret to Currius, sends two copies of the Rules of the sisters one for him and one for Dionisio González, both were exercising functions in El Escorial. [Cf. CO 220]

And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions!" [Lk 12: 15]

“ Oh greed of mankind, which causes you to tread the most sacred and divine laws! Oh ambitious vanity of the children of the Church! But (...) what sorrow! Those whom you love as the apple of your eye and have entrusted to them the treasures of your power! [PR 50]

Greed dwarfs the soul and encloses it in an absurd selfishness. !

1882

(Month of May) The election of a prioress in the community of Santiago was carried out with the rescript of authorization of the Holy See, (having completed 30 years and five of profession). There were 3 votes. Tie between Encarnación Gual and Florentina de San Jaime. The Archbishop decided in favor of the latter. There was uproar in the convent especially on the part of the Gual Sisters. The new Prioress wrote to María Antonia París placing herself under her orders. She gained the affection of the Community. The Archbishop covered the expenses for building some rooms in the house. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 622]

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -even death on a cross.

[Phil 2: 5-8]

“ Ah! God made man deigns to come down from heaven to teach us the fulfillment of his Most Holy Law by word and deed so that no one would excuse himself in fulfilling it. With what dress does this great Lord, to whom the heavens and the earth belong, present himself to teach us the observance of the Divine Commandments? I don't see any more in the Holy Cave! Fortunate cave, what extreme poverty and a wonder of humility! But as if humility could not walk without poverty, so our Divine Redeemer chooses it as an inseparable companion until death and even beyond death. [PR 67]

Why does humility please God? To find out, look at God Incarnated. !

1858

Currius to Claret, tells him that he and the Sisters believe that it should be he as prelate who carries out the Work that God has entrusted to him and who calls the sisters to found in Tremp. [cf. CO 115]

1867

Claret to María Antonia París, tells her that there is difficulty with the permission for the sisters to travel to found in Reus, but that he made arrangements and believes he will get it and send it as soon as possible. [cf. CO 263]

Know, my God, that you search the heart, and take pleasure in uprightness. [1 Chr 29: 17a]

There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death. [Prov 14: 2]

“ In these notes you will find the means that God Our Lord wants to use to renew the primitive fervor of the first Christians by renewing in their holy church the keeping of the Divine Precepts through their second Apostles, who with purity, righteousness of life and doctrine will convince the wise and ignorant, kingdoms and cities of the truth of the sacred Gospel and will destroy so much ungodliness and corruption of vices that has just flooded the earth at the pace that makes the true children of the Church weep tears felt... [PR 81 f]

The righteous man seeks the truth, discerns God's will and asks for courage to live it in practice. !

1889

Report by M. Gertrudis Barril on the charismatic inspiration of María Antonia París for the Foundation aided by Antonio María Claret. [Pos. MP Doc. 6. 1c, p. 279]

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life". [Jn 8: 12]

I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. [Jn 12: 46]

“ Maybe I have said nonsense, but I have done nothing but fulfill obedience: I do nothing but write down what God writes in my soul. The world is lost because the great men, placed in the midst of the light, do not see, do not know the truth and that is why the world is full of darkness. [PR 59]

There has been so much abundance of light that it has poured into my soul... [PR 81 f]

The Light of Christ is the divine force that gives life to all things. It shines! !

1861

María Antonia París
to Caixal,
communicates the
distribution of positions
and offices of the
community in Tremp.
[Cf. EMP 26]

1874

Fr. Mañanet to
María Antonia París,
clarifying that he was
not the one who sowed
discord in Tremp.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 549]

The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay', but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. [2 Pt 3: 9]

For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God. [1 Thes 1: 9]

“ I saw in God Our Lord the great meekness with which he awaits the conversion of these beloved sons. [PR 81 b]

This God! This Father of mercies! This most meek Heart that is now open and impatient waiting and desiring the conversion of all sinners. [PR 81 c]

Conversion is grace that we ask God with confidence. If we open ourselves to its beauty, the fleeting and superficial life loses its attraction.

1854

From the Captain General of Cuba to Claret, he informs him that he will remind the government of Spain of the Resolution of the File for the Foundation of the Institute in Cuba. [Cf. CO 37]

1857

Claret to Caixal, talks about his appointment as confessor of the Queen and the project of the reform of the Church initiated in Cuba with María Antonia París. He says that he will be able, perhaps, as God wills, to begin it on the peninsula. [Cf. CO 58]

1859

María Antonia París from Barcelona to Dionisio González, communicates the great joy of meeting Claret and receiving his blessing. [Cf. CO 152]

1861

María Antonia París receives the opinion of the Holy Founder to give each nun a printed copy of the Rules. [R 1862 p. 646]

In those days Mary set out and went with haste (...) she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth (...) And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [Lk 1: 39-45]

“ ... I was now in Santiago de Cuba where God deigned to manifest to me how he wanted the general reform of the whole Church, when my confessor [Currius] ordered me to write the fundamental points of the reform while in prayer the Blessed Mother told me «write my daughter and I want you to start today that I will help you; write as obedience commands you and give it to your Prelate [Claret] (...) my purpose is to declare the means that God used so that his eternal order would be fulfilled, that is, that all these notes should begin and conclude on the day of Mary Most Holy, and be concluded on the day of the Most Pure Conception, to manifest that this Order of Apostles is all in honor and glory of the Immaculate Conception... [Diario 32b]

Mary, you who visit, guide and point the way, accompany our steps towards the Kingdom, towards your Son Jesus.

A red-tinted illustration depicting a religious scene. In the center, a priest in dark vestments points his right hand towards a group of people on the left. To his right, a nun in a black habit holds an open book with the Spanish text "LLEVAR EL EVANGELIO A TODOS LOS PUEBLOS" (To carry the Gospel to all peoples). The group on the left includes a man holding a large wooden cross, a woman, and several children. The background shows an arched doorway.

june

**One
family,
one
heart**

1857

María Antonia París asks Claret for news about the future House of Formation in Spain. [Cf. CO 59]

The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The LORD is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all. [Ps 34:16.18-19]

“ In coming nuns and you with them, I wait to answer (...) for first I will write to Mr. Caixal, Bishop of Urgel to see what we will solve, because there are many difficulties that arise and the obstacles are not small... [Claret to Curríus. EC-I 524]

The difficulties of life are opportunities to experience the presence of God who does not abandon or move. !

Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good. [1 Pt 4:19]

“ Regarding the nuns, you can't imagine all the steps and diligences I have had to take. The Ministry of Grace and Justice has given me some hope. Oh Curríus, what sacrifices I have to make for these nuns! Preaching, confessing, etc. I like that, but all the dealings of establishing convents, no, I can't. And yet I'm doing it! [Claret a Curríus. EC-I 553]

Self-denial for love exalts the spirit, makes it come out of itself, opens horizons because I no longer live, it is CHRIST who lives in me. !

1852

Claret to María Antonia París, writes to her from Manzanillo where he is making the pastoral visit and thanks God for her arrival in Santiago, Cuba. [Cf. CO 11]

1857

Currius to Claret, on the beginning of procedures for the transfer of three sisters to Spain. [Cf. CO 60]

1859

Claret to Caixal, informs him that Currius will accompany the sisters to Tremp. [Cf. CO 153]

1859

Currius to
Dionisio González,
tells him about the trip of
the three Sisters to Spain.
[Cf. CO 154]

1877

María Antonia París to
the Superior of Reus,
expresses her sorrow for
the negative change
she notices in her.
[Cf. EMP 243]

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

[Ps 127: 2]

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides for ever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time on and for evermore. [Ps 125: 1-2]

“ ... from your letter I see that there is the foundation of the Peninsula. Thank God and the care of your Excellency, there is the permission which is the main thing. As for the place do not worry (...) let us have more confidence in God and nothing will be lacking, in his hands are the hearts of all men to move them according to his will, without which man wears up in vain.

[M^a Antonia París to Claret, EMP 5]

Acceptance of reality and trust in God will calm the spirit and introduce silence. It is a humble step to wisdom.



1857

Claret to Currius,
on the difficulties of the
foundation in Spain.
[Cf. CO 61]

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! [Rom 10: 14-15]

“ ...the nuns of the convent founded in this city (Santiago de Cuba) by the apostolic zeal of our Prelate; Sister María Antonia París of San Pedro, Prioress; Sister María Josefa Caixal of San Pablo; and Sister María Gertrudis Barril of San Felipe (...) have the necessary permits from the ecclesiastical and civil authority to leave the cloister and pass to the Villa de Tremp. [EPCL-II 492. Credentials of Dionisio González]

New horizons, an adventure into the unknown, because the Kingdom is urgent, because life cries out.



Lined writing area for notes.

1856

(Month of June)

Four aspirants arrived from Spain to Santiago de Cuba. One of them was Teresa Jordá, niece of María Antonia París.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 206]

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. What are human beings that you are mindful of them mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honour? [Ps 8: 2.4-5]

“ A brother of Mother Gertrudis came to receive us (Barcelona) (...) gave notice to the Palace, where we came to know that our Archbishop (Claret) had arrived the day before. They made us eat in their company (...) and later they accompanied us to this convent (Augustinian sisters)... [Cf. María Antonia París to D. Gonzalez, EMP 7]

God comes to us with his attention and tenderness that provoke gratitude and amazement of heart. Do you perceive it this way?

All the believers were one in heart and mind. [Acts 4: 32a]

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”. Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off (...) And they had John also to assist them. [Acts 13: 2-5 b]

“ Several times Claret came to confer with our Rvd. Mother (París) on the affairs of our Holy Institute and other things because he had a lot of confidence in her.. [Hist. I, Report of M. Gertrudis B., p. 279]

Walking with others having a common project is a sign of greatness of heart and awareness of the vocation to which we are called: universal communion.

1853

The Novitiate begins with the four young women who arrived in Santiago de Cuba (Florentina Sangler had died). After the Eucharist, Archbishop Claret blesses their habit and they change their name: María Antonia París de San Pedro; María Josefa de San Pablo; María Rosa de San Juan; María Encarnación de los Santos Simón y Judas. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 144-145]

1858

Claret tells Currius that three sisters must come to found in Spain. [Cf. CO 116]

1859

María Antonia París, Josefa Caixal, Gertrudis Barril and Currius leave Barcelona by train to Martorell; from there by stagecoach to Igualada; by horse-drawn carriage to Agramunt; by donkey to Artesa and Tremp. [Hist. I, p. 280-81]

1882

María Antonia París from Reus, to the new prioress of Santiago de Cuba, is pleased with her appointment and that she has written to her. [Cf. EMP 371]

He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do". And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. [Mk 1:38-39]

“ On June 8, in the company of Currius, they left by train for Martorell; from there to Igualada where they arrived at 10 o'clock at night. From there by car with two horses to Agramunt... [Cf. Hist. I, p. 280]

Embraced by the Spirit, they walked the missionary paths proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom. The witness speaks with life.

Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life". [Lk 18:28-30]

For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors. [1 Chr 29:15a]

“ On the 10th in the afternoon (...) we left on a donkey and went to sleep at Artesa. From here we left at three thirty in the morning and walking at a donkey pace (...) we arrived at Tremp at seven o'clock in the afternoon. [Currius to D. González, Cf. EPC, VOL II, p. 610-611, 29/6/1859]

The arduousness of life does not hinder the surrender of a heart in love with Christ Jesus.

1856

Currius, to Claret, sends the "Points for the Reform" written by María Antonia París, after studying them. [Aut. MP Introd. p. 43]

1860

Currius to Claret, waits for the good news of the advance of the Constitutions and plans his return trip from Rome to visit him in Madrid. [Cf. CO 191]

1868

María Antonia París to the Archbishop of Tarragona, invites him to bless the finished part of the building of Reus. [Cf. CO 272]

1882

María Antonia París to Enrique Gomís, acknowledges receipt of the note sent by him along with the letter from Currius. She wishes him to be the angel of peace who would persuade Currius of the evils he had caused to the Institute. [Cf. EMP 372]

1854

Captain General Marquis of Pezuela to Claret, transmits the Royal Order for the foundation in Santiago de Cuba. [cf. CO 38]

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying...

[Lk 10: 38-39]

“ ...When the five travelers (...) reached the slope that gives entrance to the Villa, the ringing of bells began and the cheers of the crowd gathered to receive the nuns (...) The Bishop of the Diocese, Dr. Caixal and the municipal officers in full...

[Hist. I, p. 280-281]

The cheerful welcome is a glimmer of hospitality that makes the other feel in their place, at home. Be generous to those who knock on the door of your heart.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

[Ps 100: 4-5]

“ Aftersinging a solemn Te Deum in the parish, they visited the little house they had prepared for them, but that first night in Tremp was spent in the house of Doña Manuela Doria de Gallart... [Hist. I, p. 281]

If the only prayer he said in his whole life was: Thank you! It would be enough. [Master Eckhart T.]

1854

Claret to Captain General, replies grateful for the approval and on the great good that the new Congregation will do to the girls. [cf. CO 39]

1879

Currius was called by the Vicar Capitular to Tarragona and received the communication that, in order to avoid greater conflicts between the convent of Reus and its chaplain, they saw the need to remove him from the convent. [cf. Hist. I, p. 611]

1880

María Antonia París to Enrique Gomis, writes from Reus about the delay in the foundation permit in Vélez Rubio. [cf. EMP 307]

1869

Pius IX gives the Decree of Praise of the Institute as a Congregation of simple vows, under the authority of a Superior General taking into account the observations of Caixal and the Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba. This Decree completely misunderstood the charismatic nature of the Institute. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 895-898]

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go". And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head". To another he said, "Follow me". But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father".

[Lk 9: 57-59]

“ On Pentecost Sunday, Dr. Caixal celebrated Holy Mass in the house where they were staying; and they moved to the provisional house which they had bought together with the orchard in which the convent was planned to be built. [Hist. I, p. 281]

The itinerancy of culture, customs, homeland, prejudices, comfort zone and the self, are key to living the mission in an attitude of permanent going out.

Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will settle the desolate towns. [Is 54: 2-3]

“ On June 13, the day of St. Anthony of Padua, Dr. Caixal blessed them in the little chapel, celebrated Mass, reserved the Blessed Sacrament, and finally established the cloister. Thus, was founded the second house of the Institute. [Hist. I, p. 281]

Missionary expansion arises from hearts that burn with charity for Christ and in the awareness that each one is a mission so that the Gospel may reach the ends of the earth.

1852

The first Eucharist is celebrated in the oratory of the Community in Callejón del Carmen, near the Church of the same name, in Santiago de Cuba. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 132]

1859

The first house of the Congregation in Spain is founded in Tremp (Lleida). [Cf. Hist. I, p. 281]

1879

In the afternoon Currius leaves Reus, leaving the chaplaincy of the community, heading to Barcelona. He will arrive at his village, Ridaura, Girona on the 26th. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 611]

1883

María Antonia París to Enrique Gomis, writes from Reus "...in every foundation, everything is to start, which is then perfected", referring to the possibility of a foundation in the city of Valencia. [EMP 392]

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. [Rev 12:1]

“ Everything was done with great solemnity, the function lasted from seven in the morning until one in the afternoon. Let us thank God for seeing one more Church established, and consecrated the first Church in honor of the Immaculate Conception. [María Antonia París to Claret, about the Consecration of the Chapel of the Religious in Tremp, EMP 14]

Mary Immaculate, star of hope and consolation, a sign that the good, even in the hidden and simple way, will be light in the lives of her pilgriming children.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common.

[Acts 2: 42-44]

“ I am very glad that the number of that community is increasing; form them all in a true spirit of humility, poverty, charity and zeal for the greater glory of God and good of souls. [Claret to María Antonia París, CO 221]

Disciples capable of loving and serving, parents, brothers, companions on the way need Jesus to extend his Kingdom.

1853

The educational activity begins in the Callejón del Carmen. There was a great demand. This will later lead to the purchase of the house and adjoining plot on San Germán Street for convent and school. Claret helps with the purchase of the house and plot. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 146-149]

1857

Claret to Caixal, on requirements for the trip of the sisters of Cuba, to open a Novitiate in Spain. [Cf. CO 62]

1859

Claret to Currius,
asks to accompany the
sisters on the journey
from Cuba.
[Cf. CO 155]

**Train children in the right way, and
when old, they will not stray.**

[Prov 22: 6]

“ I see that in our classes there
is an education or instruction
so careful that it is not given in many
schools (...) As for embroidery, all kinds
of things are taught (...) as for writing,
reading, writing, math, grammar, and
French are taught and even the interns
are taught drawing and making flowers,
and wax fruits... [María Antonia París to
Caixal, EMP 51]

To educate integrally is to
accompany life, providing tools
for knowledge and improvement,
motivating the development of the
whole person.

1859

Currius to Claret,
tells him about the arrival
of the sisters in Tremp
for the foundation,
the solemn reception by
the people, the civil and
ecclesiastical authorities.
[Cf. CO 156]

**Whatever your task, put yourselves
into it, as done for the Lord and not for
your masters. [Col 3: 23]**

“ ...closing the door and handing
over the keys to Rvd. María
Antonia París (...) the foundation of
the convent of Our Lady and Teaching
in the present city of Reus was finished
and completed... [Chronicle of the house
of Reus, p. 4, July 14, 1867]

At the beginning of a new work, it is
an opportune time to reflect, to see
perspectives and challenges about
the future, which requires responding
with eyes of faith and a gaze full of hope.

1870

Claret to
María Antonia París,
tells her of his speech at
the First Vatican Council.
He asks that the Patron
Saints (St. Peter and St.
Anthony) achieve what
men have not been able
to achieve: the approval
of the Constitutions.
[Cf. CO 294]

1879

The Vicar Capitular informs the Superior of Reus that when María Antonia París arrives in the convent, she and the Sub-prioress are immediately dismissed from their positions, and must hand over to her the keys and government of the Convent. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 611]

1885

Relating on the first grace received through the intercession of María Antonia París to Enrique Gomis, who says that she died in holiness. [Pos. MP Doc. 2 a, p. 301]

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. [Mt 5:16]

But first the Good News must be announced in all nations. [Mk 13:10]

“ In the new house there was no appropriate place for classes (...) they set up a class for 30 girls in the dining room of the community (...) on November 16 (1867) the nuns were able to go out to the garden (...) that same day it was possible to inaugurate the part destined for the classes... [Hist. I, p.366-368]

Whoever has the Gospel in his heart reflects it in everything he does, and transforms the lives of those who receive it as a service of love.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. [Jn 15:16]

“ The doors of the convent of Reus began to open very soon to young women eager to share their same kind of life. Before the month of their arrival the first two aspirants were admitted... [Hist. I, p.372]

From the witness of living as one family and one heart comes fruits: fraternity, communion, welcome, and vocations.

1879

María Antonia París, accompanied by Enrique Gomis, chaplain of Carcagente, Gertrudis Barril and another religious, arrives at the convent of Reus to solve conflicts in that community. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 611]

1859

Claret to Currius, laments that he has no news of him or of the sisters newly arrived in Tremp after having said goodbye in Barcelona fifteen days earlier. [Cf. CO 157]

1867

María Antonia París asks Claret to make arrangements with Caixal to arrange in Rome the approval of the Constitutions. [Cf. EMP 79]

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" [Is 52:7]

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. [Mt 9:35]

“ They happily arrived in Baracoa on August 31 (1875) (...) People went out to the port to welcome them (...) then the procession to the parish church where Orberá (...) sang a Te Deum, then the same procession accompanied the nuns to the convent located on the shores of the beach. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 449]

Concern for the Kingdom leads to making decisions with a merciful and compassionate heart, working and taking advantage of every opportunity.

My child, from your youth choose discipline, and when you have grey hair you will still find wisdom. [Eccl 6:18]

When his parents saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety". He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. [Lk 2:48-51]

“ On September 15, classes opened. Such was the inflow of girls to the classrooms of the convent (...) that the City Council (of Baracoa) agreed in 1877 to close the municipal school... [Hist. I, p. 450]

The value of education is very important for growth in freedom, autonomy, creativity, and the search for new horizons.

1854

The Captain General of Cuba to Claret, expresses his interest in improving the education of girls. [Cf. CO 40]

1859

Claret to Currius, expresses his joy at receiving news from him and María Antonia París. [Cf. CO 158]

1865

Claret to María Antonia París, on the request for the foundation of a convent in Reus. [Cf. CO 239]

1867

Claret to María Antonia París, communicates the license of the Nuncio to found in Reus. [Cf. CO 264]

1875

María Antonia to Francisco García, canon of Valencia, asks him to favorably inform the newly arrived Nuncio to obtain the licenses for some sisters to be able to leave the cloister of Reus and go to Carcagente. [Cf. EMP 159]

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

[Acts 2: 42]

“ With the soul overflowing with joy (...) I dare to write to you (...) today that I know how much he has done for us in the foundation that is being prepared in the Villa de Carcagente (...) ours (community) has common life in all the houses of the order, we practice perfect poverty as far as human weakness allows (...) the Chapel (if you give your permission) must be enabled with a door to the street, on the same site where classes for girls will be built so that the people can hear Mass... [María Antonia París to Card. Barrio, Archbishop of Valencia, EMP 154]

In apostolic community at the service of the Kingdom, the search for fraternity and fruitful self-giving are always current and fascinating.

1883

María Antonia París to Enrique Gomis, on the possible purchase of a farm in Grao (Valencia). She explains that at the moment, she cannot send sisters to Cuba unless they first profess in Reus. [Cf. EMP 393]

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. [Jn 15: 8]

“ On September 2nd, 1875 the sisters arrived in Carcagente, after the blessing of the first stone of the church on the 12th (...) the next day -13- we led them to their rooms inside (...) with which we consider the foundation of the convent of the Apostolic Institute of Our Lady of the Immaculate Virgin and Teaching to be initiated. [Hist. I, p. 471-475]

“By their fruits they will know them”: this is how communities give life, grow, tune with the dreams, values and projects of the Kingdom and mission.

1876

María Antonia París to Currius, sends him a document to ask the Pronuncio for permission for the sisters from Reus to move to Carcagente. [Cf. EMP 184]

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. [Rom 8: 28]

Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble. [2 Pt 1: 10]

“ There was no shortage of vocations (...) Qualified (...) In this way Carcagente was able to become very soon a center of expansion. The foundation of Vélez Rubio will have its starting point here (...) and reinforcements for Santiago de Cuba and Baracoa. The seven novices, for now, are happy, we will see the perseverance (...) In Carcagente we have a good novice mistress of all my confidence.

[Hist. I, p. 501-502]

To open horizons of hope by making the same path easy for our brothers and sisters is to share the gift and the mission.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me”. [Is 6: 8]

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word”. Then the angel departed from her. [Lk 1: 38]

“ ...prepare the spirits of the nuns both those who have to go (to Vélez Rubio) and those who have to stay in it (Carcagente), so that all become docile instruments in the hands of Our Lord for what our Divine Majesty may want from each one.. [María Antonia París to Gomis, EMP 394]

To be docile instruments in silence, listening to the One who calls, is to build history and leave traces in life.

1882

María Antonia París to Enrique Gomis, expresses her desire to be in Rome to review what has been done with the Constitutions; fears that Orberá has made changes that are not in accordance with the spirit of the Institute. [Cf. EMP 373]

1858

«I felt sorrows of death
for the situation of
the Church.»

[Diario 18]

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”. Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

[Acts 13: 2-3]

“ As the First Mother of this Religious Institute (...) I have kindly arranged that you along with other sisters (...) as Superior of them all, until I arrange otherwise, and accompanied (...) by Rev. Enrique Gomis, move from that house of Carcagente to the one that is already prepared in Vélez Rubio. [Official letter of María Antonia París to the Mother Superior of Velez Rubio, September 20, 1880. Hist. I, p. 655]

To serve evangelically we need the help of prayerful listening to the Word, discernment and trust in God who sends us to sow in his fields.

1858

María Antonia París feels
sadness of death for the
calamities of the Church.
[Cf. Diario 19]

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

[2 Cor 3:18]

“ At four o'clock in the afternoon of September 24 (1880) the explosion of the rockets announced to the people of Velez Rubio that the entourage of the nuns was nearby. Once the greetings were exchanged, the nuns surrounded by the people went to the parish church, concluded with the singing of the Te Deum and then organized the procession to lead the mothers to the convent; they were served a hearty meal. The brass band played selected pieces. For eight days the people were allowed to visit the interior dependencies of the convent.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 650-652]

Those who are attentive to the Spirit perceive the signs of times as coming from God and are capable of transforming reality.

1813

Born in Vallmoll (Tarragona, Spain) Antonia París Riera, daughter of Francisco, a farmer, who had died in the month of May, and Teresa who had arrived in Vallmoll fleeing from Tarragona because of the attacks of Napoleon's French troops in that city. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 46 and CO p.16]

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob he who formed you, O Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you". [Is 43: 1.3.4b.5]

“ María Antonia París y Riera was born in Vallmoll, in the “Plana” of Tarragona 15 km from the capital, on June 28, 1813. Even today Vallmoll is a small village, south of the city of Valls, where the neighbors know each other and, in whose hearts, María Antonia París begins to occupy an important place, a mixture of amazement and pride. [Cf. Pos. MP Chapter I, p. 2]

God chooses his servants from among his people to be light and salt by the witness of their lives and to carry his message of love and salvation beyond borders.

1813

María Antonia París is baptized in the Parish Church of Vallmoll (Tarragona). This date of her entry into the Church on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul will be for her a symbol of her deep ecclesial spirituality. A few days later, after the danger had passed, her mother returns with her two daughters to her house in the Plaza de los Cedazos in Tarragona. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 46]

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. [Ti 3: 4-7]

“ Our Lord told me more than once, that His Divine Majesty arranged from eternity for me to enter his Church on the day of the Apostle St. Peter, to signify that the second stone had been born in his Church by which the peace of the Church was to be announced at the second coming of our beloved Redeemer.. [RN I Serie, 14]

Baptism is a seed full of life and promise; the life of the Spirit that takes root and bears fruit in a land nourished by faith.

1859

Currius to the provisor of Cuba Dionisio González, recounts the arrival of the sisters in Trempe and the solemn reception. [Cf. CO 159]

June
30

1855

Claret to Caixal, recounts his visit and preaching to the sisters. They are fervent and animated.

[Cf. CO 47]

1883

María Antonia París from Reus to Enrique Gomis, about the professions made by the three sisters who are going to travel to Cuba and sends the request for approval to the Archbishop of Valencia.

[Cf. EMP 394]

One family, one heart

Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers.

[Acts 15: 22]

“ Despite the young women who were professing, they were not enough to attend to the growing apostolate of teaching, so the Prioress went to the Mother Foundress in demand of help. The Foundress welcomed the request by assigning some religious of Carcagente... [Hist. I, p. 659]

In fraternal life, service, and the sharing of goods as a sign and desire to achieve the proposed goals, are an expression of love and a fine harmony in living. !

July

New
Apostles,
is what
the Lord Wants

New Apostles, is what the Lord Wants

The history of spirituality has abundant examples of people who, guided by the love for Christ and docile to the Spirit, come together in a deep communion that goes beyond flesh and blood, undertake wonderful things, because this is what love indicates.

Claret and París were united by a deep spiritual friendship that was forged and grew over time, with the knowledge of each other, with the sharing of the passion for the proclamation of the Gospel, regardless of risks, but above all by the spontaneous bond that occurs between souls chosen and guided by the same Spirit, committed to God, to others, for a single purpose: that God may be known and loved by all creatures.

This relationship is discovered in their writings and especially in the epistolary correspondence where in a living, fresh, free way, they reveal the fibers of their spirits.

These letters date between 1852 and 1870, the year Claret died.

New Apostles,
is what the Lord Wants

july
1

And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way. [Eph 1: 22]

“ One night while praying (...) pleading to our Lord that by the merits of His Passion and death to have mercy on the necessities of His church which at that time were many, our Lord told me and pointing at Mgr. Claret as if I saw him between our Lord and me. “This, my daughter, is the apostolic person whom you have asked me for so many years and with so many tears”. His Divine Majesty showed me the grace He poured on that holy soul for the preaching of the gospel, and our Lord told me that there was no other remedy for the peace of the church... [Aut.MP19]

The prayer of petition expresses a child's trust with his father. In our relationship with God, are we insistent and passionate?

1857

Claret to Currius, he mentions the procedures with Caixal about the foundation in Tremp with the sisters who will come from Cuba. [Cf. CO 63]

1862

María Antonia to Caixal, tells him about the beginning of the novitiate of the first young woman of Tremp. [Cf. EMP 43]

1866

Claret to María Antonia, refers to the great trial that they have just passed in Madrid because of the revolutionaries. [Cf. CO 249]

1866

Claret to María Antonia, he informs her of having processed with the Minister of Grace and Justice the Foundation in Reus. [Cf. CO 250]

1879

Letter of the sisters of Tremp to the Apostolic Visitor in a very painful tone and opposed to María Antonia as First Mother. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 566-567]

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, on the license to found Vélez Rubio requested by Orberá to the Nuncio. [Cf. EMP 308]

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and the news about Him spread throughout the surrounding region. He taught in their synagogues and was glorified by everyone.

[Lk 4:14-15]

“ My second apostles must be a living copy of the first Apostles, in their name as in their work. With the torch of the Gospel in one hand they must enlighten the most wise and ignorant men. God told this to Fr. Claret and to the Order. [Aut. MP 31]

To be an apostle is to be God's vocabulary; living words to give voice to God's goodness with our own goodness; to his compassion with our tenderness; to his fidelity with our love. !

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [2 Cor 9: 8]

“ In the morning, on the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, after communion our Lord told me that Fr. Claret together with his sons in the order of the Apostles of Jesus Christ, will be the bright star that with their clear and apostolic doctrine will dispel the ignorance of the present century that those who are blinder, I think call century of the enlightenment. [Aut. MP 32]

His Divine Majesty made me understand so many and remarkable things about this holy soul (refers to Claret), that left as if I was out of myself. I think I lost the bodily senses, while the powers of the soul were occupied in admiring what the grace of God can do in a soul. [Aut. MP 33]

Father, may our way of acting reflect love even in the little things. !

1859

(Month of July)
The works of the new convent in Tremp began with the most urgent: the Church, the classes, and the Novitiate. [Cf. Pos. MP p. 101]

1883

Maria Antonia to
Rev. Juan Peyró,
asks him to write
power of attorney to
be represented by Rev.
Antonio Pujol y Torroja in
a sale of a farm
in Cambrils.
[Cf. EMP 395]

...I will place my law within them and
write it upon their hearts; I will be their
God, and they shall be my people.

[Jr 31: 33b]

“ I relate these things, so you take
charge of all that is foundation
stuff. What matters is that you, and all
the young women who enter are all
good religious, the approval will come
when God disposes better. I know from
experience that some Institutes, when
they waited for the approval were fervent
and after obtaining approval, I had to
intervene in quite unpleasant things.

What matters, Mother, is to have
patience and to pray much to God and
to the Virgin Mary, and to abide well
by the Rules they have, and to sanctify
themselves; the rest will come in time
(...) trust in God, put yourself in his
divine hands. [Claret to París, CO 289]

Only one thing matters, to work
for the Kingdom. The only Law,
authentic love, that of God.

1864

Maria Antonia to Currius,
gives an account of the
state of her spirit:
she desires to love God
very much and loves him
little, she feels pain
of contrition.
[Cf. EMP 67]

In those days he departed to the
mountain to pray, and he spent the night
in prayer to God. [Lk 6:12]

“ On a feast day of St. Peter and
St. Paul, after holy communion
I went to the gallery, to be able to talk
alone with my God about the work
He had entrusted me and the great
difficulties I saw in its execution (...)
I saw my littleness and poverty as a
person (...) I was also very oppressed to
see myself all alone in a work of so great
importance that the more I thought in
my nothingness, the more his Divine
Majesty would show me clearly the
purpose of its exact fulfillment and the
glory that would redound to God our Lord
for the good of the church. Because of this
I had much courage to suffer, for our Lord
gave me a great love for my holy mother
church, that if giving my life (Even if I had
one thousand lives) with all the love of
my heart, even if I had to go to the end of
the world, I would suffer the most cruel
torments to restore her peace,... and he
told me, Fr. Claret (he called him father,
he was not an archbishop yet) will give
you a hand in founding the first houses
of the order. [Aut. MP 35-36]

1879

Dr. Casañas, apostolic
administrator of Urgel,
to Maria Antonia, very
politely tells her to refrain
from going to that
community (Trempe) as
the first mother of the
Institute without his
consent.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 569]
(It did not reach Maria
Antonia directly because
they sent it to her through
Currius, and they would
only give it to her if they
were certain that she was
going to Trempe).

Father, who manifests yourself
through mediations, may we
be aware of your action in our
everyday life... are my doors open?

1851

Claret to Caixal,
on the requirements
to find the convent of
teaching on the
island of Cuba.

[Cf. CO 7]

1879

Response of Dr. Casañas
to the Prioress of Tremp
on how to proceed if
María Antonia arrives
in Tremp.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 567]

...The grass withers, the flower wilts,
but the word of our God stands forever.

[Is 40: 8]

“ After the many times our Lord had told me -as I said above- that Fr. Claret would arrange the first houses of the order and the other many times that His majesty revealed to me in spirit the sanctity of that soul, the Lord provided this servant of God to come to the convent to talk with me. (I think my confessor had given him notes to read). The confessor willed me to explain everything as he would be questioning it. But I felt so ashamed to say that God has communicated this work to me because I did not understand anything about communications or revelations; so, I only told him that the Lord had made it known to me that he desired to arrange our order to observed in it His most Holy Law and the evangelical counsels. With these few words the Lord permitted that we understand each other and, immediately, without giving place to further explanations, he told me not to hesitate, that it would be done so...

[Aut. MP 61]

We pray, Lord that we may welcome the newness of your Spirit every day.

In the world you will have trouble,
but take courage, I have conquered the world. [Jn 16: 33b]

“ I was so sure of what he had said to me -“not to doubt that the work would be done that way”- I was so certain of this as if it were God who had told it to me through the mouth of this holy soul... [Aut. MP 63]

Dear Sister in J. C.: I have just received the two letters from you, one written in the Canary Islands and the other in Cuba. Thank God you have already arrived. Now rest, entrust me to God to inspire us in the way He wants to be served. According to what you tell me, although I am not present, what I arranged before leaving is already fulfilled. [Claret to María Antonia París, CO 11]

Full trust in God, does it prompt us to accept His will through the mediations and signs that are presented in our lives?

1858

Claret to Caixal,
communicates three
sisters embarked
accompanied by a priest.

[Cf. CO 120]

1863

María Antonia to Currús,
is glad that Claret
approves the travel of the
nuns to Cuba,
his opinion satisfies.

[Cf. EMP 57]

The confessor of nuns in
addition to wise and holy
must be prudent.

[Cf. EMP 54]

1880

María Antonia from Reus
to Enrique Gomis,
tells him that the
Archbishop of Tarragona
will not allow the transfer
of any religious from
Reus to Vélez Rubio.

[Cf. EMP 309]

1881

María Antonia to
Enrique Gomis,
about the first vocation
of Vélez Rubio,
who is an alumna.

[Cf. EMP 355]

1869

María Antonia tells Claret that God used him for the foundation of the Order. [Cf. CO 282]

1879

Caixal to Dr. Casañas, Apostolic Administrator of Urgel, to prevent María Antonia from the slightest interference in the community of Tremp. [Cf. Hist.I, p. 565]

I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.

[Phil 4:13]

“ But we embrace everything and abandon everything out of love for Jesus Christ, desirous of greater perfection and of engaging in his holy service where spiritual needs were most pressing, and where because religious education was less attended, our efforts were more accepted in the eyes of God, as if we set out for nothing but his greatest glory in the fulfillment of the holy Rule that we embrace. Not without serious setbacks in the long and painful navigation we undertook. We finally approached these shores, and the pious inhabitants of Cuba welcomed us with open arms, receiving every day unequivocal proof of their charity and manifesting many parents of the most well-regarded in the population for their social position and strong religiosity, living desires that as soon as possible we request the due authorization for the canonical and legal establishment of the Holy Institute of Education where we wish to profess...

[María Antonia París to Claret, CO 13]

God's plans do not succumb to setbacks; new paths are opened, and his will remains.

Give me Wisdom, the consort at your throne, and do not reject me from among your children.

[Wis 9:4]

“ ...if any woman of the country behaves well and is known to have strength and spirit, let it be then, and not before, admitted to the observance of every rule. This is my opinion; however, I leave it to the discretion of the Superior because I know that when God chooses a person for a task, he gives him-her the necessary knowledge to that effect. [Claret to Currius, to give him his opinion and leave him autonomy, CO 25]

Whoever God chooses for a task he invites them to be audacious and humble, courageous, and vulnerable, bold, and cautious, creative, and faithful, blindly confident.

1865

María Antonia to Currius, tells him that Claret is processing the foundation in Reus. [Cf. CO 240]

1867

Maria Antonia to the Ecclesiastical Governor of Urgel, informs him that M. Balaguer will accompany the sisters who are going to found in Reus. [Cf. CO 265]

And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man. [Lk 2:52]

“ At last, the petition was sent to Rome and came back very soon, I think in the next mail and arrived, as I said, on July 16, 1855, in the best moment, but it was not God’s will for me to get too attached to that due satisfaction, and so he permitted that clause of the rents (I am sure it will be suppressed) that gave us so much to think and to clash again. [Aut. MP 211]

...and so it has happened in this foundation, that though the archbishop was unwilling to be concerned for this or that, he has been, by Divine impulse, concerned for everything, because I have never expressed a desire of mine except when I have been asked. [Aut. MP 218]

Whatever you want from me, whatever you ask, what you dream of, Lord, that is who I want to be. !

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him!” [Lk 9:35]

“ Therefore, making use of the apostolic faculties by said rescript to us granted, we approve the time they have spent in strict Cloister as a Novitiate, as well as we approve and adapt for now on as more conforming for this Institute, the Habit and religious veil of the Order of St. Benedict that they wore at the beginning of the Novitiate, by virtue of the permission we gave them, while we were raising to Your Holiness our plea; and of course we admitted them to the religious profession which in the form prescribed by the same Sacred Rescript; we will receive it from our beloved daughter Ma. Antonia de San Pedro, on the 27th of the current month of August, and from her sisters and beloved daughters of ours, on the third day of September; and once verified the Profession, we declare them by Religious of the Apostolic Institute of the Immaculate Conception of Mary Most Holy Mother of God and our Lady. [Foundation Act, CO 48]

You, Lord, propose to me: Lift up your gaze, and welcome the dignity of a child in all your stature, be humble and live in fullness. !

1879

Maria Antonia to Rev. Enrique Gomis, greets him for the day of his saint and gives him news of the sisters. [Cf. EMP 274]

1855

St. Anthony Mary Claret finishes the Pastoral Letter on the Immaculate Conception. [Aut. PC 674]

1859

Currius to María Antonia; he tells her about his conversation with Claret about the presentation to the Pope of "My Book" (Points for the Renewal). [Cf. CO 160]

1867

María Antonia moved to Reus (Tarragona, Spain) to found in the company of María Gertrudis Barril, María Luisa de San Pablo, María Rosa de Santo Tomás and María Josefa de San Mateo. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 364]

Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. [Jn 14: 27]

“ Your Excellency Father, I earnestly plead with you (...) since God wanted to use your Excellency for the foundation of the Order, who knows if now our Lord has brought him to that Holy City, to negotiate the confirmation of our Constitutions.

[María Antonia París to Claret, CO 282]

I do not doubt that it was a Providence of God that I came to Rome for your good (...) Fr. José Reig (...) by himself or by another agent of his trust, or by me, we will practice all the diligences (...) I am convinced that everything will be fine. Now I only ask for patience and prayer with confidence in Jesus and Mary...

[Claret a María Antonia París, CO 283]

Believe with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your heart because Love speaks in its own way. !

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son (...) He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? [Rom 8: 28-30.32]

“ We already realized how very happy Your Excellency is to have been hurt because of teaching the Holy Law of our Lord Jesus Christ, and I and all your daughters want to participate in the great prize that the Lord will give to Your Excellency for it in eternal life, because it will already be remembered Your Excellency that in a sermon you shared that we would break the spoils. I wish we had the blissful luck to seal our lives by shedding all our blood in confirmation of the Holy Law of the Lord!

[María Antonia París to Claret, CO 52]

Until the last day, the last drop, the last gesture, in the name of the One who went through the world loving first. !

1880

María Antonia to Don Enrique Gomis: it is very convenient that Orberá has in his Diocese of Almería a house of ours. [Cf. EMP 310]

1881

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis: She gives him condolences for the death "of the very good Rev. Eduardo (RIP) as we have also felt a lot and prayed for his eternal rest" and asks for news about the sisters of Vélez Rubio whom he has visited. [Cf. EMP 356]

1867

The second house in
Spain is founded
in Reus (Tarragona).
[CO p. 18]

Unless the LORD build the house, they
labor in vain who build. [Ps 127: 1a]

“ As to the place or house, worry
not, most loved father, let us
have more confidence in God, who will
not be lacking, in whose hands are the
hearts of all men to move them according
to his Most Holy Will, without which
man tires in vain (...) let us see the way
(...) that the reverend Father Caixal can
accept the foundation in his diocese, and
buy a place in the town, that seems to
him more on purpose for a House
of Teaching...

[María Antonia París to Claret, CO 78]

To you Lord, I lift up my soul,
in you I trust, do not leave me.
Teach me your way, look at my
effort, forgive my faults. Illumine my
life because I hope in you.

1859

Claret to Currius,
tells him to go to
La Granja and bring the
Rules of the sisters.
[Cf. CO 161]

Just so, the Son of Man did not come
to be served but to serve and to give his
life as a ransom for many. [Mt 20: 28]

“ Very dear in Jesus Christ: I
received yours, and I am aware
of what you tell me in it. Here goes the
Presbyter Paladio Currius and he will tell
you in person what it is not easy to say in
many letters. From here he will leave for
Rome, and we will see what comes from
that. I am willing to do anything, aided
by grace; no more waiting to be told this
is what you should do. If in the meantime
you or Fr. Caixal know what I should do,
have the kindness to tell me, that I will
do it with immense pleasure; there is
Currius, he will speak and he will say my
disposition, my intention, and my desires.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 169]

Lord, awaken in me your Love so
that I may dress it in service and
may weave every day a life of
hope and harmony.

1855

The Apostolic Brief of the Bull of Pius IX is received in Cuba, which allows the Foundation of the Institute.
[Cf. Aut. MP 202]

1861

María Antonia finalizes an extract of the Constitutions to take to Rome while they are in approval at the Holy See and communicates it to Caixal.
[Cf. EMP 29 and CO 203]

...and woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel! [1 Cor 9:16b]

For the love of Christ impels us.
[2 Cor 5:14]

“ I am extremely glad that the number of that Community is increasing, from them all in a true spirit of humility, poverty, charity and zeal for the greater glory of God and good of souls.

I am in this Court, because they tell me that this is the will of God, but I experience violence, every day I have to do acts of resignation and conformity to the will of God; my desires are, as always, to run throughout the world preaching the holy Gospel and to seal with my blood the evangelical truths as my divine Master and beloved Jesus; I have no rest, nor does my soul find comfort but by running and preaching (...) But, since I cannot go, I see to it that others go, my dear Brothers, called the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; you may already know that there are three houses, one in Vich, another in Gracia de Barcelona and another in Segovia and among them they are more than thirty and they all work admirably..

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 221]

Only one thing matters: working for the Kingdom with the Law of Love. !

Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart. [Mt 11: 29]

“ It was a blessing from Heaven, no doubt reached by the pleas of St. Teresa. I have had the pleasure of visiting where the Saint was born, where she was educated, where she professed, and where she founded the first convent of the Reform; I was also in the transverberation room; in all those places [the] aroma of her virtues is perceived, everything smells as great holiness (...) I am so glad you liked the book called “El Colegial” (“The Schoolboy”). I see that the world is lost, and I cannot find any other means than the formation of a good clergy, who by their example and preaching lead the sheep of the heavenly Father; and I do not doubt that it will be achieved, if what I am teaching in “El Colegial” is put into action”.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 196]

Life, entirely, is apprenticeship, we need to train ourselves continuously to read reality and to respond evangelically. !

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, tells him that Bishop Orberá is determined to make the foundation in Vélez Rubio happen, and if he does not have in his Diocese nuns of our Institute he cannot deal on its behalf in Rome.
[Cf. EMP 311]

1882

María Antonia clarifies to Silvestre Rongier erroneous data of the Rescript of 1869 and topics such as (...) the vows are simple for a time before solemn profession and that the cloister is episcopal so that the First Mother can visit and there is more ease for transfers, mutual spiritual union, and communion of goods of the houses. [Cf. EMP 374]

Therefore, he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. [Cf. Heb 2: 17-18]

“ Let us go to something else; three great calamities are currently threatening Spain: communism, Protestantism, and the republic. God Our Lord has made known to me in a truly obvious way the need we have to pray, and to promote the devotion of the Trisagium, of the Blessed Sacrament, visiting and receiving it frequently, and that of the Holy Rosary.

Pray it, you, and the other nuns, say it to Fr. Bishop Caixal (...) Keep yourself good and command your humble server.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 205]

Lord, make me an instrument of peace and reconciliation.

Accept whatever happens to you; in periods of humiliation be patient. For in fire gold is tested, and the chosen, in the crucible of humiliation. [Ecc1 2: 4-5]

“ Today I send Rev. Pedro Naudó the Rules so he can print them. I hope that you will have the kindness to entrust me to God and to tell the other Nuns to do it as well, because I need it. For some time now, I have been very persecuted and slandered; thank God, for now it seems to me that I am carrying out this trial well with the help of the Lord, to encourage myself, I read very often Meditation XXIII of the Exercises of St. Ignatius explained and given birth by me; read it and you will see what powerful reasons there are to be patient.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 208]

Patience reaches everything, even in trials.

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, tells him that today she writes to Orberá about the validity of the Nuncios' licenses for new foundations according to the Brief of Pius IX of July 16, 1855. [Cf. EMP 312]

1868

Claret tells María Antonia about his work in Rome on a Plan for the Reform of the Church. [Cf. CO 273]

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[Mt 5: 3]

“ ...As to holy poverty, that I know very well what is commanded by the canons of the Church and the laws of the Kingdom, but that is the common and ordinary (...) but what happens in us is an exceptional case and I will prove it with two simple reasons. The first is that experience says that you have not lacked anything or will lack from now on if you put trust in God, the second reason is that God wants to be given a testimony in favor of poverty, since unfortunately in the day more trust is placed in money than in God...

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 213]

My strength and my power are You, allow us to be poor, Lord Jesus.

I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. [Jn 12: 27]

“ Many and many times every day, I ask Jesus to let me know what he wants me to do about our project; because I am ready to work and die for his love. Sometimes he has told me inwardly that it was not yet time, I have consulted it with zealous people who have all my trust, and they tell me the same thing. I understand that before building, the ground has to be cleared; and if the Lord wants to send a punishment, a cataclysm, then later, it will be rebuilt; but in the meantime young people are being prepared in knowledge and virtue; others are too damaged, hard to be counted on; however, if there is something good, let them preserve the fruit of work of the Missionaries; that's why I have given birth to a little book on The Common Life.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 233]

It is time to be and sow hope, it is time to give out friendship.

1852

Currius to Claret, tells him that the sisters, newly arrived in Cuba do not want money for their work. [Cf. CO 12]

1857

Claret to Caixal, on the transfer of the sisters of Cuba to found in Tresp. [Cf. CO 64]

1865

Claret to María Antonia, informs her that he has put in the hands of the Queen the request of the Foundation in Reus in charge of the soon dispatch. [Cf. EMP 73]

1869

Claret to María Antonia, on the paperwork in Rome for the approval of the Rules. [Cf. CO 283]

1883

María Antonia to Juan Peyró, Canon, on the sale of the Cambrils estate bought by Florentina Sangler in 1843. [Cf. EMP 398]

1859

Currius to Caixal,
clarifying ideas of the
content of "My Book".

[Cf. CO 162]

1978

Don Miguel Colás Piquer,
Mayor of Reus,
to the Holy Father,
asks for the introduction
of the cause of
Beatification of
María Antonia París:
she has dedicated her
life with love to the poor.
The people of Reus have
devotion to her and ask
for her intercession.

[Pos. MP Doc. 1 c, p. 324]

For even when we came into
Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but
we were afflicted in every way -external
conflicts, internal fears. [2 Cor 7:5]

“ I am in this place of Vic (...)
I have preached in all the
convents, schools, establishments and
then I will start batches of Exercises (...)
you know I cannot be idle.

I came under the pretext of lack of
health, it was not a lie (...) because
the passion of mind had completely
affected my stomach and with the strong
waters of La Granja you could fear any
misfortune (...) However, (...) I endured
while I had hope of doing something good
for religion, the Church, and the Pope, but
when I saw that there was no remedy,
I used this pretext to go to Catalonia
and take waters (...) I do not know if
I will go back there (...) Who knows if
this is a means of Divine Providence to
give beginning to what you know? (...)
I have commissioned Fr. Currius to send
you a notebook called Los Apuntes that
I have reprinted, and I have added some
incredibly good things like you will see.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 242]

Father, I put myself in your hands,
whatever it is, I thank you.

And on entering the house they saw
the child with Mary his mother. They
prostrated themselves and did him
homage. [Mt 2:11]

“ ...I have been in El Escorial
away from this Babylon of
Madrid, in this Court I feel oppressed.
All I wish to do is offer it up to the Child
Jesus, oh how much I wish to leave the
Palace! (...) I wish like the Kings of the
East who left Jerusalem to go to worship
Jesus in Bethlehem, to go on the path of
the missions, for this the Lord has raised
me and not for palaces, for me the Royal
Palace is my exile, my torment.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 254]

Want what God wants. Glorify
and trust.

1853

Claret to María Antonia,
has delivered Rules and
Constitutions to Currius
for him to study.

[Cf. CO 28]

1859

Currius writes to
María Antonia,
giving her opinion
and that of Claret
regarding the Fourth Rule
on Poverty: not having
any property.

[Cf. CO 163]

1862

(Month of July)

María Antonia went into a "night of the spirit", at the same time that she continues to express her trust and obedience to Caixal and also gives spiritual advises for it.

[Cf. Pos. MP
Doc. 2, p. 236]

1877

María Antonia to the prioress of Reus, clarifies the procedure of admission of novices to the profession, must include the vote of the community.

[Cf. EMP 250]

...[Saul] went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. [Acts 9: 2]

“ ...my health is not bad, but on other occasions I have felt better (...) I eagerly desire to go to heaven to see Jesus loved and praised by the entire Heavenly Court, for me it would be the greatest joy and satisfaction I hope to have (...) I desire to go to heaven not for myself but to see God, Jesus and the Blessed Virgin, Angels and Saints glorified; for now, the Lord is leading me down the path of sorrows and displeasure; they are quite strong, but the help with which the Lord favors me is also strong. Blessed be.

I also know that you suffer some hardships of which I am incredibly happy; the best adornment of a spouse of Jesus is sorrows and labors and, truth be told, Jesus is the man of sorrows (...) The Blessed Virgin is the Queen of the Martyrs, the more similarity the more friendship. Regarding Bishop, do not hurry (...) you have on your side the testimony of your good conscience...

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 260]

When put to the test, do not give in to fatigue; May your grace, Lord, always triumph in me.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. [Mt 5: 8]

“ Yes, I see the cave of Bethlehem, and you must represent the little donkey for its humility (...) The community must imitate the ox for its patience, perseverance, and love of work (...) By the way, you will laugh at my simplicity. Never mind. I am happy; just as David jumped before the Holy Ark, I also say these simplicities before the Blessed Sacrament...

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 266]

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like yours!

1876

María Antonia to Currius, expresses her joy at his arrival in Reus, where he was chaplain from 1868. [Cf. EMP 192]

July
26

1883

María Antonia to the Marquese de Camp, asks her to intercede with her husband to reduce the price of the sisters' tickets destined for Santiago de Cuba and to give them a reserved cabin.
[Cf. EMP 399]

New Apostles,
is what the Lord Wants

May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will. May he carry out in you what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever [and ever]. Amen.

[Heb 13: 20-21]

“ ...I agree with the two foundations in America (...) What matters greatly is that you are all very humble and fervent, always thinking of God and loving Him with all your heart (...) The essence of Religious Life is obedience, for this Jesus Christ who is the best religious was obedient until the death and death on a cross...

Mothers and Sisters, in the same way that we learn obedience from Jesus, spouse of our souls, we must also learn gratitude and continually thank him for having nurtured us, redeemed, and called us to the religious life (...) entrust to God the poor man who asks you for these alms...

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 268]

Our gaze is always oriented to the greater glory of God and his Blessed Mother.



New Apostles,
is what the Lord Wants

Now I myself, Paul, urge you through the gentleness and clemency of Christ, I who am humble when face to face with you, but brave toward you when absent.

[2 Cor 10:1]

“ ...I will tell you that in these days of Advent and Christmas of the Lord you are to gather in spirit with the Most Holy Virgin and St. Joseph in the house of Nazareth, Bethlehem and in their travels, with inner recollection, doing all things with the greatest perfection, even the smallest and most insignificant, always contemplating this Holy Family; in a few [days] you will embark on the path of Bethlehem, accompany this Family, and when you arrive in Bethlehem do like the donkey (...) for David says in the Psalms (...) Lord I find myself as a mule in your presence, but I will not leave you for this reason, I will not turn away, but I will always be with you (...) and those words of Jesus who says: Learn from me that I am meek and humble of heart and thus you will find rest for your souls.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 269]

Jesus may your incarnation lead us to understand the mystery of the human being, the signs of your presence.



July
27

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, tells him that she has just received a letter from Orberá in which it is ratified that the sisters from Carcagente should found in Vélez Rubio.
[Cf. EMP 314]

1883

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, informs him that she has already written to the Marchioness about the trip and to pray for her.
[Cf. EMP 400]

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

[Mt 5: 11]

“ ...We are in time to exercise the virtue of patience. Doing and suffering is how you make your way to happy eternity. Jesus, most holy Mary and all the Saints have followed this path. Woe to us if we did not have to suffer! (...) When the good praise us there is danger of complacency or vanity; but not when the bad guys praise us.

They praise us when they persecute us and slander us (...) When they will say every kind of evil against you lying (...) rejoice! Let us rejoice, then, and let us say: Long live Jesus, long live Jesus!!!

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 281]

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next. Touch my heart and mold it according to the greatness of your mercy.

So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do'. [Lk 17: 10]

“ On our part I have done everything I have known I had to do, in Cuba, in this place in Rome (regarding approval) (...) The work and fatigue of the Council has us terribly busy in upholding and defending the rights of the Church and of the Holy Father. In the middle of the Council, in front of all the Cardinals and all the Patriarchs, Archbishops and Bishops, from the pulpit I said that I was ready and prepared to give my blood and my life. My words made an impression.

[Claret to María Antonia París, EC-II 1447]

At the sunset of life, we will be examined in love. Love lasts forever.

1862

María Antonia to Caixal, writes to him on the subject of dowries. She tells him that she suffers from his interpretations of the delay in responding to previous letters. She feels sorry for the disgust she provoked and clarifies her actions. She says: «How sorry I am that this convent, which I would like for it to be your delight, is your nightmare...»

[Cf. EMP 44]

1858

Currius to Claret,
tells him that it is he who
must call the sisters to go
and to found in Spain.
[cf. CO 121]

**Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven. [Mt 5:10]**

“ Usually, Rome’s climate
does not fit well with me (...) Finally, the profoundly serious issue of the defense of the Infallibility of the Supreme Pontiff during the Council, all these things together have affected me immensely; so, on May 23rd I had a brain stroke. I endured and suffered much, the friends were alarmed, the remedies that the Doctors arranged were practiced.

After Fr. Superior of the Congregation found out, he went to find me and took me to Prades so that with the change of climate and the other circumstances I would heal.

Fifteen days after being in Prades, I was notified that the French Government commanded and obliged that all newly arrived Spaniards had to be interned; and so, I had to move to this country in which I find myself. (...) From two years to this day, the Lord tests me in numerous ways. Praise be to God.

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 295]

The measure of love is to love
without measure.



**The word of God is living and effective,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
penetrating even between soul and spirit,
joints, and marrow, and able to discern
reflections and thoughts of the heart.**

[Heb 4:12]

**And behold, I am with you always,
until the end of the age. [Mt 28:20b]**

“ Being very distressed by the death of His Excellency Fr. Claret, she prayed intensely to God for the restoration of the Holy Church, for God had taken him away, how would his work be accomplished? In this his Divine Majesty said to me: «By chance is my word abbreviated? Be confident, daughter, wait a little and you will see what I do». [Diario 109]

...This is the way to eternalize the memory of my Servant Claret, who I want to live in each of my Bishops. (...) I want others to look at him in words and deeds. Here I saw how this whole body drank an unbelievably soft water, and it ran under his feet, and they distributed to everyone, and everyone drank and was satisfied. I understood that this water was the divine Word that satisfied everyone because they saw it fulfilled in those who taught it.

[Diario 16]

And now we are the bearers of a
fire that is to light other fires, to
illuminate the world with the Gospel.



1858

Dionisio González
to Claret,
comments that he has
read the Notes for his
Reform and that of María
Antonia and liked it very
much; it seems to him
that «the same spirit
moves the two feathers».
[cf. CO 122]

1880

María Antonia to the
prioress of Carcaixent,
awaits letter from Rev.
Enrique Gomis with the
license for Orberá to
found in Vélez Rubio.
[cf. EMP 315]



august

**I saw
everything
in Christ
crucified**

I saw everything in Christ crucified

Who will separate us from the love of Christ, tribulation, anguish, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger...?

We know that life does not pass in a straight line or without difficulties. Rather, these are transformed for the human and spiritual growth of those who follow Jesus and walk in his footsteps.

Trial touches in numerous ways the life of María Antonia. Nights of the spirit and the apparent absence of God; misunderstandings on the part of ecclesial lawyers for legal matters that addressed prophetic options which went against the existing legislation; difficulties with the approval of the Constitutions; distrust, progressive separation of her own daughters from the original charismatic spirit and of her first confessors and spiritual companions.

It covers more or less intense periods throughout the life of the Foundress.

I saw everything in Christ crucified

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. [Heb 10: 6-7]

“ One night while I was at prayer pleading to Christ crucified to remedy the necessities of the Church, which in that time were many, that had cost him so much, I offered him my life in sacrifice as I have done before many times, well aware that my life was not of much value to sacrifice for so many evils, but as I had no virtues to offer him, I begged him to deign to teach me what should I do in order to give him pleasure and glory accomplishing his most holy will.

[Aut. MP 2]

See reality with the eyes of faith and listen to the inner voice calling us to make a difference. Do I really say: Lord, take my life? Do I give him my whole being, my actions and words?

august
1

1867

(Month of August)

«Our Lord said to me: 'Let go of yourself, daughter, you will see what I do'. He implied that he wanted subjection to Him more than penance... and I was very comforted».

[Cf. Diario 98]

1879

Dr. Casañas, Apostolic Administrator of Urgel commissions Rev. José Auger, Parish Priest of Pons, to make the canonical visit to the community of Tremp. He wants to clarify the legal situation of María Antonia, as First Mother of the Institute.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 570-571]

1880

María Antonia to Rev. Enrique Gomis, is concerned about his silence on efforts in the curia of Valencia to obtain the license of the transfer of sisters from Carcagente to Vélez Rubio for the Foundation.

[Cf. EMP 316]

Moses, however, said to the LORD, "If you please, my Lord, I have never been eloquent" (...) The LORD said to him, "Who gives one person speech? Who makes another mute or deaf, seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go, I will assist you in speaking and teach you what you are to say". But he said, "If you please, my Lord, send someone else!" Then the LORD became angry with Moses and said: "I know there is your brother, Aaron the Levite, who is a good speaker (...) You will speak to him and put the words in his mouth. I will assist both you and him in speaking and teach you both what you are to do. He will speak to the people for you (...) Take this staff in your hand; with it you are to perform the signs". [Ex 4:10-17]

I didn't want to go any further in this matter, because I'm embarrassed to talk about things, I don't understand but today, after having received Communion, God Our Lord has rebuked me strongly by sending me to write with simplicity all that he makes known to me, without stopping at anything; for what do you have, he said to me, in what I do? He understands that the more incapable the instrument that polishes the confused piece is, the more it discovers the wisdom of the expert who directs it. [PR 43]

Every human being, created out of love for God, carries inscribed in the heart the vocation for which he/she was created. No one will carry it out in his/her place.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church.

[Col 1: 24]

In those days there came an affliction so great in my whole body that it did not let me rest (...), but in particular I felt a pain (...) around the heart and back that I could not compare to another more acute pain, but it seemed to dislocate my bones and when this pain was mitigated I felt some furies and fuss within myself, and I felt a weight so great that it oppressed me to my soul. I felt this more than the pains of the body, and they were so acute that sometimes it seemed that cuts were being made in the flesh with a knife. Our Lord told me more than once, this is how the world is so frantic tearing apart the body of my Church, and so I want you to feel it. These sufferings were intense and afflictive as the intensity of God's judgments against a corrupt people, and I felt abandonment from God Our Lord that is the most sensitive thing in the midst of so many and so diverse afflictions. [Diario 15]

The revelation by faith of the meaning of suffering liberates and strengthens. Do I suffer with Christ "for the sake of his body, which is the Church, knowing that after all tribulation comes glory"?

1867

The first stone of the house of Reus is laid. The Archbishop of Tarragona had appointed María Antonia Prioress. According to her, she appointed vicar and consultants. This government without election was confirmed by the same archbishop for the triennium. 1870-1873.

[Hist. I, p. 366, 369-370]

1857

Claret to Caixal, asks which diocese in Catalonia could the sisters arriving from Cuba go to. [Cf. CO 66]

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. [Heb 12:1-2]

“ I felt such great sadness in my life (...) an inner sorrow that seemed that my heart was being dissolved, it seemed to me I saw in my agonizing heart the intense sea of sadness that oppressed my Holy Mother the Church. [Diario 69]

...Jesus Christ told me, 'Weep, my daughter, with me, my suffering for losing the members of my Church.'

[Aut. MP 244]

To suffer for the Church is an essential feature of the call to the Claretian vocation, to love the Church, the Body of Christ, to give one's life for her; from once's suffering willing to denounce and announce... Do I feel the Church as mine?

1858

«One day being in prayer, a thought came to me as to how the Provisor could not understand the convenience of one of the things that Our Lord told me for the Reform of the Church». [Cf. Diario 22]

He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain. Like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed (...) he bore the sins of many, and interceded for the transgressors.

[Is 53:3-6.12b]

“ Many times, Christ our Lord has manifested Himself to me (...) His Divine face and all His sacred humanity and it always broke my heart because I have never seen him glorious but always patient (...) more than once our Lord has told me, "cry, my daughter cry for the ills in the Church that pierce My Heart", and with this, as if His Majesty would open His chest to show me His Heart surrounded by thorns.

[Aut. MP 14]

Gaze at the Church with the eyes and love of Christ our Lord. What attitude do I have towards the Church in which I live and of which I am a part? Is my attitude Christ's, giving myself for her?

I saw everything in Christ crucified

1869

Claret to María Antonia,
sends her a letter about
the Rules so she can send
it to Caixal after she has
read them.
[cf. CO 284]

No one has greater love than this to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (...) It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another. [Jn 15:13-17]

“ Here I felt Our Lord in me, and he said to me: My daughter (...) Here he renewed to me the vision of His Most Holy Law as in another time, presenting to me again those beautiful flowers, which made up the beauty of the divine law, but all stained by the breaking of the precept of charity, and this by the greed of God's beloved sons! And he told me while coming closer to me: 'say what you want, my daughter, that I want to reward you with the tears that with so much love and pain you have cried for defending the treasures of my Church' (...) as static out of admiration I said to my Lord: 'My Lord, I want no other prize than the restoration of the Holy Church and if I could my Lord, with tears of blood come out guarantor for so many evils, you know, my God, how ready I am to shed them to the last drop as you poured it out for me on the holy tree of the Cross'... [Diario 82]

Only those who love unconditionally are able to open up their hearts and give themselves radically to the service of the Word.

I saw everything in Christ crucified

1876

María Antonia to Orberá,
sends the document
again with the plea to the
Pope for the approval of
the Constitutions
recommended by the
Cardinal of Valencia.
[Cf. EMP 194]

How long, LORD? Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I carry sorrow in my soul, grief in my heart day after day? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look upon me, answer me, LORD, my God! Give light to my eyes lest I sleep in death, Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed," lest my foes rejoice at my downfall. But I trust in your mercy. Grant my heart joy in your salvation, I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt bountifully with me. [Ps 13]

“ ...as I am so certain that I waste God's benefits, I humbly subject myself to suffer this dreadful misery (...) It has been about half a year since my soul feels so alone with the most frightening solitude that can be devised; because many times I feel like God has abandoned me... [María Antonia París to Caixal, Pos. MP p. 196]

Have I ever experienced God's forsakenness? In the encounter and dialogue with Him, do I discover that God always accompanies me, even if I do not feel it?

1853

Valentín Cañedo to Claret, The Captain General of Cuba informs Claret that he sent the Royal File on the establishment of the sisters for the new foundation in Cuba. [Cf. CO 29]

1857

Claret to Currius, on the coming of the sisters of Cuba; he has the authorization of the Nuncio, but the convent where they will live is missing. [Cf. CO 67]

1879

Rev. José Auger appeared to take a statement from the sisters of Tremp about the convent and their superior Mother María Inés. It also wants to clarify the legal status of María Antonia París as founder since it is entitled "First Mother of the Institute". [Cf. Hist. I, p. 570- 571]

For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God [that is] with me. [1 Cor 15: 9-10]

“ Being one day in fervent prayer asking God Our Lord to give me the graces I need to serve Him as He wants to be served by this poor creature, suddenly I saw myself extremely poor before Our Lord (...) I was naked before Our Lord of all virtues. What I felt on this occasion cannot be explained: my soul was annihilated before His Divine Majesty (...) and I was stunned to see my soul naked before My Lord (...) and feeling like a stone without being able to shake, I felt that my soul was getting closer and closer to His Divine Majesty by an inner force that threw it away in a gesture of wanting to dress it. From this day my prayer is bread of tears asking God Our Lord to deign to clothe me with his most holy graces (...) Here I heard a voice say to me: what is all virtue before the Lord of virtues? [Diario 88]

In the presence of the Lord, do I wonder what gifts are in me? Do I appreciate them? Do I use them to serve those in most need?

1855

Fr. Currius, Pro-Secretary of the Chamber, draws up a record that all the points of the Pontifical Rescript are accepted for the canonical establishment of the Institute and the verification that all applicants meet the requirements of the right to enter the Institute. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 177-178]

1879

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, asks him to give talks to the nuns of Carcagente to prepare them for the renewal of vows on August 15. [Cf. EMP 276]

Because I kept silent, my bones wasted away; I groaned all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; (...) I confess my transgression to the LORD, and you took away the guilt of my sin. Therefore, every loyal person should pray to you in time of distress. Though flood waters threaten, they will never reach him. You are my shelter; you guard me from distress; with joyful shouts of deliverance, you surround me. I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk, give you counsel with my eye upon you (...) unflinching love surrounds those who trust the LORD. [Ps 32: 3-10b]

“ I, poor little me, feeling as I told you last year (...) always desiring to love God very much and loving Him truly little; in prayer I am like a log; I only feel the presence of God when I find some fault, for which then Your Divine Majesty rebukes me a lot (...) Here I break down in tears and would like to erase my faults with my own blood if possible. But then I go around being dry like a stick in the presence of God...

[María Antonia París to Currius, EMP 67]

Lord Jesus, I thank you for being always by my side. In my moments of spiritual dryness, I become discouraged and, despite the darkness, in my night I trust in You again.

1863

María Antonia writes to Currius informing him that there will be five religious who will go from Tremp to Cuba, accompanied by Fr. Antoni Barjau. [Cf. EMP 58]

1881

María Antonia from Reus to His Holiness Leo XIII, gives him an account of 29 years of history and observance of the Rules in the Institute. Attaches a copy of the Constitutions. And humbly and insistently pleads with the Pope to deign to put the seal of his approval on them. [Cf. EMP 358]

No slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. [Jn 13:16]

Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [Jn 14:12-13]

“ Another day being in prayer I was very distressed to see myself so alone in the work that the Lord has entrusted to me, and I said to Our Lord: My God, you see that I am ready for anything, but what will a poor woman do so alone (...) very desolate, without having someone to give her a hand in this corner of the world (...) In this, the Lord deigned to comfort me and said to me with much sorrow: ‘I was also alone, in the greatest need my close friends left me in the hands of my enemies!’ [Diario 89]

How do I react when my friends, those for whom I give myself, abandon me, criticize me, or they leave me alone? Have I been tempted to leave everything, to abandon the Lord's call to follow Him? In my relationship with Jesus, do I offer Him my solitude, ask Him to let me accompany Him? Do I ask that this situation lead me to follow Him more closely?

1849

Claret receives the appointment of Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba. [Cf. CO p.12]

1867

María Antonia to Currius, asks him to go to Reus, to deal with the construction. [Cf. EMP 69]

Yet just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me... [Is 55:10-11]

“ Being in prayer, in the same place where I saw myself naked of all virtues, I said to Our Lord, ‘Lord of my soul, here I saw myself naked, here I hope your grace you will clothe me.’ And Our Lord told me: ‘You do not remember how I told you that I wanted to rest in your heart as a child rests in the arms of his mother?’ In these sweet words he revived my poor soul that was as if agonizing over the continual anxieties of whether I had lost my beloved God (...) and his Divine Majesty told me: ‘And who has encouraged you in my works? But I wanted you to see that all virtue is nothing before the very virtue of God’. How comforted I was on this occasion, can only be understood by those who know the strength of the words that God speaks to the soul... [Diario 91]

The call to follow Jesus, to live in his company, to be part of his family, is the great gift that God has given me. In moments of darkness, I will undoubtedly remember that God's Word is effective, that it is working in me, even if I do not feel it, and I will say: Lord, increase my faith!

1865

Claret to
Dionisio González,
asks him to tell Currius to
send María Antonia on his
behalf, a copy of the Notes
of a Plan to Preserve the
beauty of the Church.
[Cf. CO 241]

1865

Claret to María Antonia,
explains his state of
health, the cause of his
stay in Catalonia, and his
apostolic works and that
he plans to move to Rome.
[Cf. CO 242]

The king (David) said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent!" (...) That same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: "Go and tell David my servant, thus says the LORD: Is it you who would build me a house to dwell in? (...) I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to become ruler over my people Israel. I was with you wherever you went (...) I will raise up your offspring after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom. He it is who shall build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. (...) Your house and your kingdom are firm forever before me..." [2 Sm 7: 2-5; 8. 9.12.13.15.16]

“ Another day being very tired of thoughts that distress me greatly, I said to Our Lord: My Lord, if the treasures of your poverty are to be the cause of so many dislikes, why do you give them to me? Our Lord said to me: Because I want, daughter, that you make me a home, that the world does not want to give me. I already told you that I have everything for you; O my father this cannot be suffered without great confusion! God so kind and I so ungrateful. [Diario 97]

A poor house, founded on love, detachment, fraternal sharing, solidarity. This is the house that God wants you to build and make a difference. !

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. [Phil 4: 6-7]

“ Another day I was before the Blessed Sacrament thanking Our Lord for having delivered us from the most serious ills that were going to fall on the whole Church of Spain. I was touched because I remembered that Our Lord had told me that he could and wanted to give peace to the Church without bloodshed; that he wanted us to always beg him (...) and I said, 'Ah! Lord of my soul, you see, how little is my prayer worth before Your Divine Majesty! How many souls pray with more intense love and fervor'. Here His Divine Majesty said to me with great sorrow: 'My daughter none pray as they should!! for all prayers are covered of self-love, and without spirit'. This complaint of Our Lord distressed me greatly, because I understood that His Divine Majesty referred to the persons consecrated to his divine service. [Diario 99]

Lord, may my prayer rise before you, receive the offering of my surrender, so that with you, the whole of humanity may receive your Peace, and all together may collaborate in the construction of a world centered on the unconditional Love of God the Father, Son, and Spirit. !

1855

Currius carries out the exhaustive Interrogation of all the sisters according to the Pontifical Rescript prior to the foundation.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 178]
[Cf. Pos. MP p. 66-67]

1860

Currius to Claret, informs him that he remains in Rome following the process of presenting the Rules to the Pope.
[Cf. CO 193]

I saw everything in Christ crucified

1853

Currius to Claret,
on the expenditure on
the purchase and works
of the house of the
sisters for convent and
school in San Germán
Street, Santiago de Cuba.
[Cf. CO 30]

1856

In Cuba, the Novitiate
begins with the four
Catalan aspirants who
arrived in June.
One was Teresa Jordá,
niece of the Foundress.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 206]

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever. [Jn 6: 56-59]

“ After having received Communion, a great recollection overtook me with many tears for recognizing my indignity, and I said to Our Lord: “My dearest Redeemer, I the most unworthy of all your spouses have had the joy of receiving you and they have not!” Then, as if Our Lord took the word out of my mouth he said to me: Yes, today, all day long, I will be in your heart preserved in the sacramental species in reward of the adorations that you have offered me, resting in it with as much pleasure as I rested in the arms of my Mother; I like so much that you intercede for the poor little sinners...

[Diario 100]

Christ Jesus in the Eucharist comes to me. He gives Himself to me unconditionally, knocks on my door and enters my heart. Throughout the day, do I discover his presence in everything I do?

I saw everything in Christ crucified

He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments”. [Mt 22: 37-40]

Then Jesus approached and said to them: (...) “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age”. [Mt 28: 18-20]

“ Day of the Assumption of Mary most holy. I gathered with the young ladies I had admitted as companions, with great devotion and fervor, offering ourselves to God by a vow of crossing the seas and going to any part of the world without dividing the group, nor separating ourselves from our superior's will in anything... [Aut. MP 121]

Fraternity and missionary availability, a dream of God that has its roots in its origins and struggle to peek into life in every heart that opens the door to the gift of the charism.

1851

María Antonia and the young women who have joined her vow not to separate and to cross the seas, God willing, to carry forward the “New Order”. This “Vow of Tarragona” is the charismatic beginning of the Congregation.
[Cf. Aut. MP 121]

I saw everything in Christ crucified

1859

Claret to Currius,
has read Rules and
Constitutions of the
Apostolic Institute and
likes them very much.

[Cf. CO 167]

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus. [Phil 2:1-5]

“ True obedience does not depend on the geniuses or conditions of the Superiors, for they represent the person of Our Lord Jesus Christ... [María Antonia París to Manyanet, EMP 108]

There is nothing more dangerous and contrary to unity and peace than letting oneself be carried away by gossip; it fosters division and breaks unity in love. Do I present my opinion with simplicity and freedom after I have discerned and sought the truth?

I saw everything in Christ crucified

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves, or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. So that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. [1 Cor 12:12-14; 25-26]

“ ...terrified and amazed at the dispositions that your excellency gave in the Chapter Room, I write these lines to beg you on behalf of Our Lord that before executing such dispositions you think well before God (...) Father, read numbers 31, 32 and 33 of the Fundamental Rules and you will see that this is dividing the body of religious life! O my Father, to what extremes of evils have we reached! Do you not remember that all our houses are to be one, and all the prioresses are to be subject to their First Mother? [María Antonia París to Caixal, EMP 121]

The temptation to break the unity, to become independent of the body, is always lurking. But God wants us to be one family, in communion with others, forming the great family, witness to God's love in the world and in society.

1861

Currius to Claret,
expresses María Antonia's
gratitude for the second
volume of "The Collegiate
or seminarian instructed
in theory and in practice".
Remarkably interesting
in this letter is the
contribution of María
Antonia to the Spiritual
Exercises for children .
[Cf. CO 204]

1883

María Antonia
to Enrique Gomis,
is pleased to know the
archbishop's granted
permission for the sisters
of Carcagente destined for
Cuba to travel and tells him
about the way they can
make the trip.
[Cf. EMP 403]

1851

Claret to Caixal about the trip of the first Claretian Sisters to Cuba. He tells her that he has asked the parish priest of Blessed Trinity (Santiago de Cuba) to receive the sisters and that he has knowledge that the Government wants very much that the teachers of girls be Spaniards. [cf. CO 8]

...But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire [itself] will test the quality of each one's work... [1 Cor 3:10-14; 4,14-15]

“ A day when I was very saddened by the disruptions caused by two prioresses (...) Our Lord told me: “Do not regret, daughter, to have founded these houses for I am happy in them, for the many souls that would have been lost in the world and will be saved in religious life”. [Diario 110]

...although you my daughters of that Holy House, have interrupted the relations, and mutual union commanded in our Holy Institute, I do not want to act like this because our Lord does not like it. (...) but as far as it is on my part, and of all my daughters of the other convents, I love you as daughters and as our sisters... [María Antonia París to the sisters of Trempe, EMP 332]

Do I let the love of God, poured out in my heart, go out to encounter my brethren? Do I contribute to communion? How is my solidarity, detachment, indifference...?

1867

(Month of August)
«Our Lord had told me that He could and wanted to give peace to the Church without bloodshed, that He only wanted us to always beg Him». [Diario 99]

I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. [1 Cor 1:10]

“ I see with bitter sorrow the change, as sad as unexpected, that you have made and I cannot but exhort you to be humbler and fear more the judgments of God for those who despise his works. Oh, my daughter, how badly you have reciprocated the love I have had for you!! Alas, María Luisa!! (...) how you will cry bitterly the contempt that you now make of the warnings of your Mother who with so many attentions has prepared you to be a column of religious life, and you are looking for godparents to tear it down, although you do not understand it now (...) God bless you, my daughter, and keep you. Amen. [María Antonia París to the prioress of Reus, EMP 243]

What is causing me distress today? The abandonment of the people I thought accepted and loved me, who followed my advice? or rather does it hurt me to see the evil that is taking hold of those who accepted the Gospel and now reject or forget it? Lord, I offer you my grief, my anguish, my loneliness.

1852

Earthquakes begin in Santiago de Cuba. Continue until December. [Pos. MP p. 43]

1855

Rev. José Manuel Díaz Hevia, as chaplain of the nascent community of Santiago, certifies that the novice sisters express ardent desires to receive the profession. [Cf. Pos. MP p. 67-68]

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool to become wise. Therefore, do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes, for he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts, and then everyone will receive praise from God. [1 Cor 3: 18-19; 4,5]

“ Oh! Mother Luisa, Mother Luisa! Who would have thought that you, sister, would have in more value the material work than keeping the Holy Rules? (...) Do not consider yourself an observer of the Rules, daughter, for you yourself wrote to me that you had consulted on not complying with the fundamental rule of the Institute, upon which all the other rules lie (...) Read, please, the chapter 1 of the Rules more carefully and you will see how far you are from complying with them; because it will be of no use to you to fulfill those that one, if you stop fulfilling those that you dislike... [María Antonia París to the Prioress of Reus, EMP 257]

Faithfulness that is uncared for deafens our capacity to listen to God's voice and obscures his ways. Meaning and first love languish, and the air of superficiality and pride is breathed. It is time to be silent, to enter the heart and rediscover where He is...repeatedly.

1853

Claret to Currius, informs him that he agrees with the proposed way to pay for the house of the sisters. [Cf. CO 31]

1865

Claret to María Antonia, tells her that he has put in the hands of Queen Isabel II the request of the Foundation in Reus and its soon dispatch. [Cf. CO 239]

And whether they hear or resist -they are a rebellious house- they shall know that a prophet has been among them. But as for you, son of man, do not fear them (...) even though there are briars or thorns, and you sit among scorpions. Do not be afraid of their words or be terrified by their looks for they are a rebellious house. You must speak my words to them, whether they hear or resist, because they are rebellious. [Ez 2: 5-7]

“ Without any passion I read your letters, and what I feel before God is that if you wanted to make any observation for the good of the Institute, you could have done it directly to me, for you know how much I have always appreciated you; but without interrupting in any way the march of the observance of the Rules as until the present: in this way we could deliberate whether or not it was appropriate to make any annotation for the good governance of the Order. In this way it would not have resulted in that the Prioress, by her furious nature, having lost respect for the Holy Rules. Believe me, Father, that what God wants from us is punctual observance until the Holy See has something else... [María Antonia París to Currius, EMP 252]

Although pain tears the heart apart, we are called to communicate the Word: «The Lord speaks, who will not prophesy?» [Am 3:8] Am I the voice of God that speaks to the heart?

1857

«Our Lord said to me: tell my servant (Currius) that I have something to communicate to him (...) may he prepare his heart, and give me room.»

[Diario 5]

1882

First request for dispensation of vows: the Cuban sister Trinidad of St. Bartholomew, who later wanted to return and was not allowed by the ecclesiastical authority.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 623]

I entrust this charge to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophetic words once spoken about you. Through them may you fight a good fight by having faith and a good conscience. Some, by rejecting conscience, have made a shipwreck of their faith. [1 Tm 1:18-19]

“ I send you the letters of Archbishop (José Martín Herrera) and the Superior of Cuba so that you will find out and tell me what you think, and tell the Archbishop that in the midst of the sorrow caused by the events, it gives me relief to see that he has established relations with me asking me for nuns... [María Antonia París to Enrique Gomis, EMP 375]

So many times, we believe we are truly surrendered to the Lord! poor, dispossessed of ourselves, but when the time comes for conflict, for giving way to others, to their novelty... we can be blinded, and lose sight of Jesus. Lord, may your Light and Your Peace guide our faith, hope and charity.

Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him. [Jam 1:2-4.12]

“ Only Our Lord knows what my soul has suffered since the spirit of disunity managed to enter my favorite house and interrupted the intimate communication that you sister remember very well we had, and whose cessation attracted so many evils and so many dislikes to my beloved daughters Rosa and Encarnacion, that if they had followed my advice they would have continued as before (...) I, my daughter, have suffered a lot during these years for me so sad, and so now that you can speak to me with all frankness tell me by whom, for what causes you and the other daughters of mine have abstained from writing to me... [Carta to the Prioress of Santiago de Cuba, EMP 371]

Do I cling to positions, to being protagonist, to the successes achieved? Do I feel that I no longer serve, and I do not know how to integrate myself into the day to day effort to follow the Master who calls me to follow him where He takes me? Illuminate my night!

1869

Claret to María Antonia, on the proceedings of the Constitutions carried out in the Vatican.

[Cf. CO 285]

1875

Before leaving for Carcagente María Antonia ordered the canonical elections be held in Reus.

[Hist. I, p. 575]

1858

«Day of St. Bartholomew the Apostle: while in prayer very collected, God Our Lord placed before me the state of the Church in the same way He had me see in the year of 1854.»

[Diario 24]

1860

Currius to Claret: he has in his possession the envelope with the answers to what the Holy See decided on the Constitutions.

[Cf. CO 194]

One body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. [Eph 4: 4-7]

“ Mother Florentina as prioress of Santiago (of Cuba) maintained very cordial relations with our Mother Foundress (...) During the triennium of Mother Florentina of St. James, there was an event worth mentioning in the community in which the Mother Foundress herself took part. It is the entrance of a young black woman, named Canuta Palacios, who wishing to be a religious could not see her wishes realized because of the racist laws at the time of the Colony. But the Mother Foundress authorized her to live, as a postulant, within the Cloister. It was of extraordinarily uplifting conduct. She died in the convent nine years after her entry. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 624]

We are all equal before God. All worthy of the greatest love and respect. What does this example of inclusion challenge me to in my family and community context, in my village, in my culture?

Do two journeyz together unless they have agreed? Does a lion roar in the forest when it has no prey? Does a young lion cry out from its den unless it has seized something? (...) Does a snare spring up from the ground without catching anything? Does the ram's horn sound in a city without the people becoming frightened? Does disaster befall a city unless the LORD has caused it? Indeed, the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared, who would not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken, who would not prophesy? [Am 3: 3-8]

“ ...I was reflecting on the work entrusted to me by God, the foundation of the Order. Our Lord assured me that with His grace He would help me to the good result of everything. (...) I also understood my extreme poverty for a work, which would cost me much. In this, the Lord told me very confidentially that He had everything for me. I was so well assured of it that I never placed my confidence in anybody else. [Aut. MP 58-59]

The Word is effective. God speaks and the one called opens up the ear and the heart to that Word. The Lord has spoken, who can oppose His Word? Where do I put my trust, in my talents or in the action of God who chooses me to proclaim the Good News?

1855

Claret signs the Decree of Foundation of the Claretian Missionaries Sisters, and of the religious profession of Maria Antonia Paris (Foundress) and sisters and declares them with the name of RELIGIOUS OF THE APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD AND OUR LADY.

[Cf. CO 48]

1855

Claret makes individual examination of the novices, to ascertain their personal decision to profess. He was accompanied by the royal Notary and by the secretary Rev. Paladio Currius.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 179]

1875

The resignation of the prioress of Tremp is accepted and the Episcopal Vicar appoints a new superior.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 554]

I saw everything in Christ crucified

1860

María Antonia to Dionisio González, thanks him for the money brought from Cuba. [Cf. CO 195]

1861

Conservation experience of the sacramental species of Fr. Claret at 7 p.m. - La Granja (Segovia). [Cf. Aut. PC 694]

1875

surrender of the Carlists (see April 11 explanation) in Seo de Urgel. Caixal is imprisoned. [Hist. I p.556]
The debts of the house were cancelled; it was necessary to build the Church, a pavilion, and the cells of the nuns in Reus. [Cf. Hist. I p.576]

1879

Caixal dies in the Mercedarian Convent of San Adrián in Rome. [Hist. I, p. 557]

Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. [Lk 6: 20]

“ ...as for me, I preferred to be poor with Christ than to have rents to give to the poor. [Aut. MP 221]

...and so, it has happened in this foundation, that though the archbishop was unwilling to be concerned for this or that, he has been, by Divine impulse, concerned for everything, because I have never expressed a desire of mine except when I have been asked. (...) I say this for the new ones coming to us, to learn how to hope in God against all hope. [Aut. MP 218]

A few days after my profession, my prelate commanded me in virtue of holy obedience, to organize the original points of the order which I wrote in the year 1848 (...) I was deeply affected by this command, but there was no means to find an excuse. [Aut. MP 228]

Do I let the Holy Spirit guide my life? How does my poverty, my abandonment in the hands of my Father, result in the good of those most in need? Do I live the difficulties, the setbacks, the opposition, as a current sign of my poverty, of my total abandonment in the One who comforts me and accompanies my walk?

I saw everything in Christ crucified

He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. [2 Tm 1: 9-10]

“ So, I made my long-awaited profession on August 27, of the same year in the hands of my prelate, to the joy of everybody, and more happiness in my soul - this joy I cannot express notwithstanding the difficult preparation with so many concerns in securing the foundation, but nothing hindered the fervor of my spirit. With my thought fixed in the moment of pronouncing the holy vows, the moment seemed to me like centuries, and even, with so many serious circumstances surrounding my profession, but none of them was sufficient to disturb the peace and calm of my soul. [Aut. MP 225]

God's promises are like the stars that beautify the sky in the darkest night. Discovering them is a challenge; to expect Its fulfillment is full confidence in His faithfulness.

1855

María Antonia professes in the hands of Archbishop Claret the four vows of chastity, poverty, obedience, and cloister before communion. Receives the veil, ring, and crown (of flowers). [Cf. Aut. MP 225] [Cf. Hist. I, p. 181-185] and tells Caixal about her experience on that day and the following ones. [Cf. RCX 9-11]

1856

«During the thanksgiving to God after the Holy Communion, when I made my profession, our Lord told me to take rest from my fears, that I had written well what he had commanded me...» [Aut. MP 68]

1861

Claret to María Antonia, on the calamities in Spain and the need to pray. [Cf. CO 205]

1863

Claret to María Antonia,
sends her a copy of
"The Schoolgirl" for her
and the sisters to give
their opinion before
a reprint.
[Cf. CO 229]

He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body as already dead and the dead womb of Sarah. He did not doubt God's promise in unbelief (...) That is why it was credited to him as righteousness. But it was not for him alone that it was written that 'it was credited to him'; it was also for us, who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our transgressions and was raised for our justification. [Rom 4:19-25]

“ ...I earnestly beg you for the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ, since God wanted to use Your Excellency for the foundation of the Order, who knows if now our Lord has brought him to that Holy City, to negotiate the confirmation of our Constitutions (...) what a pity it would be, if, because you do not have someone who takes this with determination, a project can die, which is to redound to so much glory of God.

[María Antonia París to Claret, EPM 95]

What matters, Mother, is to have patience and to pray much to God and to the most Holy Virgin Mary, and to abide well by the Rules you have, and to sanctify yourselves; the rest will come in due course...

[Claret to María Antonia París, CO 289]

I seek the Lord as the deer seeks fresh waters... I desire with all my strength to love and serve Him. I open myself to prayer with cordial affection and sincerity.

1870

Claret to María Antonia,
from Fontfroide writes
his last letter.
[Cf. EC-III 1763]
[Cf. CO 295]

I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me...

[Gal 2:19b-20a]

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. [Phil 1:21]

“ (Jesus speaking) 'You know my daughter, that you are to be like me, embrace the cross with all the affection of your soul; I carried the Cross carrying guilt without guilt, humiliation always brings you closer to me'...

[Diario 75]

'Don't be afraid my daughter, don't you see how your heart is so intimately linked to mine?' And I saw, I do not know how, my heart stuck to that of my Divine Jesus...

[Diario 86]

The Lord wants to be at the center of our hearts, that we give Him our being, mind, and soul. To the extent that we allow him to take possession of our life we will be able to say with all truth: «It is no longer I who lives it is Christ who lives in me».

1860

María Antonia to Caixal, giving advice to take care of his reputation. «Depart, father, from those who appear very religious with such zeal for the glory of God...»

[EMP 13]

1875

María Antonia, Gertrudis Barril and two other nuns leave Reus by train for the foundation in Carcagente.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 470]

But whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him (...) depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection... [Phil 3: 7-11]

“ On one occasion God Our Lord gave me to feel so many and so strong pains throughout my body, that I spent three days and three nights with so many sorrows that if I were not used to suffering (...) it would have seemed to expire all the time; And Our Lord told me that with those sorrows I became a partaker of the pains, and mortal sorrows that He had suffered in the torment of the Cross. And in this he comforted me a lot, and I was happy with the desire to suffer for the love of which he suffered so much for me. Another day when I suffered a lot of fatigue of spirit and body, (...) Our Lord said to me: ‘My daughter, while you suffer, I rest.’

[RN II Serie, 1]

Jesus, thank you for you are present in the Eucharist. I want to bring into your presence all my friends, my loved ones, and my enemies. I want to walk making the path easy for others.

1860

Claret to María Antonia: «the world is lost, and I cannot find any other means than the formation of a good clergy...»

[CO 196]

1875

Six sisters arrive by sea in Baracoa, with a population of five thousand inhabitants for the foundation of the fourth convent of the Institute. They were received with great joy by the people.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 448-449]

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. [Jn 15: 9; 14-15]

“ Beloved daughters, the spirit of our institute is the expansion of the Holy Law of the Lord purely and simply, with no other interest than to please him; that is why God calls us to a complete self-denial and renunciation of ourselves (...) being in a different place, nation, or province, let us serve the expansion of his glory, pure, and simple, with no other interest than to please him within the Most Holy obedience (...) Love one another (...) and you shall live in Holy Spiritual Joy (...) I recommend charity among you, because it is the bond of evangelical perfection and with it goes all virtues (...) Go, then, beloved daughters with the blessing of God the Father, the Charity of God the Son, and the Love of God the Holy Spirit. Amen. [María Antonia París to the sisters of Carcaixent, EMP 326-327]

Lord, take my life, transform me, make me a faithful disciple. May my life, my person, my customs be transformed by your Love. Conform my being with you, Good Master. May You always be the center of my being and behaving.

september

ENSEÑAR
A
TODA
CRIATURA

LA
SANTA
TRINIDAD
DIO

**The gospel
was
imprinted
on my heart**

The gospel was imprinted on my heart

The Holy Spirit awakens in each founder a concrete way of following Jesus that gives rise to a style of life. It needs to be written down, so that this inspiration can be put into practice by many other people who adhere to the charism.

The experience of the Constitutions leads, step by step, to imprint the Gospel in the heart of the sisters, since they express or highlight features of Jesus and his Kingdom according to the prism of charismatic intuition.

María Antonia drafts the way of being and proceeding in the Constitutions, approximately around the year 1848. She states to have finished writing them on December 8 of that year, which was the first version, corrected several times according to indications received from Claret, canonists, her confessors, and especially from the Curia of Rome.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever [and ever]. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty. [Rev 1: 5-6; 8]

“ The main purpose (...) is to work with all diligence in the Lord, to keep the divine Law and to fulfill the evangelical counsels (...) and in imitation of the Apostles work to teach every creature the Holy Law of the Lord (...) Our Institute also asks for daughters stripped of all their disordered affections and passions, so that they may follow in the footsteps of Christ our good...

[Const. 1869, Aim and Main Goal]

Remembering the end for which I was created and the end that motivated me in the vocational option guides me in the choices of each day.

september
1

1857

Currius to Claret, comments that Caixal has told him what was projected with Fr. Sala, superior general of the Claretians (1850-58) on where it would be convenient to found a Convent in Spain for Novitiate.
[Cf. CO 69]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1865

Claret asks Currius to deliver a copy of his notebook "Notes for the Bishops" to María Antonia. [Cf. CO 243]

1865

Claret to María Antonia, wishes the foundation in Reus is arranged soon and well. [Cf. CO 244]

I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your nature. For just as you presented the parts of your bodies as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness for lawlessness, so now present them as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. [Rom 6:19]

“...that all those who want to join (...) die to themselves, so that they may live justice and holiness, and that they strive to be faithful servants of our great God. [Const. 1869, Aim and Main Goal]

The treasure of the Church is the holiness of her members, the grace that is a divine invitation and a permanent response that continues to inspire those of us who are on the way.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

When you read this you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to human beings in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. [Cf. Eph 3: 4-6]

“There is nothing that matters so much for the preservation of religious orders than to have all the houses of the same Order in perfect charity and in fine harmony living as the members of the same body. [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 1, 1]

When we become aware that “we are all the same body of Christ” the heart and the desire to take his Gospel to every creature is ignited.

1852

Claret arrives in Santiago after the pastoral visit to the diocese and is shocked by the devastation of the earthquake of August 20. His first meeting with the future nuns takes place in their little house in Callejón del Carmen. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 136]

1855

Profession of nine novices: María Josefa de San Pablo, María Encarnación de los Santos (Antonia Gual), María Rosa de San Juan, and other six who arrived on January 15, 1854: among them María Gertrudis de San Felipe (Benita Barril). They proceed to elect María Antonia as Prioress. [Cf. Pos. MP p. 69-70] [Cf. Hist. I, p. 184-186]

1859

María Antonia listens within her to the Lord who asks her for a «spiritual nuptial experience with the Church». [Cf. Diario 41]

1860

While praying to God Our Lord, He told me from the Tabernacle in a very sorrowful way «everyone is so blind my daughter!... let me rest on your heart». [Diario 68]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1856

(Month of September)

A day in September she receives again the announcement of the proximity of the Judgment, symbol of the darkness of the Holy Church. María Antonia saw it as in dreams «I saw the skies with a terrifying appearance: I heard a noise tremendous frightful! (...) symbol of the darkness of the holy church».

[Aut. MP 242]

Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love. [Eph 4: 15-16]

“ The lack of this precept (love) so recommended by Jesus Christ our divine Redeemer to his dear Apostles, has lost our holy religion. Therefore, in order not to fall into such a misfortune, all the houses of this new Order will have a close communication observing the following rules.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 1, 2]

Effective communication is important to help us meet Jesus and our brothers and sisters. It is an art.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then, taking the seven loaves he gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to distribute, and they distributed them to the crowd. They also had a few fish. He said the blessing over them and ordered them distributed also. [Mk 8: 6-8]

“ Understand all the Prioresses (...) who have (to) collect and distribute alms as means, and according to the disposition of the First Mother in order to proceed in everything with more order and ease.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 1, 12]

All we receive are gifts to be shared with others. Do we share and distribute them with those who need them? What do we do with them?

1849

Claret to Caixal, on the manuscript he has sent him, supposedly by María Antonia on the constitutions he wrote in 1848.

[Cf. CO 1]

1866

Claret to María Antonia, on the status of the process of foundation in Reus.

[Cf. CO 251]

1875

The fourth house of the Institute is founded in Baracoa (Cuba).

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 449- 450]

1858

Currius to Claret,
informs him that he
has received the official
permission to travel with
the sisters to Spain.
[Cf. CO 123]

1867

María Antonia to Currius,
informs him with much
disgust of the false
luxury that the architect
of the city wants to put
on the façade in Reus.
[Cf. CO 267]

1875

Fr. Caixal was imprisoned
by the Spanish
government and taken
to the Castle of Santa
Bárbara in Alicante
to keep him without
communication.
He had anointed
Carlos de Borbón as
King of Spain at the
Sanctuary of Loyola.
He was imprisoned until
April 11, 1876 when he
was released giving him a
passport to go to Rome.
[Cf. Pos. MP p. 155]

If then you were raised with Christ,
seek what is above, where Christ is
seated at the right hand of God. Think
of what of what is above, not is on earth.
For you have died, and your life is hidden
with Christ in God When Christ your life
appears, then you too will appear with
him in glory. [Col 3:1-4]

“ But the Lord does not ask for
the blood of martyrs to raise
his beloved wife the Church, but a perfect
imitation of his virtues as the Apostles
and many other saints did in imitation of
him. How do you think these saints lit up
the world except with a total detachment
from all things? Whoever wants to repair
the ruins of my House cannot forget my
first entry into the world.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 2, 2]

Learning to live detached from the
goods of the earth helps us to better
reach those of heaven and share
with our brothers and sisters in need.

Amen, I say to you, until heaven and
earth pass away, not the smallest letter
or the smallest part of a letter will pass
from the law, until all things have taken
place. Therefore, whoever breaks one
of the least of these commandments
and teaches others to do so will be
called least in the kingdom of heaven.
But whoever obeys and teaches these
commandments will be called greatest
in the kingdom of heaven. [Mt 5:18-19]

“ Therefore, since this new
Order has as its main and
unique purpose the perfect observance
of the Holy Law of the Lord and exact
fulfillment of the evangelical counsels,
its members are to be a living copy of the
first Apostles...

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 2, 4]

We are called to be “Apostles” in
imitation of the first ones. The
observance of the Holy Law of
the Lord down to the intricate details
expresses our longing to follow Christ
and our brothers and sisters.

1971

María Luisa Gambón,
a Claretian missionary,
claims before a notary to
have heard from several
sisters who knew Antonia
about her life of holiness.
[Pos. MP Doc. 1 k, p. 299]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1857

Claret to Currius,
recounts the steps and
diligences he does for the
sisters. Being cloistered,
the procedures for their
trip are complicated.
[cf. CO 71]

1859

Currius to
Dionisio González,
communicates how much
Claret liked the Rules
and Constitutions of the
Apostolic Institute.
[cf. CO 168]

Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come. But many that are first will be last, and [the] last will be first". [Mk 10: 29-31]

“ There is nothing more delightful than the faithful keeping of the Divine Commandments together with the observance of the evangelical counsels that God commands every religious to keep, all of which make up the main aim and purpose of this Order. God who has devised this way of living, knows very well the forces needed to carry it forward.

[Const. 1869, Treaty IV, Chap. 9, art. 3, n. 34]

The evangelical counsels presuppose a relationship of intimacy between the person and Christ, between the teacher and his disciple. Ours will always be a response of humble love, trust, and service.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

He said to [his] disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides".

[Lk 12: 22-23.31]

“ Faith makes them walk without stumbling in the darkness and the night of ignorance; hope teaches them to live always in the arms of Divine Providence caring not only for their sanctification, and charity encourages them to undertake the most arduous and perfect works and ignites them in lively desires to work for the sanctification of their neighbors without neglecting their own. [Const. 1869, Treaty III, Chap. 5, 20]

Do you experience God's Providence in your life? Do you feel as "God's Providence" for your brothers and sisters? Remember and thank.

1856

«At eleven o'clock in the morning being very collected, Our Lord made me see the concert, weight, and measure with which he founded his Church, and with great astonishment I saw the total neglect of the fulfillment of the Divine Law (...) To whom God gives divine light will understand the weight of these words, because I do not know how to make them understand».
[Cf. Diario 7]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1857

Caixal to Mayor Sullá,
reports on the project of
a house in Tremp for the
novitiate of the sisters
founded in Cuba.
[Cf. CO 72]

1879

In the absence of the
Archbishop of
Santiago de Cuba,
the Governor of the
Archdiocese had
determined this day
for the election of the
Prioress in the Convent
of Santiago de Cuba.
The Prioress said that
the elections could not
be made until after the
Spiritual Exercises, so
she did not convene
the Community.
The Governor of the
Archdiocese clothed
himself with authority
and made himself
obeyed and declared the
prioress exonerated
from office.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 621]

Finally, brothers, whatever is true,
whatever is honorable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
whatever is gracious, if there is any
excellence and if there is anything
worthy of praise, think about these things.
Keep on doing what you have learned and
received and heard and seen in me. Then
the God of peace will be with you.

[Phil 4: 8-9]

“ Everyone who lives in this
family, must work to acquire
the virtues of our most pure and dearest
Mother Mary Most Holy without blemish
conceived, especially her laborious life, her
recollection, her profound humility, her
poverty so great that by being the Queen
of heaven and earth she wanted to earn
sustenance with the work of her most holy
hands, taking for herself the sentence that
God Our Lord gave to our first parents.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 2, 16]

Let us ask Mary, mother, and sign
in our journey, for her help to
acquire and live the virtues that
most resemble her Son Jesus.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha,
Martha, you are anxious and worried
about many things. There is need of only
one thing”. [Lk 10: 41-42a]

“ By conclusion of this chapter it
is to be noted that the perfect
observance of Holy Poverty is the basis
and foundation of this new Order and the
master key to introduce into the interior
of all mortals the perfect fulfillment of
the Holy Law of the Lord.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 2, 84]

Jesus enriches us with his limitless
poverty. The contemplation of his
life motivates us to follow him in
progressive detachment.

1880

(without date)
María Antonia to
monsignor Orberá,
writes that she has
been misinterpreted as
a haughty woman who
wants to reform the whole
Church and who forced
the Holy Father to sign so
Caixal be replaced.
She leaves her cause in
his Divine hands,
her conscience is truly
clear; she has always
worked in obedience to
her legitimate directors
and Prelates.
[Cf. Pos. MP p. 171]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1863

Claret to Currius,
expresses the sorrow of
María Antonia because
Fr. Barjau cannot
accompany the sisters
traveling to Cuba,
and asks if he could
find a solution.

[Cf. CO 230]

1875

The first stone of the
convent in Carcagente
(Valencia, Spain)
is blessed and laid.
It's the fifth house of the
Institute. María Antonia
moves there.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 472]

(Christ) humbled himself, becoming
obedient to death, even death on a cross.

[Phil 2: 8]

“ ... Holy Obedience is
indispensable to give it the
being, form, and complement, and with
all the more reason this virtue must
flourish in this Order, since its individuals
are to be a living copy of Jesus Christ
who, becoming obedient until death on
the cross, with obedience redeemed the
world lost for lack of it.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 3, 1]

By active listening and humble
obedience, we find God's will.
There we find our true identity.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

Therefore, I urge you to reaffirm your
love for him. For this is why I wrote, to
know your proven character, whether
you were obedient in everything.

[2 Cor 2: 8-9]

“ ...the slightest act of obedience
is much better and worth much
more than the greatest sacrifices because
through sacrifices something alien is
offered and sacrificed, but by obedience
one offers and sacrifices one's own will,
which is the portion of more value and of
more esteem that the rational creature
possesses. [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 3, 7]

In dialogue and discernment
let us live co-responsibly the
obedience that leads us to
maturity and fullness in Christ.

1855

The Community elects
Rev. Paladio Currius
(Temporary Administrator
of the Convent) as
Trustee of the Convent.

[Cf. Pos. MP p. 71]

1875

The third house in Spain
and the fifth at the
congregational level is
founded in Carcagente.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 474]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1855

Claret to Currius,
ratifies his Election as
Trustee of the Convent
and entrusts him with
taking care of its interests.
[Cf. CO 49]

1879

María Antonia to
Enrique Gomis,
writes to him on matters
of Constitutions
and dowries.
[Cf. EMP 281]

1880

María Antonia to
sisters of Carcaixent,
reminds and encourages
the sisters about
the meaning of their
consecration in the service
of the Church, and to see
in their assignments the
call that God makes to
them to live obedience.
[Cf. EMP 326 - 327]

1882

Cuban Sister María Josefa
de San Simón asks for
dispensation of vows in
the Convent in
Santiago de Cuba.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 623]

In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. [Gal 5: 22-23]

“ To achieve the perfection of this so marked virtue St. Leo says the following words: Nothing is difficult for the humble or rough for the meek; therefore, let there be humility and meekness... [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 3, 20]

Meekness is a gift we ask of the Holy Spirit and commit ourselves to cultivate with patience. !

Similarly, [too,] women should adorn themselves with proper conduct, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hairstyles and gold ornaments, or pearls, or expensive clothes, but rather, as befits women who profess reverence for God, with charitable deeds. [1 Tm 2: 9-10]

“ As far as the vow of chastity is concerned, it is well to be seen how perfectly it must be kept, trying to imitate our most pure Mother as members of this new Order, dedicated and founded in her honor in the same year in which the holy Church, declares and confesses dogma of faith, the mystery of the Immaculate Conception. [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 4, 1]

The modesty that dwells in our hearts by the work of the Spirit helps us to live in a new way. It is God's strength, not human strength. !

1860

«I felt such great sadness as never in my life I had felt, with an inner sorrow that seemed to dissolve my heart, I seemed to see in my dying heart the immense sea of sadness that oppressed my Holy Mother the Church...» [Diario 69]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, communicates that the letters have crossed paths, in one of them they sent him the license of the Nuncio to present it to the archbishop.

[Cf. EMP 329]

After this the Lord appointed seventy[-two] others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so, ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves".

[Lk 10:1-3]

“...the first Mother may choose one or more religious from any of the convents of the Order and send them where the need calls them to exercise well the offices according to our Institute. [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 1, 14]

It is urgent to bring the Good News to all people, the message of Jesus is for everyone. Availability to be sent is the generous response to God who calls.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

If not, then you listen to me; be silent, and I will teach you wisdom. [Job 33:33]

“...any word that does not spring from and does not lead to, that is not an invitation to silence, is an empty word (...) (silence) is conducive to the best performance in material and intellectual work, prayer and rest of the sisters. Silence is not inner life, but it is a condition of true inner life.

[DC1969, VR79]

We need silence, to leave behind so many words and set ourselves to listen, to discover what God tells us in the reality we are living.

1858

Spiritual experience of María Antonia: «Day of the impression of the wounds of St. Francis, while in prayer I saw in spirit a great disorder in the whole Church of God (...) I asked with many tears to Our Lord that through the intercession of his servant Francis, he would see it fit to delay a little his justice (...) in this petition I was very comforted by our Lord telling me He granted me the request to make time for the founding of many houses of the Order».

[Cf. Diario 26]

1863

Claret to Dionisio González, on the ship that is to transport the sisters of Tremp destined for Cuba.

[Cf. CO 231]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

[1 Cor 15: 58]

“ Each religious will try to perfect herself as best she can in regard to the office she exercises in religion, without desiring new positions or honorable offices, rather, she must appreciate for herself much more the most humble and strive in every care to fulfill the greatest perfection that could have been ordered, not looking for herself in them, but the greater glory of God our Lord. [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 8, 15]

Constant formation is a personal responsibility; practical and theoretical formation lead us to be more creative and bolder in the mission entrusted.

1853

Claret entrusts Currius with a letter that has come from Spain for María Antonia and tells him to tell her to arrange everything in accordance with the will of God. [Cf. CO 32]

1868

Beginning of the Glorious Revolution: It begins with the uprising of Cádiz (Spain) to dethrone Queen Isabel II. A few days later she is dethroned. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 379]

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis: about the lost letter containing the license for the sisters going to the foundation in Velez Rubio. [Cf. EMP 330]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you. [Mt 6: 17-18]

“ ...in addition to the days commanded by the Church, they must fast in all the vigils of Mary Most Holy, and every Saturdays... [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 8, 16]

Fasting is not just a matter of not eating, it is an attitude of the heart. It disposes us to serve and to be more supportive of the poor.

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, informs him that the telegram has arrived announcing the Nuncio's License allowing the sisters destined for the foundation in Vélez Rubio; he will accompany sisters to leave the cloister. [Cf. EMP 331]

1852

Florentina Sangler, María Antonia's first companion, dies of yellow fever. Immense sorrow flooded her soul. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 141]

The gospel was imprinted on my heart

For he says: "In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation". [2 Cor 6: 2]

“ Be especially careful that they all keep silence in all places of the house, especially where some work together, make sure that they all make effective use of time, and that none is lost at home. [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 29, 7]

Time is a gift and an opportunity to grow in humanity. Let us prioritize the important, the essential. Let us learn to choose.

The gospel was imprinted on my heart

But the LORD was gracious with Israel and looked on them with compassion because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was unwilling to destroy them or to cast them out from his presence even up to now... [2 Kgs 13: 23]

“ The demon, as cunning as he is shrewd, knows well that nothing attracts people (...) more than having them practice a misunderstood piety... [Cf. Const. 1869, Treaty, Chap. 12, 14]

Acts of piety should direct us to God the Father with love and simplicity. Avoid empty prayers of intentionality, phrases full of routine. Ignite your heart with the Gift of Piety.

1860

Claret arrives in Barcelona to open the envelope sent by the Vatican with the response to the request for approval of Constitutions and Rules. This is negative. The Constitutions were not approved for canonical reasons at that time. That same day Claret meets with Caixal and Currius to see how to proceed on what the Holy See says about the Constitutions. [Cf. Hist I, p. 885-890]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1866

Claret to María Antonia, encourages her not to faint in the face of the difficulties of the foundation in Reus.

[Cf. CO 252]

1871

María Antonia to the prioress of Tremp, writes, in this time of tribulation:

«I wish I could die for the restoration of the Holy Church! but I do not consider myself so lucky».

[EMP 119]

1882

M^a Rosa and Encarnación Gual left the Convent of Santiago for Spain. They asked the Holy See to be transferred to the Convent in Tremp, but were only allowed to go to different convents. As they had promised their mother not to separate before leaving for Cuba, they both asked for a dispensation from their vows. They had thought of founding a new house of the Institute with María Teresa Jordá, niece of the M. Foundress.

The Bishop of Santiago did not allow it. The three returned to their families in Tarragona. [Hist. I, p. 622]

When the apostles returned, they explained to him that they had done. He took them and withdrew in private to a town called Bethsaida. [Lk 9:10]

“ The Churches of the religious are to be like the desert where Jesus Christ went to rest from his apostolic tasks. As religious we must take advantage of (...) the stillness and retreat of prayer, in imitation of Saint Teresa who is said to have converted hundreds or thousands of souls in the stillness and solitude of her convents.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 12, 16]

Let us seek spaces of stillness and retreat to meet God and ourselves and enjoy the experience of the encounter. Jesus invites us to a quiet place to be with Him.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. This is how you are to pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...' [Mt 6:6,9]

“ A religious does more with an hour of prayer (...) directed to the needs of the people, than (do) all the functions of the Church.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 12, 17]

The personal relationship with Jesus grows in prayer and this impels us in daily life to encounter the God who inhabits us and sends us.

1887

An earthquake in Baracoa (Cuba) knocked down the bell tower of the church. It devastated the roof of the convent except for the chapel where at that time the community and the schoolgirls were listening to Mass. This is the beginning of a series of adverse natural events that will lead the community and its educational mission to move to the house of Mr. Luis Urgelles, where they will continue their work until the restoration of the convent and school, on December 21 of this year.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 455-456]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1863

Claret to Miura, communicates the date of departure for Cuba of the three sisters together with Fr. Barjau to strengthen the community of Santiago. [Cf. CO 232]

1867

Claret to María Antonia, expresses that he is fine with her desire for two new foundations in America and is pleased with the progress in the works of Reus. [Cf. CO 268]

1880

Sixth foundation, in Vélez Rubio. The five Claretian missionary sisters from Carcagente arrived in Vélez Rubio (Almería, Spain) and received a warm welcome from the people who accompanied them in procession to the church and then to the convent of San Francisco de Assisi, their new convent. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 650-651]

...but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. [1 Pt 3: 16]

“ Help one another with holy charity, as Our Lord commands in His Most Holy Law, venerating, and respecting all (...) as superiors to them, in imitation of the disciples of that holy apostolic family. [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 23, 7]

Living together, respect and help towards the different, always comes from love, from the recognition of their dignity. We are all beloved children of God. That is why we say, 'Our Father..'

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. [Mt 7: 24]

“ For this office (the doorkeeper), the Mother Prioress must choose one of the most collected religious, very silent, and full of meekness and prudence; because she is like the sample of the sisters that is put at the door, because for the reason of her employment she is the one who has to talk to the laity the most... [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 31, 1]

What skills have I developed that lead me to act prudently and discreetly in any situation?

1852

María Antonia and her three companions ask Archbishop Claret to authorize the canonical foundation of the first house. [Cf. CO 13; Pos. MP Doc. 9 A, p. 60] This request was passed on by the archbishop to the hands of Rev. Manuel José Miura, Prosecutor, who considered the foundation beneficial to the spiritual life of the Archdiocese. They praise the fact that it will educate poor girls, and that the sisters make vows, since it ensures stability. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 157]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

1877

(Month of September)

María Antonia assigns three sisters of Santiago to Baracoa, but the superior presents to her the shortage of personnel prepared for teaching. She changes the assignments and sends other sisters from the communities of Reus and Carcagente.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 451]

When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep". [Lk 7:13]

“ ...choose for the service (of community nurse), one of the most outstanding religious in charity, humility, patience, and meekness; may she be of equal genius, cheerful, sweet, and compassionate of unbridled spirit, upright and free. [Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 33, 2]

Following in the footsteps of Christ, our life, like His, must be marked by compassion, justice, tolerance, and dedication to others.

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

When you stand to pray, forgive anyone against whom you have a grievance, so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive you your transgressions. [Mk 11: 25]

“ This (forgiveness) must be done with great humility and confusion (...) regretting much having offended God our Lord...

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 10, 2]

Take great care (Mother Prioress) that your daughters have peace with each other, without ever allowing them to quarrel; and if it ever happens, she will make sure that they do not go to bed without asking for forgiveness and becoming friends.

[Const. 1869, Trat. I, Cap. 24, 17]

Forgiveness and fraternal correction is a new opportunity to recognize our weakness and look at the other with love, tenderness, and mercy. Why is it hard for us to ask for forgiveness and forgive?

1857

Among the many young aspirants who came to Santiago was Juana Barceló born in Barcelona in 1830. She professed in Santiago de Cuba on September 27, 1857, with the new name of María del Carmen de San Mateo. She was sent to Baracoa for the foundation in 1875, there she died piously on June 1, 1894.

[Cf. CO 74, footnote 4]

1852

Manuel J. Miura to Claret, has reported positively on the sisters to facilitate civil approval:

"Their object is not only useful, but urgently necessary." It would be appropriate, therefore, to raise their request to the General Captain.

[Cf. CO 15]

The gospel was imprinted on my heart

The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so, we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. [1 Jn 3:16]

“ It is the love of God and neighbor that has brought us together in this Apostolic Congregation only in order to fulfill the precept of the Lord as much as our divine Master wants it, who sums up the fulfillment of his Most Holy Law in loving God above all things, and neighbor as oneself.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 26, 44]

Love of God and love of neighbor are two loves that cannot be separated. This logic places us before the novelty of the Gospel of Jesus. What means do I put to understand the other more?

The gospel was imprinted on my heart

Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

[Gal 6:2]

“ There is nothing that matters so much for the preservation of religious orders than having all the houses of the same Order a perfect charity and a fine harmony in living as the members of the same body.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 1, 1]

The charity of Christ urges us on and pushes us to Synodality. It disposes us to mutual help, communication, dialogue and sincere love for others, communion, and the proclamation of Jesus Christ.

1856

Currius shares at length with Caixal, both spiritual directors of Maria Antonia, about simplicity, obedience and mortification.

[Pos. MP Doc. 10, p. 71]

september
30

1868

María Antonia understands in prayer that by disobedience schisms appear in the Church: «...this is how the children of my Church leave».
[Cf. Diario 8]

The gospel
was imprinted on my heart

...Therefore, I will allure her now; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak persuasively to her. [Hos 2: 16]

“ *...in all the houses of our Order holy spiritual exercises will be done every year with the greatest possible retreat, fervor and care...*

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 12, 1]

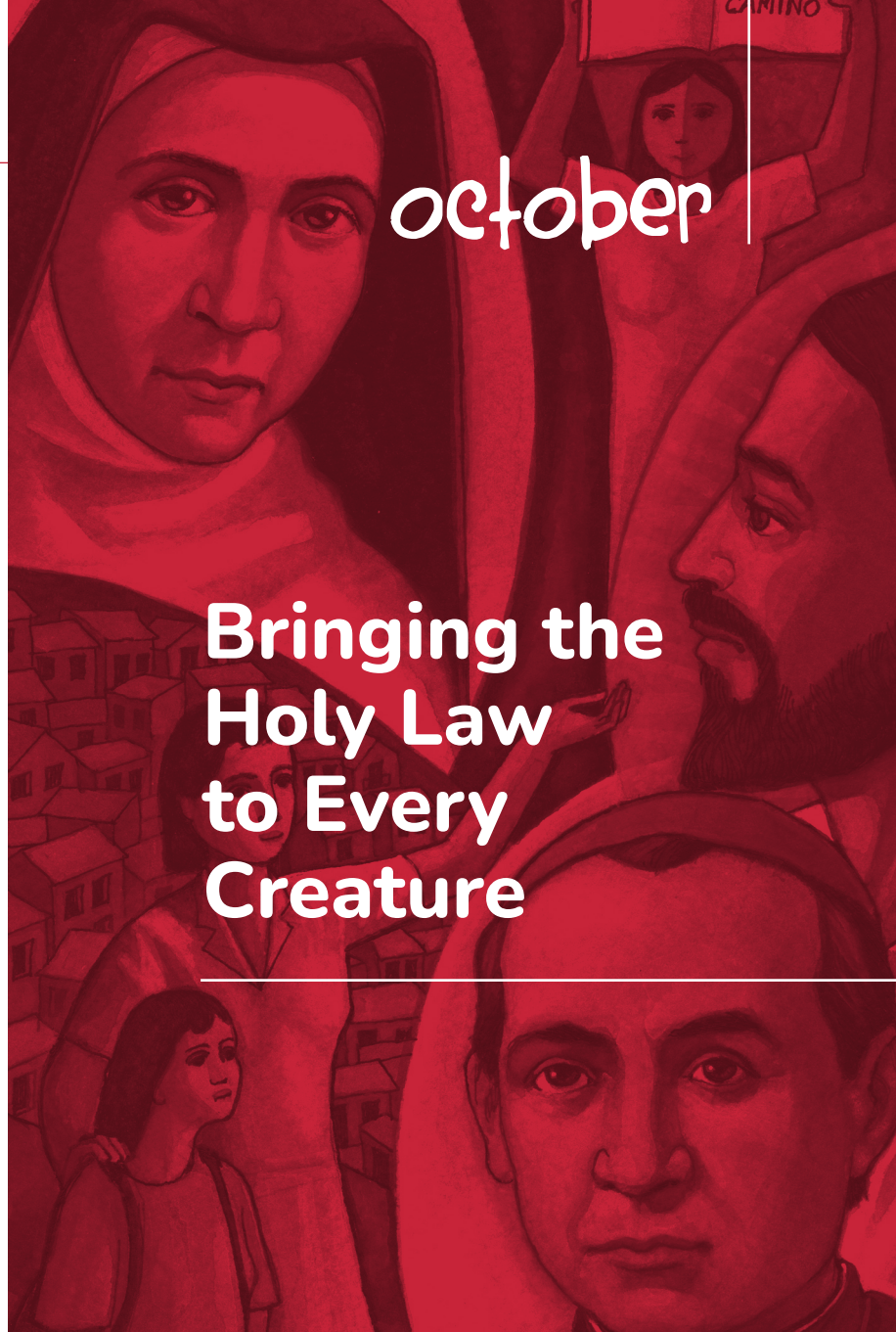
The Mother Prioress must agree with the Ordinary to combine between the two a time (...) to give ten-day Spiritual Exercises to lay women (...) within the cloister, so they think more seriously and purposefully about the salvation of their soul.

[Const. 1869, Treaty I, Chap. 26, 41]

The spiritual exercises open us up to the experience of the living God in each one, to recognize his presence, will and actions in all things. !

october

Bringing the
Holy Law
to Every
Creature



Bringing the Holy Law to Every Creature

The reason for the existence of the Claretian Missionary Sisters is the experience and proclamation of the Gospel to every creature. For both Founders the passion for Christ and for the Kingdom pushed them to the most arduous challenges. Their motivation, their restlessness, and their rest, was that may God be everything in all.

In *The Apostolic Missionary*, María Antonia, illuminated by the Spirit, highlights key elements of a deep missionary spirituality, a path of configuration with the itinerant Christ, announcer of the Father's message of salvation.

The inspiration received by María Antonia also included a male branch of the Institute to whom she directed these rules in the *Apostolic Missionary*. It was possibly written in 1859.

Bringing the Holy Law to Every Creature

He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature”. [Mk 16:15]

“ Christ, sent by the Father, is the source and origin of all apostolate. Our Institute has received in the Church the mission of proclaiming the Gospel. Apostolic activity belongs to the very essence of our consecrated life.

[Const. 61]

Christ, Presence of the “I belong to God”, is with us. He, the messenger of God's good news, makes us collaborators in his mission of saving the world. Our part: gratitude and availability.

october
1

1857

Claret in a letter to Currius, communicates that the best place for the foundation is Catalonia, and asks him to tell María Antonia if she can write to Bishop Caixal. [Cf. CO 73]

1879

María Antonia in a letter to Enrique Gomis, confesses that it is better to send home that candidate who has already given her so much to suffer with her inconstancies. [Cf. EMP 284]

1857

Currius to Claret, rejoices in the approval of the foundation in Catalonia. [Cf. CO 74]

1858

Claret to María Antonia, reiterates that the three sisters who are to open the house in Tremp can come, and tells her about his efforts to expedite the process. [Cf. CO 125]

1868

The Revolutionary Assembly of Reus suppresses by decree all the Congregations and Religious Communities of the city without taking into account the Concordat with the Holy See. María Antonia decided to send the novices and aspirants home to their families. The religious take refuge with the Sisters of Charity in the Hospital. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 380 and 383]

1869

Claret relates to Currius the steps taken in the Holy See for the approval of the Institute's Rules. [Cf. CO 286]

So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma. [Eph 5:1-2]

“ First, and before all things, the Apostolic Missionary must conform his life, person and customs to his divine Master Christ Jesus. [MA I, 1]

...and in his most holy life, he will find hidden manna which will taste good at all times. So do not lose sight of your divine Model if you want to finish the mission that God has entrusted to you. [MA II, 30]

To be with Him, to live and act like Him is the measure of one's fulfillment in Christ Jesus.

Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that if they speak of you as evildoers, they may observe your good works and glorify God on the day of visitation. [1 Pt 2:12]

“ The missionary must behave in a way that he may be a cause of edification for all who might look at him and relate closely with him. [MA I, 2]

To live and walk with righteousness and honesty, showing in actions what is said in words, loving for the sake of Love, is to become little by little the gospel of Christ.

1858

Claret to Dionisio González, advises that the sisters travel to Spain by the means indicated no earlier than March, because of the cold weather. [Cf. CO 126]

1858

Claret to Currius, the foundation is about to be approved, tell the sisters to come after February. [Cf. CO 127]

1849

Claret, after long consultation and prayer, accepts the appointment of Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba in discernment with the Bishop of Vic, Rev. Luciano Casadevall. [Cf. Aut. PC 495-498]

For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you, with the simplicity and sincerity of God, [and] not by human wisdom but by the grace of God.

[2 Cor 1:12]

“ (Resembling Christ) requires (...) First, modesty in looking; never looking out of curiosity (...) Second, be very measured in words. Third (...) he must not change the tone of his voice nor speak making fun or scorning people.

[MA I, 3]

Your heart is like a clay pot. Mold in him simplicity, humility, the ability to manage your qualities responsibly, to put them at the service, giving free what has been given to you.

They would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need.

[Acts 2: 45]

“ Be conscientious in the use things such as brooms, charcoal, soap, (...) in all these things, and many more that it is not possible to list, much can be saved, and if the Missionary knows how to be governed by a holy and prudent economy with a total detachment from all worldly interest, God Our Lord will give him his grace, and blessing so that he never lacks what is necessary for himself and his brothers. [MA I, 18]

The more you give, the more you receive, because God does not allow Himself to be overcome in generosity. Try it too! See what happens!

1866

New Pastoral Visit of Caixal to the Community in Tremp. Praises the community in his report. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 313]

Lined writing area for notes.

1850

Anthony Claret is consecrated Bishop in the Cathedral of Vic. He is consecrated by Rev. Luciano Casadevall. [Cf. Aut. PC 499]

1858

Curriús to Claret, shares how the success of the school is such that they also had to open classes in the afternoon. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 230; Pos. MP p. 76]

1868

Naudó to Claret, recounts the ravages of the Revolution: in Reus they expelled the sisters giving them two hours to leave the convent. [Cf. CO 274]

Beloved, I hope you are prospering in every respect and are in good health, just as your soul is prospering. [3]n1:2

“ At sea as well as in land, in the cities as well as in the desert the missionary of Christ must not be careless of self. If he cannot do all his readings, at least he should read two chapters of ‘The Imitation of Christ’, one in the morning and one in the evening, do not ever abandon this faithful friend and always he be his adviser. [MA II, 18]

Jesus tells you: “take some time for yourself. You deserve it. Get some ‘time for Me’”.

When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine”. [And] Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come”. His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you”. [Jn 2: 3-5]

“ The Immaculate Virgin Mary, whose ‘yes’ to God became a service to human beings, should be our strength and our model in the evangelization of peoples, because Christ chose to come among us through her. We must make her to be loved as mother and lady who guides all to her Son. [Const. 62]

Attention, listening, presence, and maternal accompaniment are key for the Gospel to penetrate the heart and teach us to be children, brothers and servants in Jesus, the Son of God and Mary.

1876

(At the beginning of October) María Antonia to the prioress of Reus, encourages her to continue in office despite the difficulties and asks her for her opinion on how to distribute the responsibilities in that community. [Cf. EMP 211]

1884

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, communicates that the Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba cancels the trip of the sisters to Cuba because of the difficult situation that the island is experiencing. [Cf. EMP 414]

...Since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all. [Col 3: 9-11]

In the Claretian Missionary sister, the virtue which should shine the most must be a fervent zeal of the salvation of souls. For this reason, she should not avoid any work, hardship or tiredness, imitating our divine master Jesus Christ. Striving to copy in her heart those virtues that are so necessary for our Institute, namely, charity, humility and meekness. [Const. 66]

The fire of love and the call to proclaim the Kingdom, be a source of creativity, passion, and missionary audacity for the evangelizer of Christ Jesus. Nothing else, but Christ.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations... [Mt 24: 14]

The whole world must be homeland for the missionary of Christ, because our Divine Redeemer came to redeem all, sending us to preach the same Gospel all over the world. [MA II, 10]

For a heart touched and transformed by the Gospel, the world has no borders. Every corner is its homeland.

1852

The existence of the plague in Cuba is officially recognized after the earthquake of August. 2,734 people have died in less than three months. [Cf. Aut. PC 534]

1876

María Antonia to Currús, relates the difficulties and lack of resources they experience in the construction in Carcagente. [Cf. EMP 212]

1857

Claret to Currius,
clarifies that the three
sisters may come to start
the foundation in Tremp
whenever Caixal gives
the go ahead.
[Cf. CO 75]

**Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God; everyone who
loves is begotten by God and knows God.**

[1]n 4:7]

“ The missionary must always
be kind and be all to all but
without losing his composure and
religious circumspection. [MA II,1]

The word that is born of the
encounter with Jesus, transmitted
affably and cordially, reaches the
humble heart and encourages change.

**Do nothing out of selfishness or out of
vainglory; rather, humbly regard others
as more important than yourselves.**

[Phil 2: 3]

“ Treat everyone with respect, if
you want to be respected as it
suits a minister of the Lord: for it will serve
you not to have problems with anyone.

[MA II, 5 a]

Do not argue with anybody, be simple
in your speech saying: “This is so and so”
or “It is not so” and do not begin a dispute
trying to impose your way, but yield to
everybody. [MA II, 5 b]

Accept and respect everyone for
who they are, even when they are
different from you, or you don't
agree with them.

1852

The commissioners of
the Cabildo of Santiago
to Claret: the Cabildo is
satisfied with the report
of the prosecutor on
the Foundation of the
future Claretian
missionary sisters.
[Cf. CO 16]

1855

Claret to María Antonia,
answers questions
concerning the students.
[Cf. CO 50]

1860

Currius to Claret,
gives an account of his
stay in Rome and his visit
to Tremp.
[Cf. CO 197]

1852

Meeting on this date, the Cathedral Chapter unanimously gives its positive pronouncement to the foundation (...) The ecclesiastical chapter authorities hand it to Claret. [Cf. CO 17] The Chapter endorsed the report and unanimous opinion of the parish priests who considered that the foundation was good for religious education, especially for the poor who until then had lacked it. They say that there are already young people who want to be religious. They ask the Archbishop to protect this incipient Institute of novices. The City Council also reports favorably on this opportunity of free education (...) They say that in addition to education, the students will be given a solid foundation of Christian morality. The General Commander Governor of Santiago, Mr. Joaquín Martínez de Medinilla, endorses this report that was handed to him by the City Council for his approval. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 160-161]

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [Gal 3: 28]

“ The good missionary must adjust himself to the disposition of the persons with whom he relates and be all for everybody in order to gain them all. [MA II, 8]

Never speak ill of the country where God sends you; nor tolerate that your brothers or companions speak ill (...) of those poor people (...) that God has entrusted you. [MA II, 9]

The missionary will obtain more by crying before God for the bad customs of the country, than speaking with his brothers of those facts... [MA II, 11]

Diversity is richness that magnifies those who recognize it, accept, and assume it as part of a more integral and global whole.

Your adornment should not be an external one: braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes, but rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight of God.

[1 Pt 3: 3-4]

“ Let his (the missionary's) modesty be such that even his companions respect him... [MA II, 16]

This modesty will greatly help his external composure so necessary to preserve his virtue; because if he is careless of his virtue, it will be useless to him to save the whole world if by his carelessness loses his soul. [MA II, 17]

Beautify your soul with moderation and harmony in the use of all creation. Modesty, the fruit of the Spirit, is the way to attain it.

1876

(Month of October) Gertrudis Barril as secretary of María Antonia informs the priest Rev. José María Navarro, recently assigned to Almería from Carcagente as secretary of the new bishop, about the date of the inauguration of this convent and gives him news about the school and the Postulants. [Cf. EMP 218]

1870

María Antonia sends official letters to the Ecclesiastical Governor of Tarragona informing him of the beginning of the novitiate of several sisters. [Cf. EMP 109 y 110]

After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening, he was there alone.

[Mt 14: 23]

“ May he (the missionary) kill not the spirit of holy prayer with the many chores. [MA II, 19]

Jesus Christ our Lord and most perfect Master during the day did mission work and at night he prayed. [MA II, 20]

If the words of the Missionary do not come out of the forge of prayer, they will not soften the heart. [MA II, 22]

Listen to God in the silence of prayer. There he teaches you what his people need.



1859

The formed women were transferred to the new premises of the novitiate in the new section of the house of Tremp that was being built. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 293]

Those who guard mouth and tongue guard themselves from trouble.

[Prov 21: 23]

The heart of the intelligent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. [Prov 18: 15]

“ (The missionary must) seek prudence in silence, and temperance in speaking. [MA II, 24]

If he wants to be listened to, he must never overstress his views, but with moderation, express his feelings.

[MA II, 25]

In a gathering of many speak little and do not be confrontational with those who speak if their ideas were not bad.

[MA II, 26]

The sage of heart speaks prudently; and to his lips he adds wisdom. [Prov 16: 23] How are your words?



1879

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, on the changing attitudes in the community and her sadness with the situation of Sister María Rosa Caixal who continues in her disobedience.
[Cf. EMP 285; Hist. I, p. 612-613]

1881

Rescript of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars by which they grant the Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, Rev. José Martín Herrera, permission to allow sisters of 30 years of age and 5 of perpetual profession to be Prioress in Santiago, not of 40 years as the law requested.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 621]

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love.

[2 Pt 1: 5-7]

“ *The main concern of the missionary is to conform his life with that of Christ.* [MA II, 30]

Therefore, the missionary must measure his deeds with this compass if he does not want to destroy the law he teaches with his words: temperance in all is the mirror of a holy life... [MA II, 31]

Live every moment of life with an active pause, with the temperance that communicates a reflective balance.

When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say.

[Mt 10: 19]

Seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides.

[Lk 12: 31]

“ *What a great humility! Our Lord Jesus Christ wanted to experience all the limitations of human beings to teach them by example! What a temperance and moderation he observed in all his words and actions.* [MA II, 31 b]

How well does temperance act in us! It bears fruit in generosity and availability to others.

1857

(Month of October) Caixal a Currius, writes saying «My heart is completely open for my daughters from Cuba (...) I will look to place them in Urgel, Tremp, Pons, Agramunt, or if not in Guisona».
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 255]

1860

María Antonia to Claret, refers to the consecration of the Church of the convent of Tremp by Bishop Caixal on October 18, 1860. [Cf. CO 198]

1869

Claret to María Antonia, explains the causes of the delay in processing of the Rules of the Institute. [Cf. CO 287]

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. [Jam 1: 22]

If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize [and understand] that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. [Jn 10: 37-38]

“ Our primary means of evangelizing is the personal and community witness of fidelity to Christ, poverty and detachment of the material goods, and of freedom from the powers of the world. [Const. 68]

Words say, communicate. The witness of a coherent life gives conviction and confidence; it is light in the darkness. !

...May grace and peace abound in you by the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature... [2 Pt 1: 2-4]

“ He must not think of it as impossible to conform his life to Christ because being God he became man to teach man; and as a perfect Teacher he wanted to match his deeds to the human nature. [Cf. MA II, 31 c]

Knowing that we are weak, we can work to overcome fear. Rooted in Christ, nothing is impossible. !

1876

(Month of October) María Antonia to an anonymous recipient, (probably Curriús) «...in the construction (of Carcagente) only the most essential is being built so we can move in, and we will have there many memories of the holy cave of Bethlehem». [Cf. Hist. I, p. 492, footnote 52]

1875

First letter of
María Antonia from
Carcagente to Currius,
she informs him that
Enrique Gomis has been
appointed confessor of
the community.
[Cf. EMP 162]

At midnight there was a cry: "Here is the groom, go out to meet him! Be attentive, for you know neither the day nor the hour". [Mt 25: 6-13]

“ Pray the Missionary with Christ, praying... [MAP 31, 5 a]

To live from the inside out, praying, internalizing reality where essential silence is basic, to the rhythm of life, moment by moment, with the simplicity of one's being and doing centered on Him.

He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick -no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. [Mk 6: 8-9]

I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, [for] that is far better. Yet that I remain [in] the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. [Phil 1: 23-24]

“ Let the Missionary travel with Christ: Traveling... [MAP II, 31, 5 b]

Seek to travel from your inner core, with the quiet and effective "company" that meekly welcomes your rhythm, attending to what happens, to what you capture with your senses in the coming and going, transiting both exterior spaces and the spaces of your personal self.

1868

(Month of October)
María Antonia relates that in prayer and fervor, after having received Communion, one day in October she experienced great suffering for the destruction of the Church. [Cf. Diario 106]

1879

María Antonia to Sebastián Peiró, nephew of Caixal, narrates the problems that occurred in the house in Reus before and after her arrival on June 19. [Cf. EMP 286]

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house”. And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner”. But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over”. And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house”... [Lk19:5-9]

“ Let the Missionary eat with Christ, eating... [MAP II,31,5 c]

Like Christ, may we accompany our brothers and sisters with a healing intention, caring, inclusive of every condition. In fraternal life we share food for the body, and hopefully also the nourishment of faith!

If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water. [Jn 4:10]

You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink? [Mt 20:22]

“ Let the Missionary drink with Christ drinking... [MA II,31,5 d]

As simple as looking at “the water of each fountain”, as the poet José M^a Pemán says, to feel the freshness on the face, on the hands! Drinking, along with water, we receive the transparency of giving and receiving small details. We experience many kinds of thirst, and sometimes such an intense and constant thirst that only by drinking the water Jesus offers us, it is quenched.

1841

María Antonia enters the Convent of the Company of Mary in Tarragona. She did so as a guest because the anticlerical laws of the Spanish State, at that time prohibited the entry of new novices. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 66]

1854

«...While in prayer, his majesty deigned to manifest to me how he wants the reform of the whole Church, made by Pope Pius IX and Our Lord said to me He wanted to give the Pope this grace...» [Aut. MP 2]

1855

«Praying Nona His Divine Majesty told me how He not only wanted me to write what my confessor sent me to write, but also the Norms for the General Reform of the Church as he had already manifested me». [RCX 2]

1880

María Antonia tells Orberá that she agrees to extract the Fundamental Rules from the Constitutions. [Cf. EMP 338]

1870

Our Founder dies in Fontfroide (France). It is a deep sorrow for María Antonia. Claret was for her not only the Founder of the Institute but the man willed by God to carry out that renewal of the Church that the Lord so insistently urged her. [Cf. CO p. 18]

María Antonia in her diary describes this fact with words of anguish, but with a beautiful experience of hope that the Lord himself makes her see, in the cross: «have confidence, daughter, wait a little and you will see what I do». God makes her experience here, that his word "is not abbreviated", and in fact produced in her spirit a "great consolation". Even without understanding what that would be like, she knew that the Lord would fulfill His Word. [Cf. Diario 109]

For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. [2 Cor 5:14-15]

“ The charity of Christ impels us and commits us to announce the Gospel 'in any part of the world', with creativity and boldness, attending to the signs of the times... [Const. 65]

The love of Christ is the enemy of worldliness, of distances, of exclusivism. The love of Christ puts us in an attitude of permanent going forth, with passion for the good and happiness of the other.

He got into a boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith!" [Mt 8:23-26 a]

“ Let the Missionary sleep with Christ sleeping... [MA II, 31, 5 e]

This invitation is made to us by Jesus: "Come also apart to a lonely place, to rest a little" and recover your balance and your ability to give yourselves to the mission.

1863

(Month of October) Josefa Segura y Jordá (Encarnación de Santiago), born in Tarragona in 1840, professed in Tremp in 1863 and was assigned to Santiago de Cuba in October of the same year and then to Baracoa, where she died on October 28, 1890. [CO 214, note 6]

1856

María Antonia,
understands in prayer
that God is telling her:
«My Word must be
fulfilled until the
consummation of the
ages (...) take comfort in
the fact that you have
done no wrong in saying
with simplicity what I
reveal to the poor in spirit
(...) Yes, my daughter,
obey always and
in everything».
[Cf. Aut. MP 243]

Then Jesus said to the disciples:
“Whoever wishes to come after me
must deny himself, take up his cross and
follow me”. [Mt 16: 24]

Father, if you are willing, take this
cup away from me. Still, not my will but
yours be done. [Lk 22: 42]

“ Let the Missionary suffer with
Christ suffering... [MA II, 31, 5 f]

We seek what is pleasant,
forgetting that also suffering,
while not pleasant or desired,
makes us strong and more
understanding. Let us embrace our
own reality and that which surrounds
us, always dual. That is, it is a source
of joy and pain, of happiness and
suffering. The missionary lives
everything with Christ.

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason
for me to boast, for an obligation has
been imposed on me, and woe to me if I
do not preach it! [1 Cor 9: 16]

Go, therefore, and make disciples of
all nations, baptizing them in the name
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
holy Spirit. [Mt 28: 19]

“ Let the Missionary preach with
Christ preaching... [MA II, 31, 5g]

Let us live rooted in Him, letting
ourselves be inhabited by this
same Word, doing, saying, or living
His way of life; coherently integrating
life and proclamation, what we are and
what we do.

1852

J. Miura and other spiritual
directors to Claret,
report on the holy wishes
of the sisters for the
canonical establishment
of the Monastery and the
school for girls.
[Cf. CO 18]

1860

María Antonia
to Claret,
tells him of the
consecration of the
Church in Tremp:
the first in honor of the
Immaculate Conception.
[cf. CO 198]

1864

«Another day while
in prayer I was very
distressed to see myself
so alone in the Work that
the Lord has entrusted
to me (...) In this the Lord
deigned to comfort me
and said to me
very sadly:
"I was also alone, in the
greatest need my close
friends left me in the
hands of my enemies!
(...) and the worst thing
is, my daughter",
(with great caress
as if he wanted to
console himself
with me, then with
great exclamation!),
"that now I am so lonely
that I cannot find a
person to follow me...»
[Diario 89]

Sufficient for a day is its own problem.

[Mt 6: 34 b]

Take my yoke upon you and learn from
me, for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.

[Mt 11: 29-30]



Let the Missionary rest with
Christ tired... [MA II, 31, 5 h]

We are limited; sometimes we
are tired. By practicing the art of
resting in Christ, with simplicity
and humility, we renew our strength to
follow in his footsteps.

I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies,
will live, and everyone who lives and
believes in me will never die.

[Jn 11: 25-26]



Let the Missionary live with
Christ dying... [MA II, 31, 5g]

Every day we are dying a little.
May we live consciously and
make grow the seed of God in us!
Because giving oneself with love with
no measure, is to die to oneself.

1887

Sister María Ignacia
Altés de San Matías dies
in Reus at the age of 19
years and 23 months
of religious life. They
dedicate heartfelt praise
to her for her virtue:
«She was a flower of
fragrant scent, excelling
in deep humility, perfect
obedience and
continuous mortification,
being a faithful imitator
of the life of Our Lord
Jesus Christ».
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 808]

1878

Sent by María Antonia,
four sisters from the
houses of Reus and
Carcagente arrived in
Santiago, on the way
to Baracoa.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 620]

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (...) For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (...) When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will [also] be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all. [1 Cor 15:19-20.25.28]

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. [Mt 10:38]

“ To enter into life with Christ reigning... [MA II, 31, 5j]

God is the end without end. The Eternity of the God, who is Love, gradually fills the space where we allow him to act and be the owner of our lives. This is what it means to be poor by choice and not by obligation. !

...At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[Phil 2:10-11]

You are the salt of the earth. (...) You are the light of the world. (...) Let your light also shine before men, so that when they see your good works, they may glorify your Father who is in heaven.

[Mt 5:13a.14a.16]

“ To the greater glory of God, and good of my soul. AMEN.

[MA II, 31, 5 k]

The missionary must have no other purpose than making God known and loved by all peoples. In the simplicity, poverty, and industriousness of those who witness God's saving love for all peoples. [Cf. Const. 10 and 6] !

1857

Currius to Claret,
writes about the Sisters:
he has asked Caixal to
search for a place for
the sisters to live in the
diocese of Urgel.
He sends copy of the
letter to Caixal.
[Cf. CO 77 y CO 79]

1857

María Antonia to Claret,
rejoices and gives thanks
for the steps that are
being taken for the
establishment of the
sisters in Spain.
[Cf. CO 78]



november

**Oh, poverty
of my God,
who could
inherit
your riches**

Oh, poverty of my God, who could inherit your riches

At the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love...
(S. John of the Cross)

Undoubtedly, in that instance, María Antonia would place before God her beloved poverty as the only possession and the whole Church, as a place that contains so many names, faces, especially of her daughters and those who with her sought, by faith and works, to restore the beauty of the Church.

For her, poverty and the return to the gospel were the salvation of the Church and of everyone who follows in the footsteps of Jesus.

The life of surrender, the unfulfilled desires and goals, her advice, the last words... are the stories of these pages that follow, covering the last years of the life of María Antonia and her death in 1885, as well as the testimonies of people who having known her and hearing others talk about her attest to her heroism in the experience of faith, hope, and love which is nothing but the broken and distributed love that becomes rich because it found its only good: Christ Jesus.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the broad valley. It was filled with bones. He asked me: "Son of man, can these bones come back to life?" "Lord GOD," I answered, "you alone know that". Then he said to me: "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them: 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! I am going to put breath into you so you may come to life. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.'" [Ez 37:1-6]

“ Sister death came to free her from an extremely weak body, from a sickly nature subjected to a continuous martyrdom. [Hist. I, p. 663]

Martyrdom for Jesus and the Gospel, witnessed with patience and love, is a source of hope for the pilgrim of faith.

november

1

1854

God manifests to María Antonia that he wants the spiritual renewal of the Church. [Cf. Aut. MP 47; Cf. Hist. I, p. 705]

1855

«His Divine Majesty sent me to write some notes about the way He wanted to begin the General Reform and told me what I was to write. I was in prayer (...) when Our Lord gave me this command and He had me bound without being able to move, because I wanted to get out of prayer, because I am still frightened by such great things, being who I am.» [RCX 3]

1857

Claret to Currius, sends him the Plan of Reform that he wrote on the trip from Cuba to Spain. He asks him to read it and give it to María Antonia to read. [Cf. CO 80]

1878

Four sisters from Reus and Carcagente arrive in Baracoa, sent by María Antonia. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 453]

1879

The sisters of Tremp cut off communication with María Antonia. She says on this date to Enrique Gomis: «Now they do not even send me greetings, they do not write to me, absolutely anything». [Cf. EMP 287]

Oh, poverty of my God, who could inherit your riches

Jesus entered the house of Peter and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she rose and waited on him. When it was evening, they brought him many who were possessed by demons, and he drove out the spirits by a word and cured all the sick, to fulfill what had been said by Isaiah the prophet: Thus, was fulfilled what was announced by the prophet Isaiah: He took our infirmities and bore our diseases. [Mt 8: 14-17]

“ Being one day with a great headache (...) and with so many pains all over my body that I could barely move and with so much oppression of heart that I could not breath... [Diario 45]

Love and suffering are strongly connected. Love gives meaning to suffering.

Oh, poverty of my God, who could inherit your riches

My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart. (...) My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes. [Ps 38: 7-8; 10]

“ The three kings renewed last year's present to me (...) I felt a lot of pain (...) so I had to stay in bed for three days... [María Antonia París to Caixal, EMP 61]

When we suffer for so many reasons in life, God who is LOVE, helps us to see things differently, enabling us to turn evil into good.

1857

Caixal to Claret, warns that the sisters who come from Cuba will settle in Tremp due to the impossibility of finding a place in Urgel. [Cf. CO 81]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. [Col 3:12]

“ I noticed a lot of patience in the disdain she had to suffer from benefactors of the Institute (...) they returned her evil for good, even when they knew the graces that God was giving her, but I never heard a word of complaint or bad will. She used to say: God wants it that way. That his will be fulfilled... [Report M. Conception of S. Jaime, Pos. MP Doc. 6, 2; p. 280]

Disciples capable of loving and serving. Jesus needs parents, brothers, sisters, companions to extend his Kingdom.



1875

María Antonia to Pope Pius IX, pleads for the approval of the Constitutions of the Institute. [Cf. Pos. MP Doc. 4, p. 251]

1875

In his request to the Pope for the approval of the Constitutions, Orberá clearly expresses that María Antonia is only moved by the glory of God and the salvation of souls. [Cf. Pos. MP Doc. 3 c, p. 270]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

LORD, the God of my salvation, I call out by day; at night I cry aloud in your presence. Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry. For my soul is filled with troubles; my life draws near to Sheol. (...) Because of you my acquaintances shun me; you make me loathsome to them. (...) But I cry out to you, LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you. [Ps 88: 2-4.14]

“ ...my state of health continues to be delicate, and it cannot be anything else because of the continuous afflictions of spirit, which are increasing every day! It seems that all hell is unleashed against the weak little ship of our Holy Institute. [María Antonia París to E. Gomis, EMP 370]

If you nurture affliction and fear of heart, faith will dry up like grass in the sun. If you nurture faith, fear will be necessary like the thorn to the rose.



1858

Claret to Caixal, communicates that he has managed to transfer the request for the foundation of the sisters in Tremp to the Ministry of Justice to give it the last determination. [Cf. CO 128]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1858

Claret to Currius,
tells him that the
documentation is almost
ready, that the sisters
can prepare to travel to
Spain in good weather.
[Cf. CO 129]

1858

Currius to María Rosa de
San Juan (María Gual):
«...you tell me that
in the separation from
your mother prioress
(María Antonia)
you have been left with
an immense void that
only God can fill...»
[Cf. Pos. MP
Doc. 5 b, p. 272]

Blessed be God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, compassionate Father and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow. If we are afflicted, it is for your encouragement and salvation; if we are encouraged, it is for your encouragement, which enables you to endure the same sufferings that we suffer. [2 Cor 1:3-6]

“ On February 3, 1884, she became seriously ill, entering the infirmary (...) eleven months of hard suffering (...) forgetting herself, she sought to comfort her daughters... [Cf. Hist. I, p. 667]

To love is to forget oneself, it is the uncontainable desire to help others be who they are.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful”. [Mt 5:1-7]

“ Her bed was like everyone's, made of wood; she never slept on fleece, or anything that could give her any relief in her sufferings (...) that I knew were overwhelming as was reflected on her face (...) in all that time I did not see her show disgust or that she was suffering, always manifesting an external joy. All her behavior revealed the peace that her soul enjoyed. [Report of Conception of San Jaime, Pos. MP p. 279-280]

The poor in spirit simply love, even in suffering, experiencing the joy of encountering Jesus in the extreme freedom to give his all.

1882

María Antonia writes to the Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, «...I feel great pain for the secularization of sisters Gual and M^a Teresa Jordá, after 30 years of religious life. I am very surprised that they have dared to take so much luggage, and leave the Community with almost no funds (...) when there should be thousands». [Cf. EMP 376]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1871

Election of Prioress in
Trempl. Dolores Molas
was elected Prioress
and M^a Josefa Caixal
vice-prioress.
This Prioress tried to
modify the Constitutions
that were still in the
process of approval.
María Antonia could see
in this a hint that she was
considering a separation.
[Cf. Pos. MP p. 152;
Hist. I, p. 542]

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is my disciple, truly I tell you, he will surely not lose his reward.

[Mt 10: 37-40. 42]

“ She had such a great spirit of mortification, but none of us were allowed to practice it to that degree. (...) She took great care of us, a day would not pass that she didn't ask me if the nuns ate... [Report of Concepción de San Jaime, Hist. I, p. 668]

An authentic life in the Spirit leads us to deepen, in intimate dialogue with God, the path of detachment to be more like Him, to be authentic followers of Jesus. !

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1853

Currius to Claret,
informs him about
economic matters
regarding the purchase
of the house of
the sisters.
[Cf. CO 35]

Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass in the field that grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? As for you, do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore. All the nations of the world seek for these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides.

[Lk 12: 27-30]

“ And she said to me: Look, Sister Concepcion, let the house be clean, neat and poor, and that in this poverty Jesus can walk as in a garden of (...) flowers, for He for our love accepted and practiced it. [Report of Concepción de San Jaime, Hist. I, p. 668]

Lord, I know that you are not far from me, but by my side. Help me to give everything, to spend my talents in your service. !

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1868

Claret to Currius,
tells him the events of
his trip, asks him for
news about María
Antonia and the sisters.

[Cf. CO 275]

...But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness". I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong. [2 Cor 12: 9-10]

“ Before expiring “(...) when the whole community was present, she instructed us how we were to be with God and persevere in the path of perfection that we had embraced (...) And since we all broke down in tears, she told us, ‘Do not put barriers to God’»... [Cf. Report of Concepción de San Jaime, Hist. I, p. 670]

Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it; and whoever loses it will recover it. A person's life is in God's hands.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered'. No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. [Rom 8: 35-37]

“ Her last words were (...) that we would want nothing but holy obedience; and when asked by the Confessor whether she desired or wanted something more, she replied that she desired nothing more or wanted but Our Lord. [M. Gertrudis Barril, Hist. I, p. 670]

“Nothing else, just Christ...” Let us live in the unity that Jesus lives with the Father through obedience and love.

1881

The community of Tremp was going hungry. The prioress writes to Rev. Juan Peyró and asks him repeatedly in several letters for the money that had been deposited in the hands of his uncle Caixal (RIP 1879) from dowries and funds of the Community. After the last letter (November 11, 1881) Rev. Juan Peyró, was generous and paid off all the debts of his uncle. Under the very long priory of M. Dolores Molas and the prudent direction of Casañas everything was returning to its course, in internal life, in the apostolate of teaching, even their resources were growing which led them to decide to make some improvements in the convent. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 573-575]

1855

«The day of the Patronage of Mary Most Holy (...) Mary commanded me to begin writing that same day (...) these notes...»
[Cf. Aut. MP 230]
That same day she began to write the Points for the Renewal of the Church.
[Cf. Diario 32]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light.

[Lk 8:16]

“ ... [after her death] Those who hadn't seen her (...) were astounded to see her look so young (...) and then we experienced a joy so great that it surpassed the sorrow that had devoured our hearts and M. Gertrudis shared stories about her admirable life that I did not remember and we did not know (...) we were edified by her actions, her words, and way of proceeding. [Report of Conception of San Jaime, Pos. MP p. 224]

The holiness of your children, Lord, is a message of Your beauty that we recreate as a treasure in grateful memory.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. [Jn 12: 24-26]

“ On January 17, 1885, she died in a holy way (...) She always shone in all the virtues like the sun among the other stars of the sky, and I reaffirm it after her holy death. [Pos. MP p. 287]

Yes, all of God in life and all for God in death, all in God eternally.

1882

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, writes very worried: «...I am extremely anxious and distressed by the silence of Mr. Rongier, not so much because of what he does not say, but because of what I fear he does, according to Orberá and confirms in my fears what my beloved daughters of Vélez Rubio tell me...»
[EMP 377]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, after the latter's journey from Reus to Carcagente in the middle of a stormy night. (...) At midnight the community rose to pray for him (...) it is thankful for your happy return and generosity.

[Cf. EMP 342]

For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another. [Gal 5:13-15]

“ I, María Antonia de San Pedro, First Religious of the Apostolic Institute of the Immaculate Conception of Mary Most Holy (...) I declare and certify (...) I want and it is my will that the Constitutions be printed and practiced throughout the Order, those recently written in my name by my Secretary M. María Gertrudis Barril de San Felipe, signed by my hand, which are those that have been presented to Rome for approval (...) and I want my successor to have them printed, just as I leave them whenever they are approved by the Holy See...

[TMP p. 717-718]

The Constitutions indicate the way of being and proceeding that expresses the evangelical style or the will of God for the congregation.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength'. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. There is no other commandment greater than these". The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he'".

[Mk 12: 28-32]

“ The letters of Mother Foundress to Rev. Paladio Currius, to M. María Luisa, to Bishop Orberá, and some others reveal (about M. Antonia) a truly robust, supernatural, apostolic spirit. In these letters shines the love of the Cross, of work, of suffering, the tireless zeal for the observance of the Rule, fervor, the spirit and love of obedience and of the most evangelical poverty; her love of neighbor, tolerating, advising, forgiving... [Testimony of P. Gil, Archivist CMF, Pos. MP 1 e, p. 297]

God lives in your neighbor. If you are able see this, you will transform everything for the glory of God.

1865

Claret tells Currius that he has asked in the Vatican about the Rules of Apostolic Religious of M. Antonia París and they have not been able to answer him.

[Cf. CO 246]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1879

María Antonia
to Enrique Gomis:
«I beg you to pray much
for the foundation of
Bishop Orberá, who, it
seems, has the aim of
having in his Diocese
a house of ours to be
able to better negotiate
the approval of the
Constitutions; let the
Lord make it work well,
and if it were to be the
other way around, may
there be an obstacle
so that it would not be
carried out».
[Cf. EMP 290]

John testified to him and cried out,
saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The
one who is coming after me ranks ahead
of me because he existed before me.'
From his fullness we have all received,
grace in place of grace, the one who is
coming after me, whose sandal strap I
am not worthy to untie". [Jn 1:15-16.27]

“ ...We testify to the living
impression of standing before
a soul strongly marked by the signs of
Christ. Mother Antonia París of San
Pedro was great for her humility in the
eyes of the Lord (...) Humility learned at
the foot of the altar before the Lord Jesus
(...) Humility received in the Heart of the
Immaculate Conception who bursts into
the Magnificat (...) humility made docility
and dedication to the Pope's directives...
[Testimony of Fr. Manuel Ramírez cmf,
Pos. MP1 f, p. 297]

Bear fruit as signs of the humble
Christ; then, your heart will sing
of joy.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

Faith is the realization of what is
hoped for and evidence of things not
seen. Because of it the ancients were
well attested. [Heb 11:1-2]

“ ...I recall that M. Concepción
Escrivá, Vice Superior of
the Community of Carcagente, often
repeated that Our Mother Foundress
practiced with great fervor the virtues
proper to religious life, but in a distinct
way charity, holy poverty, and the
interior life. [Testimony of M. María Luisa
de San Simón RMI, Pos. MP1 g, p. 298]

You will flourish if you water your
inner life with humility, poverty,
and love.

1866

(Month of November)
María Antonia in
her diary recalls:
«One day complaining to
Our Lord why he gives me
so much he said to me:
Because I have no one
to give...»
[Cf. Diario 96]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1859

The habit is given to the first two novices in Tremp and the first stone of the Church is laid.

[Hist. I, p. 293; Pos. MP Doc. 2, p. 110]

“Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house”. [Mk 6:3-4]

“ After having heard from religious of our Convent of the Company of Mary in Tarragona, I can affirm (...) that this sister having lived ten years in this Convent of Tarragona, was visited by Fr. Claret, and he examined her vocation and blessed her. She left the Order for a foundation in Cuba. This and the memory of her fame of holiness, was engraved in the memory of the Religious who knew her. [Testimony of M. Angela Llorente, Company of Mary of Catalonia, Pos. MP 1 i, p. 299]

Connect with your roots. You will find in them the inspiration they guard as sentinels, and they will motivate your life.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

[Jn 15:1-4]

“ Some elderly sisters of Mater, our school, told me a few days ago that Mother Dolores Mallol spoke with great enthusiasm about Mother Antonia, having her in such esteem that she was moved whenever she spoke of her, by the great concept of holiness in which she held her. [Testimony of M. Luisa Gambón RMI, Pos. MP 1 k, p. 299]

Holiness is the adornment of God's house. For days without end, its fruits are perceived as traces of the Spirit in a believing heart.

1866

(Month of November) María Antonia relates in her diary: «Another day being very tired of thoughts that distress me greatly, I said to our Lord: 'My Lord if the treasures of your poverty are to be the cause of so many dislikes, why do you give them to me?' Our Lord said to me: 'Because I want, daughter, that you make me a house that the world does not want to give me, I have already told you I have everything for you'. [Diario 97]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1854

María Antonia said that permission for the foundation should come from Rome, since it was not from the Company of Mary but of a New Order. Claret asks the Holy See for approval of the new foundation.

[Cf. CO 44;

Pos. MP Doc. 6, p. 58-59]

1854

Claret to His Holiness Pius IX, explains what refers to María Antonia and other companions, as well as the steps taken for the foundation of a convent in Santiago de Cuba. Requests authorization for the profession of the novices.

[Cf. CO 44]

Now to him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. [Rom 16: 25-27]

“...by tradition every year on the day of St. Anthony Abad, January 17, the novices met with the community. Sitting in the community room, the novices urged M. Concepción to tell us things about the Foundress, and the memory of the Mother due to the impression she left in those living with her and listening to her teaching. She said, “What do you want me to tell you?” (...) Whatever she did, one could see holiness, she breathed holiness. [Testimony of Gertrudis and Matilde Montalvá, RMI, Pos. MP 1 I, p. 300]

From generation to generation narrate the wonders of God, so that, seeing his good works, many may glorify the Father.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. [Mk 10,45]

“We, a group of sailors belonging to this Center of the Apostolate of the Sea, were in Spiritual Exercises led by the Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Villa García. While talking among ourselves, the distinguished disciple of St. Anthony M^a Claret and Co-Foundress, Servant of God Antonia París, came up in a conversation. Her examples and strength as a spiritual woman, at the service of God and humanity, edified us all. We are committed to make her known, for having been an entirely Marian soul... [Testimony of Adolfo Carmelo Blanco, Pos. MP 1 II, p. 300]

The motivation of the servants of God and of humanity is that God be known, loved, and served so that His will for reconciliation may be fulfilled in this world.

1867

Sister Luisa de San Simón testifies about what she heard from the sisters who lived with María Antonia París: «Our Mother Foundress practiced with great fervor the virtues proper to religious life, but in a special way, charity, poverty and the interior life». [Pos. MP Doc. 1 g, p. 298]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1873

María Antonia to
the Vicar Capitular of
Tarragona,
sends an Office
communicating the
profession of a sister
on November 17.
[Cf. EMP 137]

Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine". [Jn 2: 2-3]

“ Many sick and afflicted began to call upon the help of the Servant of God (...) The first of her venturous supplicants was the priest Rev. Enrique Gomis, pastor of the parish church of Carcagente and confessor of the community, and therefore of Mother Antonia during the eight years she remained in that house (...) He decided to move to Reus to obtain healing of an ill that he suffered in a leg that had been broken by the ankle more than a year ago and forced him to use a crutch. Seeing himself in front of his late spiritual daughter, he put himself in prayer for a long time, and all the nuns saw him very touched (...) Then he was encouraged to celebrate mass leaning on the crutch, and at the end of the sacrifice he was heard exclaiming: Miracle! I am healthy, and throwing the crutches began to walk with great contentment. [Testimony of Rev. Enrique Gomis, Pos. MP 2 a, p. 301]

There are brothers to whom God has given the particular charism of interceding for the benefit of others, and who therefore enjoy a special favor from God. It only takes your trust.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

As you go, make this proclamation:
'The kingdom of heaven is at hand'.

[Mt 10: 7]

“ I have heard of the Servant of God from my father and my father's relatives. My grandfather was a nephew of the Servant of God, and besides, she was his baptism godmother, when she was not yet religious (...) I and my relatives do invoke the Servant of God assiduously. A first cousin of mine, named José M^a Jordá, was diagnosed with a cyst in his lung, and was told by doctors that it should be removed through an operation; he and his relatives invoked the Servant of God whom they familiarly called the 'aunt nun'. On the next X-ray examination, the cyst was gone. The relatives attributed it to a grace of the Servant of God. [Teresa Jordá Magarolas, relative of the Servant of God, born October 2, 1905, Pos. MP, Testigo 13, p. 363]

The saints cooperate with God's plan by bringing the Kingdom closer together as a miracle of faith.

1859

(Month of November)
María Antonia writes in her diary:

«...I was suffering the same pains, that this happens to me very often and Our Lord said to me: 'Look daughter this also suffers the whole mystical body of the Church that has no healthy part'».

[Diario 46]

november 24

1880

María Antonia to Fr. Enrique Gomis, on new admissions of young people and other matters. [Cf. EMP 343]

1884

María Antonia to Sister Florentina de San Mateo, appoints Sister Florentina as superior of the community in Carcagente, and thus replaces María Antonia who is being called to Reus by the ecclesial authorities to guide that community. [Cf. EMP 420]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

For the one who worked in Peter for an apostolate to the circumcised worked also in me for the Gentiles. [Gal 2: 8]

“ I was educated, approximately from 1912 to 1920 in the school of Mary Immaculate in Reus, and I heard my religious teachers, Mothers Mercedes, Antonia, Pilar and Teresa, speak with veneration of the Servant of God, and they considered her a holy woman. I know that the Servant of God has been invoked to obtain graces and favors. I myself have invoked her. [Antonia Voltas, former student of the school of Reus, Pos. MP Witness 14, p. 364]

God, at all times and places, calls his followers to be his instruments, voice and hands, to transmit his love and show the world his beauty and holiness.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones.

[Col 1: 25-26]

“ ...it moves us to present to Your Holiness our humble plea for the Introduction of the Cause of Mother París, the great spiritual richness and the splendid message that this distinguished daughter of the Church has left us. The Holy Church is at the center of her religious experience. [Postulatory Letter to the Holy Father by the Episcopal Conference of Catalonia (Spain) in 1978, Pos. MP 1a, p.322-323]

Love for the Church becomes the center of the religious experience: to overcome frailties, to suffer her wounds, to enjoy the creative newness of the Spirit, to pray and to offer one's life.

november 25

1859

(Month of November) María Antonia writes in her diary that she suffers frequent headaches, her whole body hurts, and feels great oppression of heart that does not allow her to move (...) that Christ Our Lord comforts her by saying: 'Look daughter, I have already wept these pains and afflictions in the Garden of my agony'. [Cf. Diario 45]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

1869

(Between

November 1869 and

January 1870)

María Antonia, with the collaboration of Currius, made a new version of the Constitutions, taking into account all the observations that had been made to it in Rome and remarking well the dates and place of foundation and the nature of the solemn vows.

[Cf. Pos. MP

Cap. VII, p. 134]

If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? [1]n 3:17]

“ Ninety-three years have passed since her death, and from Reus, where her mortal remains are buried, the perfume of the virtues of Mother María Antonia París spreads. The faithful people maintain their devotion to her, asking through her intercession all kinds of graces and favors. Driven by her love for the poor, she dedicated herself to providing free education to the neediest children of our city of Reus. [Postulatory Letter sent to the Holy Father by Rev. Miguel Colás Piquer, Mayor of Reus, on July 22, 1978, Pos. MP 1c, p.324]

He who awakens to the love of God cannot look at the poor and pretend not to see them. In them he sees only the suffering Christ.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

On the other hand, one who prophesies does speak to human beings, for their building up, encouragement, and solace. Whoever speaks in a tongue builds himself up, but whoever prophesies builds up the church. [1 Cor 14: 3-4]

“ Mother María Antonia París of San Pedro contributed in a remarkable way to that giant effort made by the Spanish Church in the nineteenth century in the face of the problem of the secularization of education and charity (...) it can be affirmed that, by inspiration of God, she was ahead of her time in the proposals of reform that would later be endorsed by the Second Vatican Council, especially with regard to the Church of the poor and the reform of the various ecclesial strata, to the point that, through St. Anthony Mary Claret, it was introduced to the Holy Father Pope Pius IX (...) a Program of General Renewal of the Church. She was also ahead of her time regarding women's apostolate with an extraordinary intuition. [Cf. Postulatory Letter by Fr. Jesús Álvarez, September 26, 1978, Pos. MP 1e, p.325-326]

The prophet says, “Why do I point out people's mistakes? Why do I see beyond time? Rather, I wish I had closed my mouth. However, Jesus' death on the cross cannot be in vain”.

1880

María Antonia to the Archbishop of Tarragona, expresses her opinion on Sister María Rosa Caixal Roig, deposed from her position as vice-prioress by the Curia of Tarragona on July 19, 1879.

She feels that this sister has been distancing herself from religious life. That sister obtained the exlaustration and finally joined the dissident community of Tremp.

[Cf. EMP 344]

1850

Report sent to the Archdiocese of Tarragona by the Convent of the Company of Mary on the young women who began the novitiate on 21 April 1850, including María Antonia París y Riera and Florentina Sangler y Corderera. [Cf. Pos. MP Doc. 5, p. 27]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

[2 Cor 8: 9]

“ One of the first houses of the Institute was established in Valencia, in whose diocese, as well as in others of this Ecclesiastical Province, they currently carry out their activities in education with zeal and efficiency. We are aware from various testimonies of the profound interior life of the Servant of God, Mother María Antonia París, nourished by her ardent devotion to the Eucharist, her love and service to the Church, which became the center of her religious experience. She lived with great radicality the evangelical poverty, which she sought to inculcate in her daughters, as well as the zeal for the renewal of evangelization. These characteristics outline the actuality of her ecclesial figure. [Postulatory Letter of the Episcopal Conference of the Province of Valencia to the Holy Father on November 3, 1978, Pos. MP1g, p.327]

Do you live poverty and the gospel? Unmistakable signals of the Kingdom! Don't keep it just to yourself. Cheer up! Share.

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

On the way of righteousness I walk, along the paths of justice, granting wealth to those who love me, and filling their treasuries. [Prov 8: 20-21]

“ ...The social work of Mother París has been so great among the humble people of our country, that some of the works of that strong woman of our land are still being carried out. The aura of holiness of Mother París is known to us to have spread throughout the countries in which her religious work with the simple people. [Postulatory Letter of Rev. José Altisent, Mayor of Tremp, to the Holy Father on December 4, 1978, Pos. MP1 h, p. 328]

If you make your way with your people, your testimony and your words of life will not disappear from their eyes and hearts; joy and the fruits of good works will remain.

1884

María Antonia to the Archbishop of Tarragona-Reus, writes requesting permission for the beginning of a novitiate of a young woman. [Cf. EMP 417]

november
30

1858

Dionisio González to Claret, gives his opinion regarding the process to found in Spain. Even though the permission must first be obtained from the civil authorities (Claret is working on that), he thinks that not much will be advanced without the authorization of Rome.

[Cf. CO 130]

1859

María Antonia to Dionisio González, writes informing him that on the 18th, the first two sisters received the habit and the first stone of the chapel of Tremp was laid.

[Cf. EMP 9]

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, writes about the exclaustation of Rosa Caixal, and how she is glad not to have transferred her to Carcagente.

[Cf. EMP 347]

Oh, poverty of my God,
who could inherit your riches

Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. [Heb 13:7]

“ God the Father of Goodness, who put in the heart of the venerable María Antonia París, a great love for the Church and the apostolic zeal to spread the Gospel to all peoples. Let the example of her life make us true apostles and grant us through her intercession the grace we are confident to receive from your mercy. [Prayer for the prompt beatification of M. Antonia París]

The follower of Jesus is a disciple with the Heart of Christ dwelling in his heart. Example of life for others. !

december

As we journey,
let us
make easy
this same way

As we journey, let us make easy this same way

God's dream over María Antonia was fulfilled in the New Order that with Claret began in Cuba in 1855 and continues to this day spreading over four of the five continents. New mission carried out by sisters and lay people who vibrate with the charism they have received from the Founders and live committed to proclaiming the Gospel to every creature, collaborating in humanizing the world. As in other periods of history, the world loses its path when it takes its eyes away from the Gospel, from Jesus.

The journey continues, the Church waits, the brother who suffers is at our side and waits, there are many who still do not know the freedom that the encounter with Jesus gives, the life to which it leads, and they await...


Projection is hope. "And hope does not disappoint!" Because "it is not founded on what we can do or be, and much less what we can believe. Its foundation is the love that God Himself nourishes for each one of us" (Pope Francis) And so we set out, again and again, until the consummation of time. Missionaries to the end!

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

...and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross. [Col 1: 20]

“The congregation, faithful to the charism received, has as its main purpose within the Church: “to take the Gospel to every creature by word and deeds. [Dir. 94]

A Church “going forth” with open doors, that journeys with the poor, welcoming, missionary, that heals and treats others with mercy, open to the universal dialogue with other churches, cultures and ideologies (...) This attitude “on the go” touches all the other dimensions: fraternal life in community, mission, formation, spirituality... [Cf. DC 2017, 3]

And so, we must live; always going forth, going out to meet other brothers and sisters in need who journey with us. 

1856
The Political Secretariat of Santiago de Cuba to Claret, informs him that the request on the expansion of the convent of the sisters has been passed to the city council so that it agrees on what is convenient. [Cf. CO 56]

1860
Extract from the official document of the consecration of the Church of Tremp under the title of the Immaculate Conception, taken from the Official Ecclesiastical Gazette of the Diocese of Urgel on this date. [Cf. Pos. MP Doc. 4, p. 114]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1864

Claret writes
to María Antonia,
«...may the Lord make
known his will
on our project»
(Plan for the Renewal
of the Church).
[Cf. CO 233]

I came so that they might have life
and have it more abundantly.

[Jn 10: 10b]

“ In order for the evangelizing
mission to respond better to
the needs of people in different times and
places, the mission must be inculturated,
prophetic and liberating, from the
perspective of the poor and in a continuous
process of adaptation and renewal.

[Cf. Dir. 96]

Missionary reform implies reviving
the missionary, prophetic, and apostolic
zeal aroused by the Word, prayed in
community and shared with the People
of God, and translating this new ardor
into congregational apostolic structures.

[Cf. DC 2017, 5]

The missionary renewal is horizon
and goal; call and commitment in
the evangelical proclamation.

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

For God did not send his Son into the
world to condemn* the world, but that
the world might be saved through him.

[Jn 3: 17]

“ The Constitutions consider the
communities and the whole
Institute as one family. We must live
this family character, of communion, in
such a way that it leads us to overcome
the differences of mentalities, nations,
races and cultures. [Cf. Dir. 46]

Do I have an attitude of openness
and welcome towards other
cultures? Am I intercultural?

1858

D. José Figueroa,
of the Ministry of Grace
and Justice, to Claret:
he transmits the Royal
Order addressed to
the Bishop of Urgel
authorizing the
establishment of a
community of the
Claretian Missionaries,
novitiate, and school
in Tremp.
[Cf. CO 131]

1885

Gertrudis Barril
to Dionisio González;
she writes acknowledging
how much he
«appreciated Our
Venerable and Holy
Founders... yes, they are
truly two great saints and
our Lord will manifest it
by means of miracles».
[Cf. Pos. MP
Doc. 6, 1 b, p. 279]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1978

Testimony of Mr. José Altisent, mayor of Tremp, valued María Antonia París for her virtue and holiness and work for the disadvantaged.

[Pos. MP Doc. 1 h, p. 328]

When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.

[Lk 9: 54-56]

“ To seek and welcome God's will we need to live in constant discernment (...) We are heirs to the spirit of two seekers: St. Anthony M^a Claret and M^a Antonia París, in love with the Will of God, who lived that of 'knowing the will of God no difficulty is offered to me'. Let's get to work. [DC2017,7]

Discernment as an attitude of life...
How do we know if we are doing the will of God?

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. [Acts 11: 25-26]

“ ...working in shared mission with the different members of the Church... [Dir.96]

Make the same path easy for others. The expression "the same path" highlights a change of mentality for the shared mission: We not only do with others, but we walk with others. It is our way of living the apostolic mission.

[Cf. DC 2017, 8]

To walk together... To make Synodality a way of life, a way of proceeding similar to that of God in the Trinity.

1858

Currius to Claret, he writes that he and María Antonia have really liked his project on El Escorial. On the other hand, the number of students in the school of Santiago de Cuba increases. [Cf. CO 132]

1890

Gertrudis Barril, second First Mother of the Institute, dies in Reus. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 804]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1971

Testimony of Mrs. María Teresa Jordá Salas: she remembers that her uncle Don José Jordá (...) was miraculously cured of a lung infection, regarded as incurable, only with the invocation of his aunt the "saint".

[Cf. Pos. MP Doc. 7 b, p. 284]

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb... [Lk 1:39-41]

“...We turn our gaze to Mary, Woman of the Visitation. We see her “going forth” to the house of her cousin Elizabeth, to the encounter of life, of brothers and sisters, with promptness, living in practice the path of the Gospel and making it easy for others with whom she walks. [Cf. DC 2017, Conclusion]

Mary is a sign, a model of faith and acceptance of the Mystery; companion of every missionary.

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

He said to them in reply, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it”. [Lk 8: 21]

“ Like Mary, the first among the poor of Yahweh, we recognize our need of God and we present ourselves before Him in a humble and needy spirit, as persons who have nothing and who have all hope in their Savior. [Const. 13]

The Word of God dwells in those who have a pure, poor and simple heart. It inspires their good intentions and actions as they get on their way to accompany others to the encounter with Jesus.

1858

Claret to Currius. It has cost a lot of work to present the foundation to the Government (Trempe Foundation) but thanks be to God it has been achieved. [Cf. CO 133]

1858

Claret to the Director of Overseas, once the dossier has been approved, it is necessary that three sisters come to Spain to open a novitiate in Trempe. [Cf. CO 134]

1868

Currius tells Claret of his visit to the Sisters of Reus who are still sheltered in the Hospital after the “Glorious Revolution”. They were glad to hear from Claret. The novices are at their homes. [Cf. CO 276]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1855

María Antonia has just finished to write the Plan for the Renewal of the Church. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 707]

1900

Pope Leo XIII publishes the Constitution "Conditae a Christo" Simple vows are recognized as true religious consecration. As Jesús Álvarez cmf says, this «responds in the most obvious way to the original spirit and intuition of the Institute». [Cf. Hist. I, p. 853]

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child. [Rev 12:1-2a]

“ We have Mary as our patroness in the mystery of her Immaculate Conception. This mystery impels us to fight against evil in any of its forms and opens us to joy and hope. [Const. 9]

May the fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus be our “weapon” in the tireless search for good in all its forms. !

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me”. [Mt 25: 40]

“ ...to promote justice, peace and integrity of creation (...) to seek the transformation of the structures that contribute to social injustices... [Dir. 96]

JPIC is not just something we do, but it is mainly an attitude that influences what we do and how we live the mission. [DC 2017, 16]

Do I find Jesus in the poor, in weakness, in exclusion? Do my daily choices show solidarity with vulnerability? !

1852

Claret to the Captain General of the Island, requesting the civil permission for the definitive establishment of the Institute of the Sisters seeing how favorable the reports are. [Cf. EC-I 253; Cf. CO 19]

1858

Claret to the Director of Overseas, requesting permission for three religious to travel to Spain. [Cf. CO 135]

1860

Claret tells Caixal that only the Pope can approve the Rules of the Sisters. [Cf. CO 199]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.

[Mt 6:33]

“...To promote environments and processes where all vocations can mature. [Cf. Dir. 123]

The vocational culture is a way of conceiving life as a gift and project of God. It refers to values such as gratitude, acceptance of the mystery, openness to transcendence, dedication and readiness to be called by another, or by the Other, listening (...) admitting that the life received is undeserved and is a source of responsibility. [DC 2017, 17]

To say yes to the vocational culture is to say yes to life, to faith and to one's mission, in any apostolic place.

1852
Claret sends a letter to the Captain General accompanied by the Canonical and Legal Record of the Foundation of the Institute in the City of Santiago. [Cf. CO 20]

1857
The spiritual process of María Antonia coincides with a process of progressive closeness to the Church: «As I was in front of the Most Blessed Sacrament, I suddenly experienced a great sadness with a total weakness in my body in such a way that I could do nothing and our Lord said to me, "This is the weakness that my Church experiences nowadays in its members"; making me understand as if on that day something serious will happen to it». [Diario 11]

1867
Claret advises María Antonia on how to prepare for the feast of Christmas. [Cf. CO 269]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

...and began to send them out two by two. [Mk 6:7]

“We understand accompaniment not only as a tool of discernment, but also as a new way of evangelizing, and being evangelized, and building relationships. [DC 2017, 18]

May the walking in mutual accompaniment, letting oneself to be accompanied, interweave all the realities of our life, and shape a way of being.

1848
Claret to Caixal, replied in the letter of October 17 that this was his idea since some time ago (to found a congregation of missionary priests), and he had even offered a house to carry it out. [Cf. EC-I 87]

1864
María Antonia strengthens her love for the humanity of Christ: «Following my very fervent prayer, I doubted whether I would worship God as an Infant or as a Redeemer and Our Lord said, "Do you not remember how I told you that I wanted to rest in your heart as a child rests in the arms of his mother?" In these sweet words he revived my poor soul (...) and filled with admiration I said to Our Lord, "My Lord, have you been so many years in my soul?" ...» [Diario 91]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1868

Claret to Currius,
he gives him some
messages for
María Antonia:
may she take courage
and always hope in the
Lord, pray insistently
to Him and make
the sisters pray also.
[Cf. CO 277]

**Do not store up for yourselves
treasures on earth (...) For where your
treasure is, there also will your heart be.**

[Mt 6: 21]

“ The goods of the Congregation
are necessary means for
our life and mission. They should
be administrated to foster life in
communion, effective communication
of goods, and solidarity with all in need.

[Dir. 424]

...They will communicate their
goods, thus witnessing to the spiritual
communion that unites all the members
of the Institute. This communication
concerns not only material goods but
also persons. [Dir. 32]

To share goods and gifts with
a personal and community
lifestyle which is austere, simple,
and solidary.

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

**Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of
your mind, that you may discern what
is the will of God, what is good and
pleasing and perfect. [Rom 12: 2]**

“ ...be in continuous process of
adaptation and renewal, to
respond to the real needs of society and
culture where we insert ourselves.

[Dir. 96]

Our mission today is to live and
announce with joy the Good News of
Jesus seeking the Kingdom of God and
his justice and to contribute to the
renewal of the Church in fraternity and
evangelical poverty. [PAC p.15; DC 2017, 9 a]

Do we open ourselves to the
newness of the Spirit, to new forms
of mission and to new presences in
shared mission?

1853

The sisters move from
the Callejón del Carmen
to the house in the
St. Germán n.72 on the
corner with St. Felix
Street. This will be the
Mother House of
the Institute.

[Cf. Hist. I, p. 147]

1858

Claret to Caixal,
communicates that
the foundation process
of the Sisters has been
approved; they only need
the Royal Order to be able
to go to Tremp (Spain).

[Cf. CO 136]

1869

Claret to María Antonia,
he says that he has made
arrangements with Caixal
who wants to collaborate
as much as possible in
order that the Rules
be approved.

[Cf. CO 288]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1876

Inauguration of the
convent-school
in Carcagente.
[Cf. Pos. MP p. 186]

1862

(Month of December)
Currius reviews the Rules
of 1862 which Maria
Antonia had written
as a synthesis of the
Primitive Constitutions.
Once checked, he sends
them to Claret, who
approves them and asks
to include among the
recommended books
the Spiritual Exercises of
Saint Ignatius.
[Cf. R 1862
Introduction p. 646]

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.

[Jn 4: 23-24]

“ We rekindle the desire for a profound encounter with God who called us together, transforms and sends us. We privilege quality spaces and times for this encounter in the personal, community and apostolic projects.

We foster a contemplative attention that allows us to know and consciously accept our reality (...) We practice personal, community and missionary discernment with others. We constantly ask ourselves which Jesus we follow.

[DC 2017, 10]

What face of God does my life and the life of my apostolic community show?

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me”.

[Mt 19: 21]

“ We live poverty with deep attitudes of the heart: faith in God the Father, confidence that in him we have everything: sisters, common home, apostolic center, life with meaning. We renounce the attitudes of power in the relations with others. [Cf. PAC 2, 2. 4]

We work to earn our livelihood and we are committed to administering the goods in a way that promotes the effective communication of these goods and solidarity with persons in most need.

[Cf. Dir. 425; PAC 2, 3]

How does it resonate and what does it mean in my daily life that “the evangelical poverty is the foundation of the new apostles”?

1858

Caixal to Claret,
he sends him a copy of
the Royal Order with
which the process of the
Sisters from Tremp is
completed. What matters
now is that it may
come soon.
[Cf. CO 137]

1858

Caixal to Claret,
he sends the Royal
Order from the Office
of the Minister of
Grace and Justice on
the establishment of a
novitiate for the sisters
in Tremp.
[Cf. CO 138]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1857

Claret to Caixal, communicates that the Catalan dioceses do not want to be involved in giving a place for the sisters. [Cf. CO 83]

1865

María Antonia to Caixal, with much displeasure, she answers about the document he has sent to be transcribed in the book of visitations of the Community of Tremp, in which he admonished the community for several faults, while for the archive of Urgel he had handed over other minutes of the same visitation in which everything seemed to be normal. In response Caixal sent the minutes of Urgel to be transcribed in the book. [Cf. EMP 75]

LORD, you have probed me, you know me. [Ps 139: 1]

“ We encourage the attitude of learning to learn: from reality, from ourselves, from others and above all from LIFE. We develop the habit of reflection that favors discernment, we deepen the theology of mission and charism as we journey with others, we form ourselves for our responsibilities and apostolates, we update ourselves in everything related to the magisterium of the Church, social doctrine, analysis of reality, ecumenism... [Cf. DC 2017, 12]

May I know me and may I know you. Do I know myself from the depth of my being and do I continue to grow in confrontation with someone who accompanies me?

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are (...) that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you, that they also may be in us. [Jn 17: 11.21]

“ We take attentive care of fraternity through community prayer, prayerful reading of the Word, active participation in the sacraments of Eucharist and reconciliation, fraternal dialogue and sincere communication among the sisters, (...) with attitudes that make the way easier for others, discovering and affirming the best of each person and the richness of diversity (...) We open ourselves to dialogue that enriches our own vision or experience of diversity. [Cf. DC 2017, 13]

“One family, one heart” ¿What image of God feeds my spiritual life?

«Let those persons who live in this family be aware that all of them must work at acquiring the virtues of our Mother Mary Most Holy conceived without sin, especially her hard-working life, her recollection, humility, and poverty...» [Cf. R 1862 Cap. I, 6]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1857

Currius to Claret,
he writes that the plan is
very useful to undertake
the General Renewal
of the Church.
[Cf. CO 84]

1865

Claret tells María
Antonia about his trip to
Rome and his audience
with the Holy Father.
He recommends her
that the Archbishop of
Tarragona should make
the request to Madrid for
the foundation in Reus.
He asks her to pray for
him that he would be
able to cope with the
persecution to which he
was subjected.
[Cf. CO 248]

1882

María Antonia
to Enrique Gomis,
she continues to suffer
anguish for the negative
interventions of Orberá in
the life of the community.
[Cf. EMP 378]

He said to them, "Go into the whole
world and proclaim the gospel to every
creature". [Mk 16:15]

“ We bring Jesus' words and
actions closer to the hearts
of men and women as a way of
humanization and hope, discovering
and valuing the seeds of the Word
present in every culture, which enable
the incarnation of faith. We use all
possible means to spread the gospel and
use information and communication
technologies as a platform for
evangelization and encounter.

[PAC 4, 3, 5; 6, 3]

Dressed only with the gospel (...) !
we dream and live, we suffer and
enjoy, we believe in Jesus our Lord
and we proclaim Him (...) for a world
that is more of God and more fraternal.

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his
mother and his mother's sister, Mary the
wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

[Jn 19: 25]

“ Our mission is to contribute to
the transformation of reality
according to the spirit of the Beatitudes.
It is important to help our communities
reflect and act on the causes of injustice
(...) especially in those who are suffering:
refugees, impoverished, immigrants...
that may lead us to become involved in
concrete, transforming actions.

[Cf. DC 2017, 16; 16, 1]

We contemplate You, Lord, on the !
Cross. We feel that You marked out
a vital path for us, one of fidelity
and commitment, of promise and
fulfilment. From the Cross You look at us
with infinite mercy, with unconditional
and eternal love.

1880

María Dolores Molas,
Prioress of Tremp to
Juan Peiró (nephew of
Caixal), she tells him that
they are in great need
and claims the dowries
of the Religious that
had been transferred to
the Seminary of Urgel.
However, she does not
want to embarrass the
bishop.
[Cf. Hist. I, p. 573]

1857

María Antonia relives the spiritual experience of the betrothal to the Church at the time of her profession: «I had not yet fully gathered myself in prayer when God called me with great love: "Dearest daughter, my beloved spouse! Why did you say you don't want to take care of my business? You know that I want you to attend what I have entrusted to you in my church even more than the desires of your heart". After this complaint, so heavy (...) with love!! (...) I remained submerged in the center of a deep abyss knowing my nothingness and the greatness of my God». [Cf. Diario 12]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve [whom he also named apostles] that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach. [Mk 3:13-14]

“ Every vocation is born of an encounter and of listening. Every personal encounter with Christ is grace and mystery.

Let us not get tired of begging the Master of the harvest. We are committed to offer spaces to deepen the experience of God in our communities. To be faithful to one's vocation, walking with other forms of life, in communities and apostolic fronts that facilitate an encounter with the Lord who calls. [Cf. DC 2017, 17, 3. 5]

We follow in the footsteps of Christ our highest Good. How does the Word of God enlighten my daily life? How do I live trust and abandoning myself to the Father?

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. [1 Cor 12: 4-6]

“ ...sharing material and personal resources, in practice, consists of making effective communion in the management of human and economic resources, avoiding self-centeredness, individualisms (...) as our Constitutions tell us: «each sister should be like another self». [DC 2017, 19]

Enjoy each other's goods. Do I seek collaboration with others, sharing ideas or projects, teamwork?

1858

(Month of December) While María Antonia is praying she feels the consolation from our Lady who tells her: "that it pleases her very much, that we weep for the carelessness in the service of her Son". [Cf. Diario 29]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1857

Caixal to Claret,
communicates the
possible places for the
Foundation of a
convent in Spain,
it could be Tremp.
[Cf. CO 85]

Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins. [Mk 2: 22]

“ The Church asks all of us to make some changes. It asks us to put aside irrelevant structures: They don't work! The Church asks us to take new wineskins, the Gospel.

The Gospel is novelty, the Gospel is a feast and only a joyful and renewed heart can live the Gospel joyfully! [DC 2017, 20]

Measure our works with the compass of the gospel with a contemplative attitude, openness to the Spirit and to the needs of our world.

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a son (...) they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, “No. He will be called John”. But they answered her, “There is no one among your relatives who has this name”. So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name” (...) Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. [Lk 1: 57-64]

“ I was baptized (...) in the parish of Sta. María of Sallent. They gave me the name of Antonio Adjutorio Juan (...) out of devotion to Mary Most Holy, I added the sweet name of María. Thus my name is Antonio María Adjutorio Juan Claret y Clara. [Cf. Aut. PC 5]

In the book of baptisms of the parish of Valmoll the name of Antonia Josefa Francisca París y Riera is registered on June 29, 1813 (...) in the XIX century in Catalonia when a girl was baptized the first name was her godmother's name (Antonia), the second was her godfather's name (José) (...) and in remembrance of the father who could not know his daughter they will add Francisca to her name. [Hist. I, p. 46]

What is the origin of the complete name with which I was baptized, the name by which the Father calls me from all eternity?

1807

Claret is born in Sallent (Barcelona), Diocese of Vic. [Cf. CO p. 11]

1852

Claret to Caixal, writes saying that the sisters are highly appreciated in Cuba. [Cf. CO 21]

1868

After the “Glorious Revolution” the sisters came back to their convent in Reus and resumed teaching in the school. [Cf. Hist. I, p. 387]

1880

María Antonia to Enrique Gomis, greets him for Christmas and she rejoices by the progress of young women in formation. [Cf. EMP 351]

1993

Pope John Paul II declares in the Vatican the heroic virtues of María Antonia. Since then, she is invoked as VENERABLE. [Cf. CO p. 18]

1878

María Antonia to Currius, she asks about the health of sister Rosa Caixal, vice-prioress of Reus and wishes him Merry Christmas. [Cf. EMP 264]

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger". [Lk 2: 8-12]

“ This virtue should be so precious that it was the first one that the Most Holy Humanity of Our Lord Jesus Christ practiced, being born in a shoddy manger, poorer than all the poor in the world. Oh poverty of my God, who could inherit your riches! (...) He is born very poor, lives in utmost poverty and dies in extreme necessity... [PR 48]

There is no clearer word than poverty to express the attitude, choice, and action of Jesus himself. He who can understand, let him/her act, and live like Him.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (...) He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name (...) And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. [Jn 1: 1-5. 11-12. 14]

“ Ah! A God-made-man deigns himself to come down from heaven to teach us the observance of his Most Holy Law through word and deed so that nobody could excuse themselves from keeping it. With what dress does this great Lord, to whom the heavens and the earth belong, present himself to teach us the observance of the Divine Commandments? I do not see more in the holy cave! fortunate cave! than an extreme poverty and a wonder of humility! [PR 67]

The poverty and smallness of the Son of God in the manger calls us to walk that same path, attracted by the humility of the One who became man to meet every man. [Cf. Admirabile Signum, 1]

1986

With the Circular of the Prefect General of Apostolate, the answers to the questionnaire sent to the Congregation on the Cause and the influence of M. A. Paris on the spirituality of the Institute are presented. «It continues to be confirmed by the direct testimony of the sisters, that the return to the original charism has given a renewed impetus to the whole Institute and the discovery of the life and message of the Servant of God has made it possible to open new horizons in the spirituality and mission of the Institute». [Cf. Pos. MP p. 322]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1875

Gertrudis Barril
to Currius,
she writes in behalf of
María Antonia to greet
him for Christmas;
they are living
these celebrations
with diseases and
weaknesses, thus at
the side of the manger.
[Cf. EMP 165]

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall have not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is (...) Beloved, if [our] hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them... [1]n 3:1-2.21-24]

...it was manifested to me that it will not be difficult for my Father (Claret) to embrace the apostolic life. That his heart is ready to be one of the first apostles in the new Apostolate and, he will work very much in its formation. I have seen the gifts that God has put in your soul to renew in his Holy Church the observance of the Divine Commandments. [RCX 22]

To form an apostle's heart is to believe, love and serve Jesus as the absolute value of life becoming a gospel for humanity in the dark everyday life.

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us. [1]n 1:1-2]

We have two examples of passionate, missionary and reforming people in our founders. María Antonia París tells us: 'Proclaim the Gospel to every creature' and Anthony Mary Claret chose for his episcopal motto: 'The love of Christ impels me'. [DC 2017, 5]

By proclamation, we are mediators of God's love. Do I discover that the mission is not a matter of moments or parts of my life, but my whole life?

1859

Claret to His Holiness Pius IX, writes that he cannot walk away from the Court, thus he sends Currius to Rome to present to His Holiness the writings of María Antonia. [Cf. CO 171]

1859

Claret to María Antonia, comments: «I am willing to do anything, helped by grace, I just need to be told this is what you must do». [Cf. CO 169]

1861

Currius to Claret, sends the extract of the Rules of the Apostolic Institute (a summary to be given to each religious) for review and to be sent to the printing press. [Cf. CO 206]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1850

Antonio María Claret
embarks in the
Port of Barcelona in
'La Nueva Teresa Cubana'
heading to the island
of Cuba with a group
of missionaries whom
he calls "his relatives".
From there he later called
María Antonia París
and her companions
to collaborate in
the pastoral care
of the Island.
[Cf. Aut. PC 501]

Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say, "We have fellowship with him", while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin. [1]n1:5-7]

“...We fulfil in communion and joy the apostolic mission to which we have been sent. [Cf. Const. 12]

The only inexhaustible source from which an authentic apostolic work can emanate is the 'special joy' aroused by the encounter with Christ. This encounter, full of amazement, surprises, changes life. It's a continuous beginning. The disciples of Jesus, in order to proclaim the closeness of God, go on a mission, move "not alone, always with the brother at their side, because there is no mission without communion".

[Cf. Pope Francis, Homily 7/3/2022]

Blessed are you my God for so much goodness! For calling us to the joyful hope that Christ Jesus gives us.

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep his commandments. Whoever says, "I know him", but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him. This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live [just] as he lived. [1]n2:3-6]

“We are (...) an apostolic body with Claretian Identity, integrated by the different forms of life in constant adaptation of its structures to the signs of the time, in universal mission. We are (...) communities going forth, Samaritan, welcoming, familiar (...) building fraternity... [Cf. DC 2017, 9]

Loving ourselves as brothers and sisters, loving humanity, will be the sign of the presence of the Kingdom. Jesus in our midst.

1851

Claret to Caixal,
writes and asks for
information about the
journey of the future
Claretian sisters to Cuba.
[Cf. CO 10]

1861

Claret to Currius,
he has received the Rules
of the Apostolic Institute,
he will read them and
send them to Barcelona
to be printed.
[Cf. CO 207]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

1861

Claret to María Antonia,
communicates to her
that he has approved the
summary of the Rules of
1862 and he has sent it
to Naudó to be printed.
[Cf. CO 208]

1861

María Antonia to Caixal:
she answers that to have
income from interest
destroys the foundation
of Holy Poverty.
She only wants that both
fulfill the Will of God.
[Cf. CO 209]

There was also a prophetess, Anna (...)
She never left the temple, but worshiped
night and day with fasting and prayer.
And coming forward at that very time,
she gave thanks to God and spoke about
the child to all who were awaiting the
redemption of Jerusalem. [Lk 2: 36-38]

“ The Claretian vocation is a
gift to which we respond day
by day, living in total availability to the
will of the Father, joyfully dedicated to
teaching the holy Law of the Lord to every
creature. [Cf. Const. 71]

Deign to enlighten them all so
that they may know all that you
want from each one, so that they
may be docile and not resist your divine
inspirations and most holy will.

[Cf. Morning prayer of
María Antonia París]

As we journey,
let us make easy this same way

The true light, which enlightens
everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world came
to be through him, but the world did not
know him. He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.
But to those who did accept him he gave
power to become children of God (...)
From his fullness we have all received,
grace in place of grace, because while
the law was given through Moses, grace
and truth came through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God. The only
Son, God, who is at the Father's side,
has revealed him. [Jn 1: 9-12. 16-18]

“ ...to follow the footsteps of Christ
our highest good, in imitation of
the Apostles, teaching the holy Law of the
Lord to every creature and working for the
renewal of the Church. [Const. 91]

Religious, laity, and priests are all
partakers and collaborators of the mission of
Christ who came to save and (...) to reconcile
all things in Him. As followers of Christ, we
discern together the will of God in order to
perceive and follow the impulses of the
Holy Spirit at every moment, in permanent
conversion to recover the inner freedom that
will make us fully available. [DC 2017, 5]

What are the calls that we keep
in mind and keep us active in the
process of evangelization and
reform of the Church?

1857

Currius to Claret,
writes that «the "Plan
to Preserve the Beauty
of the Church" is
wonderful and it will
help to introduce the two
notebooks (Plan of the
Renewal of the Church by
María Antonia París)».
[Cf. CO 87]

**Through the intercession
of the**

**Venerable
MARÍA ANTONIA PARÍS**

we ask you Lord for...

**God the Father of Goodness,
who placed in the heart
of the Venerable María Antonia París,
a great love for the Church
and the apostolic zeal to spread the Gospel
to all peoples.**

**Let the example of her life
make us true apostles,
and through her intercession
grant us the grace that we are
confident to receive from your mercy.**

To communicate a grace received or request
materials and relics of María Antonia París
write to:

causasrmimc@gmail.com

**CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX
OF NAMES**

MARÍA ANTONIA PARÍS

- Jun 28, 1813** She was born in Vallmoll (Tarragona) and the next day she was baptized with the name of Antonia Josefa Francisca.
- 1826 or 1827** During a mission preached by the Franciscans she decides to consecrate herself to God.
- Oct 23, 1841** She enters the Company of Mary of Tarragona, but the Laws prevent her from professing.
- 1842** Initial Vision. She experiences that God calls her to found a new Institute “New Order”.
- 1844 or 1845** She receives lights on St. Anthony Mary Claret (“when I did not yet know him”). He is the apostle that the Church needs and will be the one who helps her in the foundation.
- 1848** She writes, by mandate of her spiritual director, Dr. Caixal, the Rules of the future Institute.
- 1850** She meets for the first time with St. Anthony Mary Claret. He sees that the opportune time has not yet come to found the new Institute.
- Apr 21, 1850** She begins the novitiate in the Society of Mary, but her anxiety begins about whether she should profess or not.
- Jan 21, 1851** Advised by Caixal and Fr. Gatell, she leaves the Convent with another novice, Florentina Sangler (August 15). They are joined by three more young women. They vow to remain united and cross the seas god willing.
- 1852** Called by Claret, embarks for Cuba on February 22 and arrives, after many vicissitudes, on May 26.
- Aug 25, 1855** Receives the Decree of foundation of the Institute signed by Anthony Ma. Claret. On August 27, professes in the hands of Claret and has an important mystical experience on the renewal of the Church. She writes, by command of her then confessor Fr. Curríus, the Points of Reform of the Church. She also writes the Constitutions of the Institute by mandate of Claret. On September 3 was the profession of the other sisters.
- 1859** María Antonia returns to Spain to found the second house of the Institute in Tremp (Lleida)
- 1867** Finds the third house in Reus (Tarragona)
- 1868** Lives a dense spiritual night for the Church.
- 1869** Rome gives the *Decretum Laudis* on the Constitutions, but they ask for several legal issues to be settled.
- 1875** The Servant of God founds the house of Carcagente (Valencia). Shortly before she had given her approval to found Baracoa in Cuba.
- 1879** She returns to Reus called by the ecclesiastical authority.
- 1880** Vélez Rubio (Almería) is founded, without the presence of María Antonia.
- Jan 17, 1885** She died in Reus. Her body remains incorrupt. She is buried 28 days later.
- Dec 23, 1993** Pope John Paul II declares the “*Heroic Virtues*” of María Antonia in the Vatican. From then on, she is VENERABLE.

BARRIL AND MORALES, Benita

Sister Gertrudis of S. Felipe

1831 She was born in Seo de Urgel (Lleida). It was a valuable recruitment of Rev. José Caixal, recently arrived in Seo de Urgel as bishop. She was very educated. She was the favorite of the Mother Foundress. She, in turn, reciprocated with endearing affection and veneration. She always served as secretary at the Mother's side. And with her she was vice-prioress in Reus and Carcagente.

Jan 15, 1854 She arrived in Santiago de Cuba.

Sep 3, 1855 Professes with eight other sisters. From this moment she accompanied María Antonia París to the foundations of Tremp, Reus and Carcagente. She was chosen by the Foundress to succeed her in the position of First Mother of the Institute; and she actually held it until her death. It is, without a doubt, the one that best assimilated the genuine spirit of the Institute; her continuous shared life with the Mother Foundress constitutes her the authentic heir of her spirit. She is the most qualified witness of the life and deeds of the Mother Foundress, whom she always considered as a saint.

Dec 5, 1890 Dies in Reus.

BOFARULL AND ESCOLÁ, Pablo

Oct 1, 1808 Born in Reus (Tarragona) Enters the seminary of Tarragona.

1835-1847 Ordained a priest, he was parish priest of Maspujols and the cathedral of Tarragona.

1847-1861 Confessor and professor of Philosophy, Morals and Writing at the Seminary. A man of simple, affable and kind character. Those who knew him found him cordial. He had great charity and patience. He devoted long hours to the confessional and helped everyone especially the poor. He welcomed María Antonia París and Florentina Sangler into his home when they left the convent of the Company of Mary in 1851.

1864 The archbishop Fléix and Soláns proposed him to the nuncio Barilli for bishop. In recent years he published in the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Bulletin a series of *Ascetic Letters on the Ecclesiastical Spirit*.

Jul 4, 1867 With the foundation in Reus, he comes in contact with the Institute once again. This day celebrated Mass and constituted the closing.

CAIXAL AND ESTRADÉ, José

- Jul 9, 1803** Born in Vilosell, province of Lleida. He studied grammar and rhetoric with the Piarists of Igualada, and Philosophy, Theology and Sacred Scripture at the seminary of Tarragona and at the University of Cervera, where he obtained a doctorate in both disciplines, and was professor of eloquence and theology, having among his disciples the renowned philosopher and theologian, Jaime Balmes.
- 1827** He received priestly ordination. He was spiritual director of María Antonia París, from a very young age until her trip to Cuba. She shared with him her concerns about the inspiration for founding a new Order.
- 1831** He continued to hold the chair of theology at the University of Cervera.
- 1835** He was banished to Mahon and then to France from 1840 to 1846. After the exile he returned to Tarragona, "as a poor chaplain."
- Feb, 1846** He met Fr. Claret during the mission he preached in Tarragona. They were close friends. He collaborated with the Saint in the foundation of the publishing house "Librería Religiosa". He introduced Fr. Claret to the concerns of María Antonia París and accompanied, from afar, the process of the founding of the sisters.
- Oct 29, 1852** He was proposed to be bishop of Urgel.
- Jun 5, 1853** Consecrated Bishop in the cathedral of Tarragona by Rev. José Domingo Costa y Borrás, bishop of Barcelona. He took possession of the diocese on June 15 and made his entry into it on the 25th of the same month and year. He settled in his seat of Seo de Urgel (Lleida)
- Jun, 1855** He was again banished to the Balearic Islands.
- Jun, 1859** When the sisters moved to the peninsula, it was in the village of Tremp in his diocese, where the first community of Claretian Missionaries in Spain was established. He built the seminary and helped in the foundation of the "Religious of the Holy Family of Urgel".
- 1869-1870** He participated in the First Vatican Council. He intervened as a supporter of Carlos María Isidro in the Carlist War and served as military chaplain to his troops.
- 1876** When Urgel fell into the hands of General Martínez Campos, he was taken prisoner and taken to the castle of Alicante, until he could move to Rome.
- Aug 26, 1879** He died in Rome, in the convent of San Adrián (Mercedarian Friars).

CAIXAL AND ROIG, María Josefa

- May 3, 1827** She was born in Vilosell (Lleida).
- 1850** She moved to Tarragona with her uncle Dr. Caixal. He was influential in orienting her vocation to the Institute that his directive, María Antonia París, was organizing.
- 1852** After the death of Florentina Sangler (September 20, 1852), she was always considered the second religious of the Institute. In official documents, she always appears after the Mother Foundress.
- 1859** She returned to Spain with María Antonia for the foundation of the convent of Tremp. She will see with joy the profession of her own sister Rosa in Tremp.
- Aug 2, 1878** She died in Tremp. She was the only one of the first four collaborators of María Antonia París, who died professed at the Institute.

ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET

- Dec 23, 1807** He was born in SALLENT, (Barcelona), Diocese of Vic. He is baptized on December 25 with the names of Antonio Adjutorio Juan.
- 1812–1825** Childhood and adolescence.
- 1825–1828** In Barcelona he perfects himself in the art of weaving. Study drawing, grammar and French. He acquires a reputation as a good weaver, experiences a great crisis in his vocation. He is scammed by a cheating friend. Swept away by a wave on the beach, he invokes Mary who saves him from great danger. Obsessed with weaving, one day during Mass he remembers the Lord's words: *'What good is it for man to win the world if he finally loses his soul?'*
- 1829–1835** Preparing for the priesthood. He enters the seminary of Vic.
- Jun 13, 1835** He was ordained a priest in Solsona by Fr. Juan José de Tejada. On the 21st he celebrates the first Mass in Sallent. Appointed vicar of St. María de Sallent. He continues the theological studies that he lacks.
- 1836–1838** Intense ministerial activity. Masses, preaching, confessions, catechesis, visits to the sick... He is dedicated to study, practices piety, mortification, and poverty.
- 1839** Travel to Rome. In the month of September, he offers himself to Propaganda Fide with the desire to be sent to Missions. While waiting, he practices the Spiritual Exercises and decides to enter the Society of Jesus. He suffers a strong rheumatism in one leg and Fr. General, Juan Bautista Roothaan, advises him to return to Spain. He leaves the Novitiate on March 3, 1840.

- 1840** In May he was appointed regent of the Parish of Viladrau, and on August 15 he asked permission to devote himself more freely to popular missions and preaching.
- 1841** He moved to Vic and received from Rome the title of Apostolic Missionary.
- 1842** Political circumstances prevent him from preaching.
- 1843–1847** Intense missionary activity in Catalonia.
- 1848–1849** Great Mission in the Canary Islands.
- Jul 16, 1849** He founded the Missionaries Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Co-founders are Fr. Esteban Sala, Manuel Vilaró, José Xifré, Domingo Fábregas, and Jaime Clotet.
- 1850** Appointed Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, he is consecrated in the Cathedral of Vic on October 6. On December 28 he embarked in Barcelona for Cuba.
- Feb 16, 1851** He arrives in Santiago de Cuba. On the 18th he takes possession of the Archdiocese at the Cathedral.
- 1852** The process for the foundation of the RELIGIOUS OF MARY IMMACULATE CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES begins.
- Aug 25, 1855** *He signed the **DECREE OF FOUNDATION** of the **Institute of the Claretian Missionary Sisters**. On the 27th, he received the profession of María Antonia París and on the 3rd of September that of the other novices.*
- 1856** On February 1st he suffered the attack in Holguín. On March 18, Queen Isabel II calls him to Madrid and makes him her confessor. On April 12 he leaves the island of Cuba for Spain. He accompanies the kings on their journeys and takes the opportunity to mission in cities and towns; prisons and hospitals; give exercises, talks to clergy, religious, parishes...
- Jun 5, 1857** He wrote to M. Antonia commenting on his conversation with Fr. Sala to open the novitiate in Spain.
- Nov 1, 1858** He founded the “Academy of San Miguel”, a society of writers, artists, propagandists, and influential people in civil life, with which he tries to renew the structures of society.
- Jul 15, 1865** Queen Elizabeth II recognizes the Kingdom of Italy. Claret leaves the palace, travels to Barcelona and Rome where he meets Pius IX. The Nuncio asks him to continue as confessor of the Queen. Return to Spain. On December 22, he returns to Madrid.
- Sep, 1868** The revolution “La Gloriosa” dethrones Isabel II. On September 30, Claret accompanies her to exile in France. There, he continues with his apostolic work.
- Mar 30, 1869** He separated from the Court and left Paris for Rome. He is received by Pius IX. He dedicates his stay in Rome to studying, preaching, visiting hospitals, teaching the catechism, writing and preparing for the First Vatican Council. He worked on the approval of the Constitutions of the Claretian Missionary Sisters. On December 8, the First Vatican Council begins.
- 1870** On July 23, the Council is interrupted. Claret retires to the Claretian community of Prades (France). In August, persecuted, he took refuge in the Cistercian Monastery of Fontfroide. He died in Fontfroide, France on October 24.
- Feb 25, 1934** He is beatified.
- May 7, 1950** He is Canonized.

CURRÍUS GRAVALOSA, Paladio

Jul 30, 1817 Born in Riudaura (Girona) he studied at the conciliar seminary of Girona.

1843 He received the tonsure, minor and major orders and presbyterate "ad curam animarum" in Rome (April 1 and June 25).

1846-1850 He was coadjutor lieutenant in Amer and Castelló de Ampurias (1847-1850).

Abr 14, 1850 From this date he is part of the group of priests and laity who will accompany on the trip and will leave with Archbishop Claret later to Santiago de Cuba.

1851 He received the title of Apostolic Missionary in February. In Cuba he served as secretary of the chamber and professor of moral theology at the seminary of San Basilio.

1852 He was appointed by Don Juan Nepomuceno Lobo confessor of the incipient community of the future Claretian Missionary Sisters, and later procurator, on September 14, 1855. From the end of 1854, he was in charge of the construction of the House of Charity in Puerto Principe, Cuba. By disposition of Fr. Claret, he remained in Cuba until April 6, 1859, when called by the holy archbishop, he returned to Spain with Mother María Antonia París and Sisters Josefa Caixal and Gertrudis Barril. He accompanied the Sisters to Tremp, helped them in the first months in the works of the convent and was at their service.

1859-1861 He was rector of the church of Montserrat, in Madrid.

1861-1868 He was royal chaplain, professor of the school, and of liturgy and master of ceremonies in the El Escorial until November 13, 1868. He left the monastery of El Escorial in 1868, following the revolution.

1868-1879 He was chaplain of the Claretian Missionary Sisters in Reus. The last years of his life were spent with the Claretian Missionaries in La Selva del Campo (Tarragona). He was one of the witnesses in apostolic process of Fr. Claret, in November 1900.

Sep 13, 1903 He dies in La Selva del Campo.

GONZÁLEZ DE MENDOZA, Dionisio

- Oct 2, 1815** Born in Barriosuso de Valdavia (Palencia). He received the solemn baptism the following October 8 (before he had received it from the hands of the surgeon Tom Marcos). He studied Latin and humanities in Carrión de los Condes (Palencia), and philosophy in León and Valladolid.
- 1845** Doctor in theology and degree in jurisprudence from the University of Valladolid.
- Jan 16, 1847** He received priestly ordination.
- 1848** He was secretary to the Bishop of Puerto Rico, Rev. Francisco de la Puente and provisor of Puerto Rico.
- Oct 23, 1855** Named doctoral canon of Santiago de Cuba, on October 23 took up his position.
- Mar 21, 1857** He was appointed provisor and ecclesiastical governor, position that he held until 1860. For this reason he had to intervene in the first steps of the foundation of the Institute. Later between him and Fr. Curríus they ordered the Constitutions written by M. María Antonia.
- 1860–1868** Vice-president of El Escorial.
- 1868** Auditor of the Rota in Madrid since this year.
- Jan 6, 1887** He died in his hometown of Barriosuso. He was one of the closest friends and collaborators of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

GUAL BERNET, María and Antonia

cousins of María Antonia París

- Oct 28, 1827** María is born on this day. When she professes, she adopts the name of María Rosa.
- Apr 17, 1830** Antonia is born on this day. When she professes, she adopts the name of María Encarnación.
- 1859** The Foundress appointed María Encarnación prioress of Santiago de Cuba. Rosa was vice-prioress and novice teacher in Santiago de Cuba.
- 1862** María Rosa is canonically appointed prioress.
- 1882** They served until this year, when they left the Institute. Leo XIII granted them dispensation of vows on September 22 of the same year.

ELIZABETH II, Queen (*Isabel II*)

- Oct 10, 1830** She was born in Madrid.
- Jul 20, 1833** Named Princess of Asturias and heiress of the Kingdom. On October 27 proclaimed Queen of Spain the same year. Because she was a minor, her mother María Cristina (1833-1840) ruled, until she was replaced by General Baldomero Espartero (1841-1843).
- 1843** On November 8, when she was just 13 years old, the Courts proclaimed Isabella had come of age. She married her cousin Francisco de Asís in 1846. From their marriage 10 children were born. The reign of Elizabeth II was characterized by intrigues and struggles between the moderate and progressive parties.
- 1868** Glorious revolution ("La Gloriosa") that dethroned the Queen and forced her to take refuge in France, accompanied by her confessor Fr. Claret.
- Apr 19, 1904** She dies in Paris, strengthened by the last sacraments and the blessing of His Holiness.

MAÑANET AND VIVES, San José

- Jan 7, 1833** Born in Tremp (Lleida). He studied theology at the Seo de Urgel and was a page of Bishop Caixal.
- 1859** Ordained priest.
- Nov 16, 1860** He accompanied Bishop Caixal to Tremp to consecrate the church and convent of the Claretian Missionary Sisters.
- Mar 19, 1864** He founded the Congregation of the Sons of the Holy Family.
- Dec 17, 1901** Dies in Barcelona.

MIURA, Rev. Manuel José

- Feb 12, 1815** Born in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic).
- 1827** Migrates to Santiago de Cuba. He studied private moral and scholastic theology until 1838. Bachelor of Laws and Canons.
- Jan 20, 1839** He received priestly ordination. He was chaplain of the women's hospital from February of the same year until August 1845. He was then appointed assistant priest to the parish of St. Thomas the Apostle, a position he held until January 1854 when he was appointed parish priest of the parish.
- Dec 4, 1852** He entrusted him with the position of fiscal promoter of the diocesan curia. Fr. Claret wrote of him: *«Man of good and of all my confidence (...), very jealous and virtuous».*
- 1855** Mother María Antonia París, in her will, appointed him executor of the assets that the Institute was possessed in Cuba.
- Mar 12, 1857** Installed as canon of Santiago de Cuba. The saint appreciated him very much, as can be seen by these expressions addressed to him: *«You know that there has always been, there is and there will be among us the best peace and harmony of opinions». «You know that I love you very much, and I am also extremely grateful of the many favors that I have received from you».*

NAUDÓ CASSI, Pedro

- Jan 2, 1801** Born in Enveig (Cerdanya-France). He made his first studies at the dominican school of Puigcerdá. He then entered the seminary in Barcelona.
- Mar 11, 1826** Priestly ordination. An enlightened, jovial, simple, and full of religious zeal, a close friend and guardian of St. Anthony Mary Claret for many years, "well known and respected for his character and virtues".
- 1851-1852** He arranged the passages of the first five sisters in Nueva Rosalía to embark for Santiago de Cuba and, later, helped them in various administrative and practical matters.
- 1866-1868** He received benefits at the parish of Santa María del Mar, in Barcelona, and was bursar of the same church.
- Mar 4, 1882** Dies in Barcelona.

ORBERÁ AND CARRIÓN, Rev. José María

- Nov 6, 1827** Born in Valencia.
- 1841-1844** Estudies Philosophy.
- 1844** He entered the Seminary of Valencia.
- Dec 1, 1850** Priestly ordination. He was parish priest in Fuente de Pedro Navarro (Cuenca) and received benefited in the parish of San Isidro, (Madrid).
- Apr 14, 1862** Canon of the Collegiate Church of Covadonga (Asturias). On May 10 of the same year he embarked for Santiago de Cuba, taking possession of the positions of Administrator and Vicar General of the diocese on June 9.
- 1867-1870** He was chapter vicar, admirer, and benefactor of the Claretian Sisters in Cuba.
- Jun 15, 1874** Exiled, he moved to Spain and then to Rome.
- Mar 8, 1875** Returns to Santiago de Cuba. In July he was presented for bishop of Almeria and recommended the following September 23.
- Mar 12, 1876** He was consecrated bishop in the collegiate church of San Isidro, in Madrid. He took possession of the diocese of Almeria on the following 18 March. During his exile in Spain, he promoted the foundation of the Claretian Sisters in Carcagente and later, as bishop of Almeria, he did everything possible for the foundation in Vélez Rubio. He was a very detached man of great love for poverty.
- Nov 23, 1886** Dies in Chamberí (Madrid) leaving for the posterity the glorious name of "poor bishop".

H.H. PIUS IX

- May 13, 1792** Giovanni María Mastai Ferretti was born in Senigallia, from a noble and distinguished family.
- 1803-1809** He studied with the Piarists at Volterra, then at the Roman College.
- Apr 19, 1819** Received priestly ordination. In Rome he exercised charity in the hospice of "Tata Giovanni".
- 1823-1825** He replaced Msgr. Giovanni Muzzi as auditor to Chile and Peru. On returning to Rome he was appointed canon in the church of Santa María "in Via Lata" and director of the college of San Michele.
- May 21, 1827** Recommended for bishop of Spoleto, he was consecrated on June 3 of the same year.
- Dec 23, 1839** He was made cardinal.
- Jun 16, 1846** He was elected Supreme Pontiff. It took place on November 8th of the same year.
- 1848** Because of the revolution in Rome, he was forced to take refuge in Gaeta and then in Pòrtici.
- Apr 12, 1850** With the help of the European powers (Austria, France and Spain), he was able to return to Rome and reorganized the government of the city and the Papal States.
- Dec 8, 1854** He proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.
- 1869-1870** He celebrated the First Vatican Council.

SANGLER CARDEDERA, Florentina

Sep 20, 1870 Suffered the fall of temporal power, with the entry of the Piedmontese army into Rome. He gave great impetus to missionary action. Although his pontificate -the longest in the history of the Church- took place in the midst of incessant political and religious turbulence, the work of regeneration and expansion that he promoted was intense and profound in all fields.

Feb 7, 1878 Died in Rome.

1815 She was born in Mahon into a family that enjoyed a very relaxed economic position.

1843 In the novitiate of the Company of Mary of Tarragona, she was a companion of María Antonia París, with whom she was always very closely involved and shared the same ideals of religious life. Her vocation to the Institute has an evidently supernatural origin.

Jan 21, 1851 Left the novitiate with Antonia París. They spent together a few the months in Tarragona waiting to embark for Cuba.

Feb 22, 1852 She sails to Cuba where she arrives with the others after many vicissitudes.

Sep 20, 1852 She died four months after her arrival on the island. The Mother Foundress expressed at her death that she "loved her as part of her soul". Although she did not profess, she has always been considered to belong to the Institute. Mother París said of her that she was the first to have attained "the prize of her passionate zeal". That is why in the most solemn moments of the foundation of the Institute there will always be a memory of Sister Florentina: when the request was made to Archbishop Claret for the foundation, when they asked for permission from the government of Madrid, in the request to Pius IX.

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