

OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS MADRID, SPAIN, ECUADOR, 1610

DISCOVERY OF THE STATUE OF OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS IN MADRID

THROUGHOUT the world, there are many statues that have been given the title of Our Lady of Good Success, but the earliest images known by this title are found in Madrid and Quito. The exact date of the discovery of the Madrid image now under consideration is unknown, although we do know that it begins when Spanish friars were traveling through the village of Traigueras on their way to Rome to gain approval of the Order of Minims founded by St. Francis of Paola (1416–1507). When a furious storm descended upon them, they prayed for God's guidance and help. Looking for shelter, they saw a mysterious light coming from a cave. They hurried to it and found the beautiful statue of the Virgin Mary holding the Child Jesus. Surrounding it was a shimmering light and a heavenly fragrance. When no one in Traigueras knew anything about the statue and did not claim it, the friars carried it with them to Rome. On arriving there, they met with Pope Paul V (1605–1621) who heard the story of the discovery, and not only venerated



and blessed the statue, but also gratified the friars by granting full approval of the new Order. The image was first placed in the Royal Hospital of Madrid where many miracles were granted, so many, in fact, that King Philip III ordered the construction of the Sanctuary of the Puerto del Sol where the image is found today, beautifully adorned and sumptuously enthroned. The image of Our Lady of Good Success in Madrid was dear to the hearts of countless souls, including Sr. Mariana of Jesus Torres who, even as a child, received visits of the Blessed Mother. Her great devotion to Our Lady under this title was continued when she arrived in Quito.



THE FIRST VISITATION AT QUITO

After joining the Order of the Immaculate Conception, Sr. Mariana was sent from Spain to Quito to found another house of the Order, of which she became Abbess. It was there on February 2, 1610, while she was praying to the Blessed Mother, that she was granted another heavenly visitation. Identifying herself as Mary of Good Success, the Virgin Mary asked that a statue be made to her likeness for the consolation and preservation of the convent, and for those faithful souls who would pray to her. “With this statue I will favor not only my convent, but also the people of Quito and all the people throughout the centuries.”

OTHER APPARITIONS OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

During other apparitions, the Blessed Mother confided several prophecies, some of which have already taken place while many are pertinent to our troubled times. Some of these prophecies include a warning that Masons and other secret sects would have an

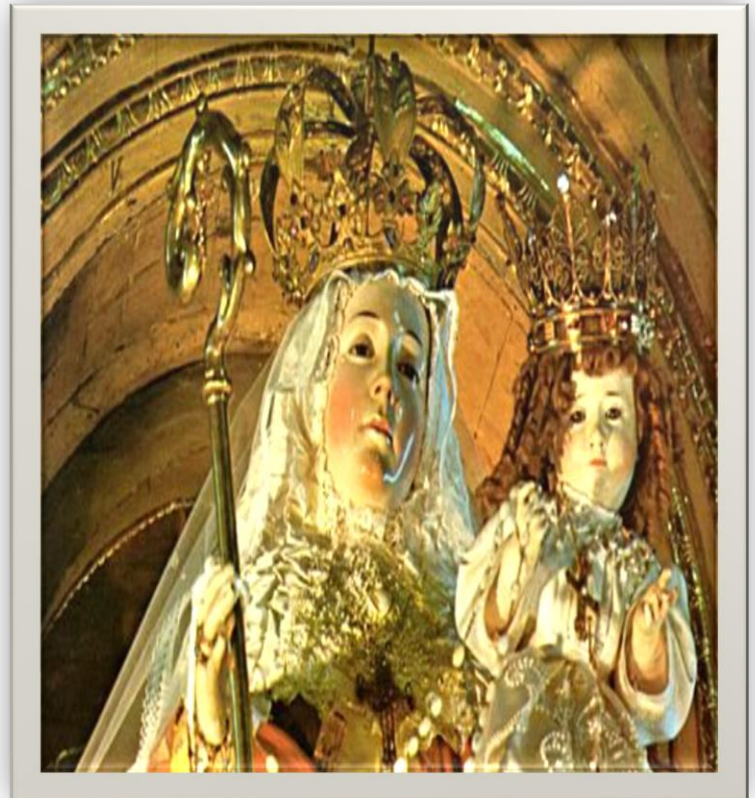
influence even within the Church. She warned that a worldwide campaign against the virtues of chastity and purity will succeed in corrupting the youth ... evil will invade childhood innocence. The clergy will leave much to be desired because priests will become careless in their sacred duties ... Faithful priests upholding the Faith will suffer greatly and will be overwhelmed with vexations in order to stop them from fulfilling their ministry. The precious light of Faith will be extinguished in souls by the almost total corruption of customs.

The Lady complained that those who have the financial means to help the Church do nothing. “Their miserly

attitude toward God and His Church will allow evil to seemingly triumph.” Many other prophecies were given which depict the future as being very troublesome to the Church.

Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres died on January 16, 1635, after receiving the Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments of the Church. After three hundred years, in 1906, when the church was being remodeled, her tomb was opened, revealing her body perfectly intact. It is now kept in a small chapel in the lower level of the cloistered convent. Her Cause for beatification was opened on the diocesan level by the local bishop. At the conclusion of the investigation of her heroic virtues she was given the title, Servant of God. At the request of the Blessed Mother, her statue was placed above the Abbess’ chair in the upper choir of the convent because she desired to be Abbess of the convent “until the end of time.” Unlike the statue in Madrid which depicts the Baby Jesus on her left arm while the right hand holds a queenly scepter, the statue in Quito also has the Baby Jesus on the left arm, while the right hand of the Virgin holds not a royal scepter, but a crozier and the keys of the convent. The crozier denotes her authority as Abbess.

Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres should not be confused with Mariana of Jesus de Paredes Flores also of Quito who is the patron saint of Ecuador. She was a hermit and is the first saint to be canonized from Ecuador. She was canonized by Pope



Pius XII in 1950. Our Lady of Good Success. This image of Our Lady of Good Success originated in Madrid, Spain, but the apparitions of Our Lady to Sr. Mariana de Jesus Torres in Quito, Ecuador, made it better known. Our Lady gave the world many messages and warnings through these apparitions.