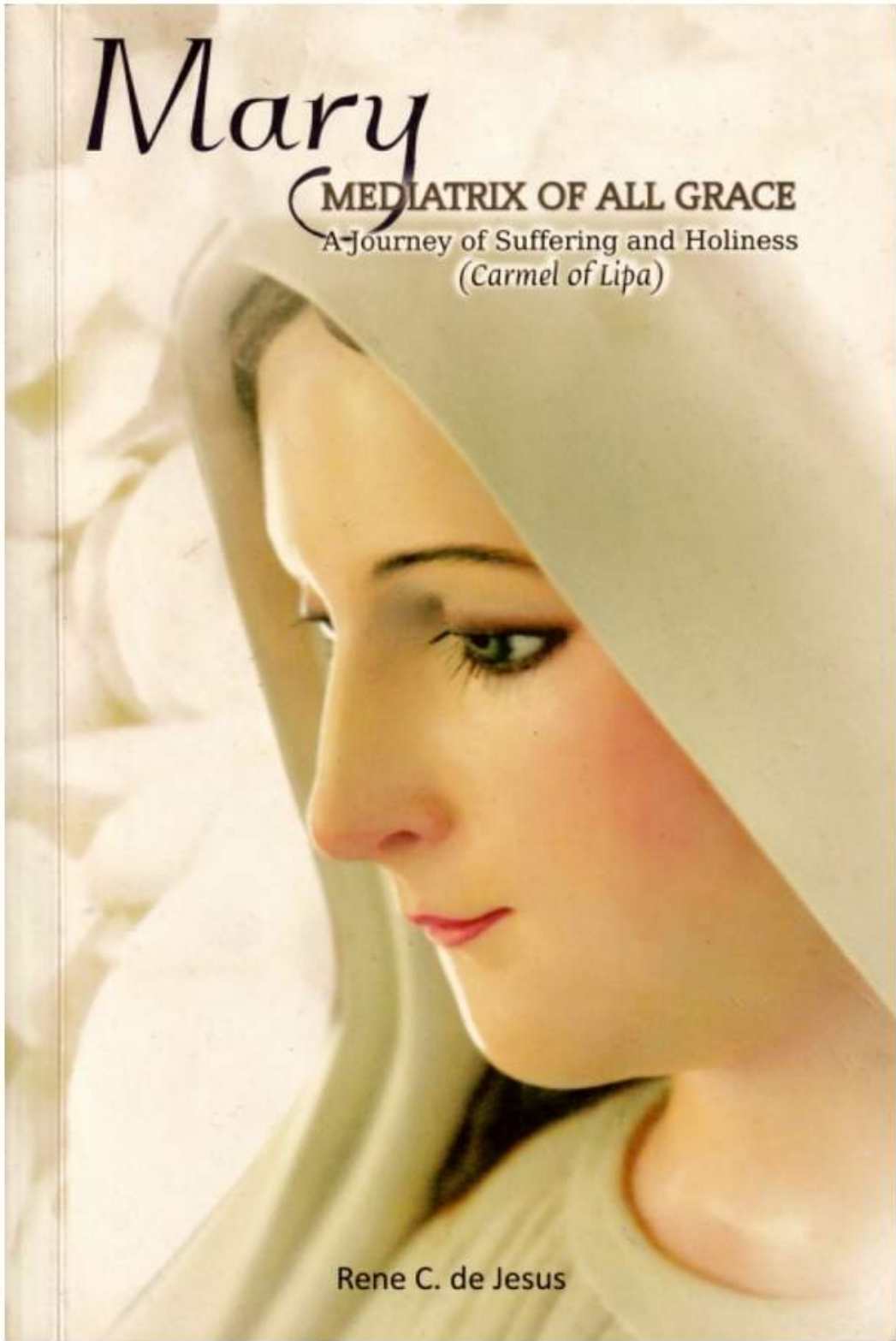


Mary

MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE

A Journey of Suffering and Holiness
(Carmel of Lipa)

Rene C. de Jesus



This book is lovingly dedicated to

You, our Blessed Mother, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace
It is in this humble way that we honor you
and spread the devotion to you.

The Foundresses of Lipa Carmel -
Mother Theresa Pagot
Sister Mary Joseph (Nieves) Aquino
Sister Mary Cecilia Zialcita
Sister Mary Anne Cuna
Sister Alphonse Baring
Sister Mary Elizabeth Cebrero

Teresita Castillo

the Carmelite Community of Lipa

and to all those who remained steadfast in faith
in defending the events of the apparitions
of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace
through the years from 1948 to the present

Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace

A Journey of Suffering and Holiness

Cover Design Sr. Catherine Vicente, o.c.d.

Editing Marie C. Franco
Chi A. Liquicia

Layout Marie C. Franco

Photo Credits Rev. Fr. Eric Arada
Rev. Fr. Jayson Siapco
Dr. Jose Noel Estrada
Antonio Endaya
Chito Segismundo
James Benedict Malabanan

Printed by
LSA Printing Press Inc.
888 EDSA Brgy Highway Hills

Mandaluyong City

Mary

MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE

A Journey of Suffering and Holiness
(Carmel of Lipa)

Rene C. de Jesus



Office of the Archbishop
Archdiocese of Lipa

San Lorenzo Drive
4217 Lipa City, Philippines
☎ (043) 756-2573 • Fax (043) 756-2984
E-mail: bparguelles@yahoo.com



✠ Ramón C. Argüelles, DD, S1L
Archbishop of Lipa

MESSAGE

Books on the Blessed Virgin Mary abound and fill libraries, reading rooms, and private homes. Next to the Bible, Marian literature is most read and appreciated. Adding another one is always welcome.

But it is not just a matter of piling up information. Writings on Mary are sources of profound reflection. The present book is surely intended for that. The Mother of God and of All Humanity is deeply immersed in the mystery of God. The more one penetrates the mystery, the more he is drawn to enter more deeply and relish great spiritual joy as one is more immersed in it.

The divine and universal motherhood of the Woman of Nazareth is a mystery to be deeply searched, warmly embraced, and richly relished. The more one approaches Mary, loves Her, unites with Her, the happier and more fulfilled one becomes. The reason is because She is so united to God who became Her Son so that encountering Her inevitably leads one to God. Mary and Jesus can no longer be seen separately. Everyone who finds the Mother discovers without fail the Son.

The expression "*I am your Mother*" expresses all the beauty and richness of being with Mary. The present book is no mere addition to the many that tell us about Mary. The contribution of this book on the still "controversial" concept of the Mediatrix is the awareness that from this little corner of planet Earth in this almost neglected and forgotten country in the world, Mary is so near and has something to tell the rest of the world. Her message is simply JESUS. She tells all to focus on Him. God appointed Her the great Mediatrix for the Son of God to become man. She performs Her task now for all men and women of whom She is Mother so that they become God's children.

This book offers no mere added information. This book is a new attempt and an important help for deeper reflection. Jesus and Mary should never be seen separate from each other. Neither should we, sons and daughters of God, be separated from Jesus and Mary, the Mediator and the Mediatrix.

Preface

This book is about our Blessed Mother and her desire to be known, loved and venerated as “*Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace*”. It is about the extraordinary gift of God to the Filipino People of our Lady’s apparitions and miracles in 1948. Our Blessed Mother came to visit a postulant in a humble Carmelite monastery built on the bloodied ruins of Lipa following the closing days of the Japanese occupation. It is not hard to believe that our Blessed Mother chose to visit our country then out of love and compassion to heal Her suffering children, brutally traumatized by war and bloodshed.

The book is also about the journey of suffering and holiness of the main characters of this beautiful love story: Teresing Castillo, Mother Cecilia, Sister Mary Joseph, Sister Mary Anne, Sister Elizabeth, Sister Alphonse, Bishop Verzosa and Bishop Obviar. Their lives became the seeds that had to be buried and die in the pain, silence and obscurity of forty years of suppression following the ban of the events of Mary Mediatrix. (*Truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*) Jn 12:24. They call to mind the abandonment of Jesus – “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

After many decades, the seeds of their sacrifice have begun to bear much splendid fruit: the increasing devotion to Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace that is spreading far and wide; the growing interest in and practice of St. Louis Grignon de Montfort’s Marian “Consecration to Jesus through Mary”; and the renewed zeal by Bishop Conveners to promote and lead the movement for a dogmatic definition of Mary’s universal mediation of grace. Could this be what the Blessed Mother’s apparitions are all about?

On September 12, 1948, the Blessed Mother appeared to Teresing Castillo, a 21-year old Carmelite postulant. These apparitions continued over the next 15 consecutive days. On the last day of her apparitions, our Lady declared: *"Be very good, my little ones. I am Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace."*¹

These apparitions and the reference to the Blessed Mother's title of Mediatrix of All Grace are not isolated events. They are but the latest golden threads woven into the fabric of our Lady's mantle of love and protection through the centuries and in many parts of the world. As we shall see, these golden threads reveal the Blessed Mother's continuing presence in history to remind us what her Son died for and to continue with Him the work of redemption.

They are part of the perennial story of God's infinite love for man. "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son..." To save us, Jesus became man, suffered, died and resurrected. Shortly before He ascended to heaven, He promised mankind, "I will be with you till the end of the age." Down through the centuries, Jesus reaffirms through His Church the same enduring message of God's love for mankind. In a special and ever-novel way, Jesus reaffirms this never-ending message to us especially through His beloved Mother Mary.

In all her messages to Teresing Castillo, the words most often repeated by our Lady after the words "God" and "love" are the words "my Son." It is her being Mother to Jesus and her maternal love for mankind that moves the Blessed Mother to speak with authority and with compassion. Sometimes, she warns and sometimes she begs; often she pleads mankind to return to her Son and trust in His immense love.

Perhaps, this is the reason why time and again, God continues to send the Blessed Mother to speak to us directly whenever we need reminding. Mothers have a way with children! After all, we all were, and still are, children of our mothers, which makes us so disposed to listen to the Mother par excellence, Mary, Mother of God.

In her great apparitions throughout the centuries and in many different parts of the world, the Blessed Mother repeats the same messages. She asks us to pray, to do penance, and to make acts of reparation for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. She warns us of the dangers of greed, selfishness and immorality; she reminds us of the need for conversion and sacrifice.

The events of our Lady's apparitions and miracles in 1948 are the latest chapter in the continuing saga of God's infinite love for mankind through the ages. After almost seven decades (1948 – 2015), we are now just beginning to discern the hand of God at work in this magnificent mosaic of love pieced together by hundreds of individual tiles. These tiles are the stories of hundreds of people whose sacrifice, sufferings, cures and conversions come together to produce the love story of Lipa Carmel's Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace.

This book tells the endearing story of our Lady's affectionate love for Teresing Castillo and the Sisters of "Our Lady's Carmel", her maternal love for the people of Lipa and the Philippines, and her compassionate, healing love for a wounded humanity in its journey through this valley of tears.

Rene C. De Jesus
8 December 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Archbishop Ramón C. Argüelles D.D.

Preface

Chapter 1 1

The 1948 Apparitions in Lipa

A Story of Suffering, Faith, and Obedience

Chapter 2 39

Mary as the Mediatrix

Through the Centuries

Chapter 3 51

After the Apparitions

A Journey of Suffering

Chapter 4 81

Our Blessed Mother's Love

Messages and Reflections

Chapter 5 113

A Living Witness of our Blessed Mother's Love

The Story of Sr. Melania Suña, RA

Chapter 6 139

"I Am Your Mother"

Real Stories of Her Love and of Her Children's Devotion

A Marian Pilgrimage to Lipa Carmel 167

Prayers to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace 171

- Daily Novena Prayer

- Acts of Consecration

- Healing Prayer

Appendix 177

Bibliography



Chapter 1

The 1948 Apparitions in Lipa
A Story of Suffering, Faith, and Obedience





“It is not by sheer luck but it is by God’s design that the Carmelite Monastery was erected on Lipa’s soil.”

These were the words of Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales during the golden jubilee of the founding of Lipa Carmel last 31 May 1996. For the idea of founding the monastery in 1946 when everything lay in ruins seemed impossible.

Lipa in Ruins

Lipa, in the province of Batangas in the Philippines, was one of the towns totally devastated by occupying Japanese forces in World War II. More than 25,000 men, women, and children were mercilessly killed while those who survived endured the brutal atrocities during the “reign of terror” from 1942 to 1945.

The Bishop of Lipa, Alfredo Verzosa, survived this war through Divine Providence. He escaped a massacre after an unknown messenger came to warn him. The Japanese killed all 5,000 people whom they lured for protection against the advancing American troops at the St. Francis de Sales Seminary, their temporary hospital. Then, they razed the seminary to the ground.

But the people of Lipa, with their deep faith in God, loving devotion to the Blessed Mother, and great strength of spirit, would pick themselves up and rise from the ashes and ruins of the war.



A New Carmel is Born in Lipa

After the war, Bishop Alfredo Verzosa wrote Mother Theresa of Jesus, then the Mother Prioress of Manila Carmel, to initiate the establishment of a monastery in Lipa. For twenty years he had been asking for a Carmel in his diocese but Manila Carmel, founded in 1926, did not then have the necessary number of nuns for a new foundation.

On 31 May 1946, Bishop Verzosa formally signed the Act of Foundation establishing the Monastery of our Lady of Mt. Carmel with six Carmelite Sisters from the Carmel of Manila as foundresses.

1. Mother Theresa of Jesus (Marie Victoria Pagot),
63 years of age and 42 of religion
2. Sister Mary of St. Joseph (Nieves Aquino,
43 years of age and 19 of religion
3. Sister Alphonse of Mary (Felisberta Baring),
41 years of age and 20 of religion
4. Sister Mary Cecilia of Jesus (Natividad Zialcita),
37 years of age and 19 of religion
5. Sister Mary Anne of Jesus (Rosario Cuna),
30 years of age and 7 of religion
6. Sister Elizabeth of the Sacred Heart (Leonor
Cebrero), 29 years of age and 4 of religion

The Bishop offered the diocese's three-hectare property that used to be the St. Francis de Sales Seminary. It would be from these ruins and "place of holocaust" that the foundresses would painstakingly but wholeheartedly build the Carmelite Monastery, thus having its roots deeply linked to the priesthood.



The Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart lovingly provided the temporary accommodations for the foundresses.

Mother Cecilia of Jesus in her account described vividly their experience upon arriving in Lipa:

“The temporary lodging of the Nuns was very poor and small. The house was built upon the heavy ruins of an entirely demolished convent.

Besides, the house was nothing more than a complete patchwork of rusty, old iron sheets. Parts had been gathered separately from the ruins scattered in the town and parts taken away from the former Army barracks. It had not the least aspect of a Monastery. But the generous Nuns did not stop to think of their own comfort. They put their hands wholeheartedly to the work assigned them. And there was much to be done!”

“Then, they had to make the best of their dwelling to find enough room to assemble for the community exercises such as the Choir for prayer and the Divine Office, the refectory for meals, the recreation room, the dormitory, etc. Every afternoon at sundown, when they could get out freely to breathe a little fresh air without being too visible to the passersby, they took the opportunity to work at the laborious task of clearing the ground in front of the house. There were heaps of stones, large pieces of cement fallen from the old ruins and all kinds of rubbish strewn here and there. It was very hard work indeed. But they soon succeeded to make the



place look neat and they built a nice road out of the stones which a short time ago seemed insurmountable.”

“This path led straight to the entrance of the Carmelite Convent. During the rainy season the water poured in through large and numerous holes. Later on, it was quite an amusing sight, not to say a bit pitiful, to see a large piece of canvas so kindly offered them by the Army, spread over the roof of the house similar to a bonnet. Yes, it was the life of Bethlehem enacted all over again. And poverty was their cherished guest. But the magic wand of holy joy was ever present with them to make hard things light and turn dark clouds into bright sunshine. Nothing daunted them. Their courageous spirits were animated by the one consoling thought that beneath the same roof the Divine Lord Jesus deigned to make His delightful abode.”

“Each morning found them at the foot of the altar in the small chapel of the aforesaid Sisters just at the other end of the house. There, they united with the Divine Victim at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, they offered themselves again and again to the Heavenly Father for priests and souls. There they reverently knelt at the Banquet Table to partake of the Bread of Angels where they received strength, which aided them in their many hardships and privations.”

This was the secret of their joy in sacrifice.”





Above: The sparse living quarters during the early days of the monastery.

Above left: Mother Mary Cecilia inspects the site for the monastery.



Mother Foundress Theresa with guests during the laying of the cornerstone ceremonies on 16 August 1946.



On 15 August 1946, the cornerstone of the new Monastery was blessed and laid. A huge crowd of friends and benefactors from Manila and neighboring provinces attended the ceremony that had prominent personages of the Philippine Assembly and government officials as guests of honor.

Rev. Fr. Edwin Casey, Chaplain of the United States Army, may have unconsciously foretold of the events that would happen two years later in his message during the occasion:

“Perhaps no other country in the world can be said to be more truly devoted to God and his Law. With certainty it can be said that no country is more devoted to the Mother of God... In this hour when your nation is rising from the ashes and ruins of war, He has inspired the good Mothers of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to raise up a spiritual arsenal of prayer and good works, by establishing a Carmelite Monastery here... Pray that God will increase the ranks of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel with... holy women, who through their prayers, will bring in their own lifetime a shower of roses on their beloved country.”

Construction progressed rapidly and the Sisters met many challenges – unavailable materials and limited funds. But their trustful confidence and childlike abandonment to God were never compromised. In spite of the activities and noise around them, they maintained their life according to Carmel’s austere Rule and Constitutions, as their condition would allow it.



On 15 August 1947, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bishop Verzosa solemnly blessed the monastery and the strict enclosure of the monastery was sealed.

Teresing Answers the Call of God

Teresita, affectionately called Teresing, was born on 4 July 1927 in Batangas City to Modesto and Amanda Castillo. She was the youngest and the favorite of six children, with four brothers and a sister. She was named and baptized after the great Carmelite saint, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, to whom her mother had a strong devotion.

Teresing had everything a young girl of that time could ever desire - a comfortable home, supportive friends in an excellent school, an interest she could fully enjoy and spend time on, and devoted parents who unconditionally supported her love for music.

She was described as simple, kind, affectionate, and very religious, who would go to confession and receive Communion almost every day. She had only one dream – to be a contemplative nun. She would tell her family’s laundrywoman when she was being accompanied to St. Scholastica’s College that her ambition was to become “a nun of a monastery where nobody could see her or talk with her except across an iron-barred window”. She wanted to serve God and longed to give her heart and soul totally and exclusively to God.



Only God could satisfy this passion. For when God calls someone to Himself, He fills that person's soul with so much love and light that the person is compelled to risk everything to follow His call – even to run away from home. This was what St. Claire of Assisi, Italy did at age 18 in 1212. St. Faustina Kowalska of Lodz, Poland did the same at age 19 in 1924.

And so on 4 July 1948, her 21st birthday and just days before her piano recital, Teresing did the unexpected. She ran away from home to enter the Carmelite Monastery in Lipa City!

Teresing went to church with a companion but left her behind and boarded the jeep of Bishop Alfredo Obviar, Auxiliary Bishop and Chaplain of Carmel, that came to pick her up at the back of the ruined municipal building. She had left a letter for her family, asking for forgiveness, telling them that she was going to enter a monastery to become a nun.

Leaving the family was very difficult. But to be inside the convent and hear the Holy Mass already clothed as a Carmelite postulant was a beautiful birthday present!

Her joy would be short-lived. Her eldest brother Florencio followed her to the convent and threatened the portress Sr. Elizabeth with a gun, demanding that Teresing be brought out. At the parlor, a private room where the Sisters would meet visitors behind a grilled window, he pointed a gun at Teresing through the grill, declaring he preferred to see her dead rather than as a



Carmelite. She would not be intimidated and she challenged him:

“So, what do you want? Do you want to kill me? Shoot me? Well, all right, if you want, shoot me right now. Do you think that if you kill me, my body will be brought out? No, I’m here and I’ll be buried here!”

Another brother came shouting and banging on the heavy doors of the convent demanding the Sisters to allow her to come out. There was so much commotion that the police had to be called in.

In spite of the unceasing efforts of her family to make her come home, she remained steadfast in following what God had asked of her. She remained at the convent with great fervor and enthusiasm, determined to be a perfect Carmelite.

Her father Modesto finally gave his blessing –

“At the beginning, I was opposed to my daughter’s becoming a nun, but in view of her insistence and finding out that she had been called by God, I bowed my head and told myself: Let the Divine Will be fulfilled.”

Teresing’s Vocation of Suffering and Childlike Devotion

“My daughter, sufferings will always be with you until the end of your life.”

Message of the Blessed Mother to Teresing
7 August 1948



It probably was difficult for Teresing, spoiled and privileged, to be told and accept at a young age that she was fated for a life of suffering.

When she entered the convent, she suffered from being separated from her family. From demonic oppression. From persecution by non-believers and detractors within her community and by church authorities. She suffered in obedience to and from personal sacrifices asked of her by the Blessed Mother. The range and frequency of physical, emotional and spiritual torments she had to endure would test her limits.

But Teresing endured, obeyed, kept her faith, and never complained.

“Every time I was given the privilege to suffer, I was fully aware of death, most especially when I found it difficult to breathe because the pains seemed to penetrate up to the marrow of my bones. The grace of God and my commitment to Mama Mary for the conversion of priests and nuns gave me the courage to endure the pains I had to suffer.

My only fear that time was to be deprived of the grace needed to endure the pain.”

Reflection of Teresing Castillo
9 September 1948



Encounters with Satan

Barely a month after entering the convent, Teresing would experience a series of demonic encounters that would leave her bruised, physically exhausted, and emotionally distressed. She would be tempted to abandon her vocation and taunted for her love and obedience to her Mother Prioress, the Bishop, the Blessed Mother, and God.

Her encounters started in the evening of the 31st of July 1948. Alone in her room praying, she heard three loud knocks on her door. There was no one, but she heard a man's hoarse voice as if coming from a deep hollow container and smelled a foul odor. The voice told her vividly of her family's suffering due to her absence. It made her extremely homesick. It taunted her for her obedience to God. Two black footprints, the shapes so different from those of a human being were left on her cell. The next day, the same voice came back at around three o'clock in the morning repeating the things it had said the day before. The voice introduced himself as Satan.

On August 6 and 7, Satan this time taunted her for her obedience to the Mother Prioress and her devotion to the Virgin Mary. "*Why do you meddle with my affairs?*". This is what she would respond during all their encounters.

On August 11, she started receiving physical abuse from Satan. She was awakened by the violent shaking of her bed. This time, Satan showed itself to her.



Its face was terribly ugly, furious, and on fire. Its eyes were glaring, bloodshot, and could not look straight at her. For the first time, it beat her, leaving marks on her wrists.

At one point, she was asked by Satan why she loved her Mother Prioress. She replied: *“Because in loving her, it is Jesus Christ I love.”*

The next day, Satan once again beat her with a cord, leaving black marks on her hand. It was furious over the fresh rose on her prayer book, furious at her love and obedience to the Mother Prioress.

On August 15, she saw Satan’s ugly face marked on the wall. Satan pinched her right hand hard enough to leave imprints of its nails. The wound had soot around it, a little blood, and smelled bad. Satan was again furious over Teresing’s running to the Mother Prioress for refuge and frustrated over its failed attempts to tempt her over the past days. In the evening, she struggled with Satan anew. She was left with black marks with soot on both her hands.

On August 22, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at that time, Satan made her feel stripped naked while in a battle of tug-of-war, with it pulling her down and Mother Mary Cecilia pulling her up the stairs. In reality, she had her habit on during the entire struggle.

All throughout her ordeal with Satan, Teresing remained steadfast in her faith, relied on prayers, the Holy Rosary, and the sprinkling of the holy water to quell the evil one. She was terrified, but she overcame it. She did



not allow Satan to win the battle. She remained obedient.

During all the demonic encounters, Mother Mary Cecilia as her Prioress and also as her Novice Mistress, was the mother inside the convent that Teresing needed during this period of suffering and confusion. She was there for her, to give her love, comfort, guidance, and her warm embrace. At first, she was incredulous, thinking Teresing was just homesick. But she changed her mind when all the physical manifestations of Satan became visible to her and she too, received interior messages from the Blessed Mother. She joined Teresing in her journey of suffering.

During this period of demonic oppression and even after, our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of all Grace was a loving Mother too to Teresing.

Encounters with the Blessed Mother

“How is it, my dear Mother, how is it possible that you who are so holy and blessed come to me who am nothing but dust and ashes and a sinner?” asked Teresing. *“That is what I was waiting to hear from your lips, my dear child.”*

Conversation between Teresing and Our Lady
19 August 1948,
Based on the original account of Mother Mary Cecilia

It was in the afternoon of August 7, following Teresing’s fourth encounter with Satan that she would hear for the first time the sweet voice of a Lady inside her cell amidst the strong fragrance of *azucena* (white lily).



The Lady's message foretelling her life of suffering left her stunned and speechless, but not afraid.

On 18 August at around 5:30 in the afternoon, following a series of attacks from Satan, a very beautiful Lady with long hair, immaculately clean in her white dress, appeared inside her cell, the fragrance of *azucena* again all over the place. She was surrounded by a bright, blinding light. Teresing was surprised and about to hurriedly leave her cell when the Lady spoke, sweetly and calmly:

“Do not fear, my child. He who loves all things has sent me. I come with a message. You had a long and difficult battle with your enemies, but they will not molest you from hence, unless it be for a last and strong assault. Do not fear and be brave. Your enemy is jealous because you love your Mother Prioress very much. Love her more now.

Wash her feet, kiss them, and then drink that water you used for washing afterwards. Tell this message to your Mother, not to anyone else. So that you will believe me, I shall give you two pictures. Give them to your Mother for her to keep; the community might need them someday. I took them from your prayer book; they are the ones you like best.”





*Top photo: Sister Teresing (left) and Mother Mary Cecilia
Bottom photo: The Lipa Carmel Community in 1948 with
Monsignor Alfredo Obviar, Auxiliary Bishop of Lipa
and Chaplain of Lipa Carmel*



The Lady disappeared before six in the evening. Teresing had an inkling that the Lady was the Blessed Mother. After the Angelus, she recounted the encounter to Mother Mary Cecilia as well as the Lady's request to wash her Prioress' feet. She was refused. Back in her cell, she saw the Lady waiting for her with a message and a sign for the Prioress.

The next morning on August 19, Mother Mary Cecilia reported the incidents to Bishop Alfredo Obviar and sought his advice about the strange request. She was cautioned to act with prudence and instructed to ask for the Lady's identity. After their conversation, as she stood up to leave the parlor, she stepped on three *azucenas* and a paper that read "*Conform yourself with what your child asks.*"

In the afternoon, the Prioress got her sign. Teresing's eyes were encircled with fresh blood!

So, as instructed by the Lady, at three o'clock in the afternoon, Teresing washed the feet of her Prioress and kissed them. With great difficulty but in obedience, she drank the dirty water from the basin. She threw up after supper. Imagine during those days, the Carmelite Sisters walked barefoot. (In 1858, the Immaculate Conception similarly asked Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes to drink from the mud and eat grass.)

The act of washing the feet was for the salvation of her soul and that of the Prioress. She also accepted to undergo some kind of suffering for a priest.



In Teresing's account, the Lady instructed her about:

".... conversion, simplicity, humility, generosity, and the need for cooperation for all those who will understand the true meaning of penance and sacrifice. If the world would continue sinning the way it was doing during those days, She would suffer the most because She was witness to the suffering of Her Son. God has His own ways of converting people".

In the evening, the Lady once again appeared and said:

"You and Mother had an upright decision (that of obeying me). Now that you have given me proof of your humility and your Mother of her simplicity, I can proceed. You two will always be under my mantle."

The next day on August 20, petals fell from the ceiling of her cell and formed a cross as they reached the floor. This would be the first of the series of unexplained showers of rose petals.

It was at this point that the Lady whom Teresing affectionately called "Mama Mary" became the essence of her life.

On August 22, following her struggle with the evil one, she became blind. She was filled with fear of being sent out of the convent because of her blindness. But she still remained grateful because her condition gave her



more time to pray and reflect.

Her whole body was also racked in pricking pain. The prick attacks would usually come between three to five o'clock in the afternoon and from eight to nine o'clock in the evening. In one account, there were at least ninety five attacks during this period. She accepted these sufferings for the salvation of her parents, for priests and nuns, and for the beautiful destiny that was awaiting her in the next life.

All throughout her suffering, Mother Mary Cecilia never left her. She received interior messages from the Lady allowing her to anticipate the postulant's condition. She did not reveal this to her.

On September 1, immediately after the Angelus at noon, the Lady gave three letters "BVM" to stand for "Blessed Virgin Mary" to identify Herself. In spite of her blindness, Teresina was able to kiss Her foot. The foot was silky soft and very fragrant. She felt indescribable joy.

On September 4, the Blessed Mother repeated Her message about her fate:

*"You will always be my daughter
so suffer much for me."*

On September 7, she regained her sight immediately after Mother Mary Cecilia kissed her eyes in the presence of Auxiliary Bishop Obviar at the parlor.



What would bring greater hardship – being blind from birth or blindness due to sickness or hardship? Being born blind would be easier for they would not have any idea of the beauty around them. While they are used to seeing only darkness, the consolation of seeing heaven that promises eternal happiness is enough incentive to do better. This was Teresing's point of view on her blindness.

On September 8, the birthday of the Blessed Mother, she fell in a trance for the first time. She saw herself walking with a priest on a path covered with thistles and thorns. He was in pain when a big thorn got into his foot. She could not remove the thorn so she called upon the Blessed Mother for help. The thorns became roses!

Later, a blue bird brought one jasmine flower it picked in the garden and nicely placed it by the little statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary inside her cell. Teresing wanted to keep it but because she was not allowed to keep anything, she gave it to her Prioress.

The next day, she was in the garden and saw the blue bird again. She once again went into a trance, this time she found herself in a big room with the Blessed Mother, St. Cecilia, and St. Therese at Her right as was told:

“Love much for you are much loved.”

In the afternoon and in a trance again, she saw herself in a beautiful garden with the Blessed Mother and the blue bird flying over Her. She saw Her heart pierced



with seven swords from which water, not blood, came oozing out. She could not understand her dream. The Blessed Mother's heart must have ached when she was being ridiculed by some nuns. When she asked Her why She did not speak to her in her dream, She replied:

“Because I had no permission to do so”.

“You are the Mother of God, yet you have to ask permission to talk to others?” Teresing asked.

*“Yes my child. It is true that I am the Mother,
but my Son is God,
King and Lord of the Universe;
hence I, too must obey Him.”*

Clearly, the Blessed Mother knows Her role. It is humbling to know that no less than the Mother of God recognizes, gives honor, and submits to the greatness of Her Son. A virtue we His children must emulate.

At night time, Teresing suffered from the body pricks again.

On 12 September 1948, feast of the Holy Name of Mary, the apparitions at the vine started.

Teresing was in the garden around 5pm praying the rosary when the vine she passed shook even if there was no wind. The familiar sweet voice told her not to be afraid, to kiss the ground, and eat some grass. She obeyed and did as told. She was asked to visit the same spot for fifteen consecutive days.



She told the Prioress about this latest encounter and asked for permission to follow as she was asked to do.

The next morning, she woke up blind. She stayed in bed and prayed the rosary. The Prioress came and reprimanded her for overstaying in bed. She helped her prepare for mass. Teresing regained her vision as she left her cell.

At the appointed time, Teresing went to the garden and prayed the rosary. As she came to the part “full of grace”, the vine moved. Before her, an indescribably beautiful Lady appeared! Her bare feet were resting on a cloud about two feet from the ground. Her hands were clasped over Her breast with a golden rosary hanging from Her right hand. She was in a long, simple, very white dress with a narrow cloth tied around Her waist.

The Lady asked for prayers and penance for fallen priests and nuns, for pride was the obstacle in their going back to the true fold and shame hardened their hearts.

Teresing asked, “*Beautiful Lady, who are you?*”
The Lady answered:

“I am your Mother.”



On September 14, the Blessed Mother was waiting for her with extended arms. She asked that the site be blessed the following day and for Teresing never to forget what would take place there. She gave Her blessing and disappeared.

So on September 15 at 3:20 in the afternoon, Bishop Obviar blessed the site in the presence of the entire Community. As instructed, everyone had their eyes cast down to allow the Bishop to have a very private shower of petals. This was the proof he needed to cast away his doubts. The nuns were dismayed when the petals they tried to gather turned to ash.

The Blessed Mother had Her hands outstretched. As Teresing knelt before Her, she was asked to kiss the ground and eat some grass. She did as she was told. She was asked to take some paper and pencil to write down Her message:

*"I ask you to please believe in Me and to keep this as a profound secret among you until I advise otherwise. Love one another as true Sisters belonging to one family. Come frequently to visit Me in this place. Love your Mother Prioress very much. Do not envy your little Sister, because she suffers much. No one knows about this except your Mother Prioress. Make this spot sacred and venerate it because I want this Monastery to be known as **Our Lady's Carmel**. These messages are meant for each one of you in the Carmel. I bless you all."*



Teresing fainted and had difficulty breathing. The Community must have seen her suffering.

She returned later at the appointed time and found the Blessed Mother waiting for her. She was told that the place had to be cleaned to make it a real place of prayer. Moreover, the Sisters who do not believe would lose grace.

On September 16, it was the first time the Blessed Mother descended from above accompanied by little angels. She learned that two of the Sisters disliked her and refused to believe in the Lady.

Sr. Jacinta was one of the Sisters who did not believe Teresing and the apparitions. She had a change of heart more than 40 years later when she was miraculously healed of her kidney ailment attributed to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. The other novice left the convent within a year of the apparitions.

The Blessed Mother also requested that a statue of Herself be made, the size of the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes that stood inside the cloister. She wanted it, if possible, to be available for the consecration on the 7th of October. (The Blessed Mother requested for the consecration during Her apparition on September 24.) The Community was asked to pray the rosary at the apparition site every afternoon during the remaining days.

The Blessed Mother continued to appear up to September 26. She gave Her messages for the Community, for the Mother Prioress, and for Teresing



herself. She was particularly concerned about fallen souls, especially priests, nuns, and unbelievers.

The Blessed Mother did not appear on September 18. Teresing only heard Her sweet voice encouraging her to keep on praying and offering sacrifices for those who do not believe and to be on guard against the devil's temptations. She beautifully spoke of Her own suffering as Mother of God:

“Trust Me. Love Me. Believe all I say because I am your Mother, a loving Mother who cares for all of you. My Son has suffered for each one of you. Doubting His love for each soul in the world makes Him feel the pain in Calvary – all because He loves men so much. When His heart bleeds, mine is bleeding too. Great was my suffering when our eyes met on His way to Calvary. Our hands were just an inch away from each other. I wanted to reach Him, to make him feel that I was around and that I will be with Him and stand by Him up to his last breath. But God did not will it so. His arm was too weak to extend another inch to reach mine. Meditate on this, and see how much the Mother and Son worked and suffered together to save the world. Time will come when you can reveal all.”

Bishop Obviar commissioned Cristobal, a Visayan sculptor and devotee, to make the statue. The sculptor fashioned the statue without a model and was just guided by how Teresing described Her. The 4-foot image was available during the Consecration.





The Blessed Mother appeared to Teresina first with her hands clasped to her breast and later with her hands outstretched. Mother Mary Cecilia found it more fitting to depict Her as the loving Mother beckoning Her children to come to Her. Her left hand is slightly lower than her right. The original work was returned for alterations on the mouth, eyes, hand position, dress, and clouds. The Mother Prioress provided the golden rosary. Based on accounts, it was raining when the statue was being delivered to Lipa in an open truck. The rain would stop, as the truck passed.



The Blessed Mother appeared the next day on September 19 with this message for the unbelievers:

*“I love you all and your salvation means so much to me and my Son.
Pray for the grace you need to reach heaven.*

For the believers –

“Temptations will bother you. Have courage to fight the enemy. You will suffer, you will be ridiculed, but fear not, because your faith will bring you to Heaven. Remember that love was His strength up to His death in Calvary.”

On September 20, Teresina's conversation with the Blessed Mother was about *fiat* – a painful sacrifice and a painful detachment from what we like and all that it requires. It is a dedication of one's whole life, it means a loving and willing participation of whatever God wants to do and that is Redemption. The Blessed Mother enjoined the Community to do penance and sacrifices for the salvation of the world.

The next day, the Blessed Mother asked that She be honored on Saturdays especially in the devotions to:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Our Lady of the Snow
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
Our Lady of Loretto
Our Lady of Remedy
Our Lady of Lourdes
Our Lady of Perpetual
Help

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Holy Name of Mary
The Seven Dolors
Our Lady of the Abandoned
and Refuge of Sinners
Our Lady of Peace and Good
Voyage
Our Lady of Good Counsel



The Blessed Mother expresses concern for those who did not believe and She desires to win them back to be saved. However, She recognizes man's free will to choose between eternal happiness and eternal damnation. She reminds Her children to keep up the courage to ask for strength to love those who hate them and tells us how much Her Son could be consoled by acts of gratitude.

On September 22, Teresing was asked about her willingness to offer something difficult for Her. Without question and hesitation, she said yes, even offering her life if she had to. She just asked that her family's spiritual life be taken care of. While her father was no longer a Mason, her brothers would not approach the sacraments.

Mother Mary Cecilia found the Blessed Mother's message on her table. She was advised in advance about the terrible suffering Teresing still had to go through for the salvation of souls.

Indeed as foretold on the 7th of October, feast of the Most Holy Rosary and on the occasion of the consecration of the apparition site to the Blessed Virgin Mary according to the spirit of Saint Grignon de Monfort, Teresing became blind and her left arm paralyzed.

On September 23, Teresing was overjoyed and grateful when she was told that she was among the souls that were consecrated to God. It is striking to note the Blessed Mother's subjugation to Her Son in Her message:



“I have the permission of my Son to tell you something which will make you happy. All souls consecrated to God are nearest to His heart.”

The Blessed Mother reiterated the request for prayers for those who give up on their vocation. She gave the reminder that simple words would touch His heart more than very long prayers with distractions.

On September 24, the Blessed Mother requested for Consecration to Her.

“I want you to consecrate yourselves to Me on the 7th of October and become My beloved slaves.”

She would later reveal that several Sisters of Lipa Carmel, along with Bishop Obviar, would be elevated to sainthood.

On September 25, She said:

“Little ones, I committed myself to the Lord, wholly, lovingly, generously, and sincerely. My commitment requires a lot of love and understanding of the will of God. It also meant that I would play an important role in man's salvation by becoming the Mother of Jesus, God made man. This is the mystery of God's love. The power that I possess is love, and it was that which made me present to you my Son from the day He was born. It was also love that gave us the courage to look for Him when He was lost. It was also love that made us



endure and witness His suffering on His way to Calvary. Finally, it is the same love that gave me strength to accompany Him until His death. No mother can ever explain how I felt when He was nailed to the cross and gave up His soul to His Father. No amount of words can describe the pain He endured up to His last breath. I remained silent. My tears showed my inner thoughts. The world knew how much I had to bear. To help save souls was then my commitment. And this will remain forever. I bless you all, my little ones."

September 26 would be the 15th and last day of the Blessed Mother's apparition at the vine. Teresing was mesmerized by Her beauty, radiance, and maternal gestures. Everything of Her seemed an image of Heaven.

Through Teresing, our Blessed Mother wanted to impart to Her children around the world, young and old, rich and poor -

- ❖ The messages from Her other apparitions remained unheeded.
- ❖ Pray the Rosary everyday, and pray it with devotion.
- ❖ Do penance for the conversion of the world.
- ❖ Do penance and sacrifices for the conversion of the world, especially yourselves, who are consecrated to God.
- ❖ Accept all the sufferings with love, gratitude, and



firm conviction that trials are given to us by Jesus for our sanctification and that of others.

- ❖ When we go to Mass, let us pause before the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and faith tells us that this is Divine Truth. We will be able to deny ourselves and take up the cross with Him and thus be prepared to consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

As our Mother, She shares our joys and sorrows. She intercedes for us. Her final words were:

"Little one, tell your Sisters to love one another. It is very consoling to feel that all of you belong to one family – my Son's family.

Be simple, humble and obedient to your Mother Prioress. Love much and remember that love is proved to be true in the act of giving generously without counting the cost. Love is a give and take procedure. The most precious gift to give is the gift of self – your everything without reserve. The beautiful prayer He taught us sums up all that we need, little ones.

Be good, be simple, be humble and obedient. But remember that love is above all these virtues I mentioned.

Do not forget that my Son is the Way. If you lose your way He will tell you: 'Come, my little ones, and I will lead you on the way to Heaven.' He says: 'I am the Truth.' Jesus reminds you that the Holy Spirit will help you to recall to your minds all He taught you and will help you apply His teachings to your everyday life. Then He



says: *I am your Life.*' He makes all realize that sin alone will destroy the promised everlasting life, unless you take the thorny and narrow path, carry the cross, follow Him, for at the end of this path is HEAVEN.

Be very good, my little ones.

I AM MARY, MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE."

Then the Blessed Mother disappeared.

On September 30, there were thousands of petals strewn in all the cells of the Sisters!

But on October 1, a first Friday, Teresing experienced again pin pricks all over her body compounded by suffocation!

On October 3 the feast day of St. Therese of the Child Jesus¹, the monastery corridors and staircase were enveloped by the fragrant smell of roses. After the mass, petals fell in front of Teresing and the steps were thickly covered with petals. Mother Mary Cecilia directed her to go to her cell while she called the Community.

In her room she saw the Blessed Mother waiting for her. She knelt before Her. She felt so much joy that She came to greet her on her feast day which she herself forgot and gave her a special blessing. All her physical

¹ It was only in the 1970s when the calendar of saints was updated that the feast day of St. Therese was moved to the more appropriate day of October 1st, following the ancient custom of celebrating their entrance into heaven the next day. St. Therese died on September 30.



and moral suffering that could be considered a desolation was compensated now by consolation! This time, the Community who came to her room witnessed her having a conversation with someone invisible to them.

In the afternoon, she fell into a trance and she saw St. Therese with little angels all over the place. The saint told her that simplicity teaches us to be humble and obedient and to remain as little as possible so that Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary would not refuse any grace.

On 7 October 1948, feast day of the Most Holy Rosary and the day requested by the Blessed Mother for the consecration, Bishop Obviar celebrated mass at the hermitage of the apparitions. After the mass, the Community made their Act of Consecration following the devotion of St. Louis Grignon de Montfort.

The Blessed Mother, not visible to the Community, was with them all throughout the consecration. But the Bishop wanted Teresing to ask for a sign as proof that She was there. The Blessed Mother touched her eyes and said: *"This my child, is the answer to your Chaplain's request."* She became blind and her left arm was paralyzed.

On October 10, feast of the Maternity of our Lady, petals fell at the feet of the statue of St. Therese at the choir.

On October 13, Teresing's eyesight was restored and her left arm went back to normal. During her period of blindness, she meditated on the mercy of God that all



our sins can be forgiven by Him because of His Divine Love. And there is His mother to intercede for us for Her Son's forgiveness.

On October 15, feast day of St. Teresa of Avila, the second patroness of Lipa Carmel, petals fell forming a cross as they reached the ground. This was similar to the first time petals fell in Teresing's cell on August 20.

Teresing continued to suffer physically through the days. She would lose her senses and feel a burning sensation on her breast. At times it felt like her heart was being pierced by a sword. She also would lose consciousness. But the biggest suffering was receiving a message that she had to leave Carmel.

On November 5, she suffered for three hours the suffering of Our Lord on the Cross. Her body moved as if reenacting the "Seven Last Words of Jesus". She fell unconscious, going through the crucifixion herself that lasted for an hour.

On November 9, the silver jubilee of Carmel in the Philippines, rose petals were seen at the feet of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

On 12 November 1948, the Blessed Mother as Mary Mediatrix of All Grace would make Her last apparition in Lipa Carmel.

"Pray, my child. The people do not heed my words. Tell my daughters that there will be persecutions, unrest, and bloodshed in your



country. The enemy of the Church will try to destroy the faith which Jesus established and died for. The Church will suffer much. Pray for the conversion of sinners throughout the world.

Pray for those who rejected me, and those who do not believe my message in the different parts of the world. I am really sad, but consoled by those who believe and trust in me.

Spread the meaning of the rosary because this will be the instrument for peace throughout the world. Tell the people to pray the rosary with devotion. Propagate the devotion to my Immaculate Heart.

Do a lot of penance for priests and nuns.

But, be not afraid for the love of my Son will soften the hardest of hearts and my Motherly love will be their strength to crush the enemies of God. What I ask here is the same as at Fatima.

I am blessing this Community with a very special blessing today. All these can be revealed now. I repeat to you that

I am Mary Mediatrix of All Grace.

This is my last apparition here.”





“I could have stayed there forever just looking at such a beautiful face. No words could ever describe Her beauty. It was so heavenly and the beauty of Her eyes manifested it. She gave me impressions of so much love, so much concern, and so much maternal instinct manifested by the way She looked at me.”

- Teresing Castillo
9 September 1948





Chapter 2

Mary as Mediatrix of All Grace
Through the Centuries





The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, is widely honored under different titles – Our Lady of the Rosary, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of Lourdes, and many more.

In 1948, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to postulant Teresita Castillo in Lipa Carmel and introduced Herself as “**Mary Mediatrix of All Grace**”.

What does Her title mean?

The title Mediatrix stems from the belief that all graces and blessings that Her Son gives come through Her. As the Mother of God and Spiritual Mother of all people, Her role in time has been as an intercessor between God and His people. She mediates between God and His people.

Mary, as the Mediatrix, dates back to the time of Adam and Eve. After the fall of man, God said to the serpent:

*“I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike at your head,
while you strike at his heel.”*

This was the promise that grace and salvation would be given to us in the person of Jesus, the fruit of Mary’s womb.

Jesus, Uncreated Grace, the Source of all graces, willed to become Man through Mary. The Incarnation



would not have happened without Mary's consent. So it was Mary's *fiat* or "yes" that brought Jesus into the world. He came through the womb of our Blessed Mother, thus making Her truly the Mediatrix of All Grace.

At the wedding of Cana, Mary was clearly a Mediatrix when at Her word, "They have no wine," Jesus worked the miracle of changing water into wine.

Truly, as St. John Paul II claimed, "Mary is the mother who spiritually nourishes Her earthly children by dispensing the graces of salvation. As She did at the Wedding of Cana, Mary intercedes to bring the graces of Jesus to all of humanity." (*L'Osserv. Rom.*, Oct. 1, 1997)

At Mount Calvary during the crucifixion, the Blessed Mother's mission was entrusted to Her when Her Son nailed on the cross turned to Her and said – "*Woman, behold your Son.*" And to John, He said "*Behold your Mother.*" He meant for us to be dependent on Her for every grace.

"For this role of dispensing the saving graces of Jesus to Her earthly children, Mary is called the Mediatrix of all graces," St. John Paul II explains, "Mediatrix is implicit in the term, Mother." (*L'Osserv. Rom.*, Oct. 1, 1997)

The title Mary Mediatrix of All Grace has been ascribed to the Blessed Mother even since the time of the Church Fathers.



St. Ephraem was the first who used the term “Mediatrix” - *“Upon you, Mediatrix of the world; I invoke your prompt protection in my necessities.”* And in his fourth sermon on Our Lady, he calls her “dispensatrix of all gifts, Mediatrix of the whole world.”

St. Ignatius of Antioch, as early as the first century, wrote: *“A sinner can be saved only through the Holy Virgin who by Her merciful prayers obtains salvation of so many who with God’s strict justice would be lost.”*

St. Augustine said of Mary, *“The world was unworthy to receive the Son of God directly from the Father’s hands. He gave Him to Mary in order that the world might receive Him through Her.”*

St. John Damascene declared, *“Mary is Mediatrix and the stairway for God to descend to us.”*

Saints and Doctors of the Church

Later Saints and Doctors of the Church have enriched our understanding and appreciation of the doctrine of Mary’s Universal Mediation of Grace.

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (1115-1128) stated, *“God has willed that we should have nothing which would not pass through the hands of Mary.”* And further he said, *“God could have His graces according to His good pleasure, without making use of this AQUEDUCT (Mary); but it was His wish to provide this means whereby grace would reach you.”*



St. Albert the Great (1193-1280), one of the greatest intellects of the Church declared: *"...every single grace passes through the hands of Mary."* He also said, *"The Blessed Virgin is very properly called 'GATE OF HEAVEN' for every created or uncreated grace that ever came or will ever come into this world came through her."*

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) stated, *"Mary is the whole hope of our salvation. Through the intercession of Mary, souls are in Paradise who would not be there had she not interceded for them, for God has entrusted her with the keys and treasures of the heavenly kingdom."*

St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787), a great lover of Mary, said, *"God, who gave us Jesus Christ, wills that all graces that have been, that are, and will be dispensed to men to the end of the world through the merits of Jesus Christ, should be dispensed by the hands and through the intercession of Mary."*

St. John Mary Vianney (1786-1859) declared, *"All the saints have a great devotion to Our Lady: no grace comes from Heaven without passing through Her hands. We cannot go into a house without speaking to the doorkeeper. Well, the Holy Virgin is the doorkeeper of Heaven."*

Closer to our times, St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941) wrote, *"As Mother of Jesus, our Savior, Mary was Co-Redemptrix of the human race; as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, she shares in the distribution of all graces."* Further he says, *"When we reflect on these two truths: that all graces come from the Father, by the Son and the*



Holy Spirit, we are driven to the conclusion that this Most Holy Mother is indeed the intermediary by whom all graces come to us.”

Mediatrix as a Dogma

Doctrine refers to all the teachings of the Church in matters of faith and morals. Part of the doctrine of the Church may be declared dogma through the authority of the Pope in solidarity with all the bishops of the world. When that happens, the dogma becomes a matter of belief under pain of mortal sin and excommunication.

The Catholic Church recognizes four dogmas of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Divine Motherhood, Perpetual Virginity, Immaculate Conception, and Assumption.

The doctrine of Mary’s universal Mediation of Grace has not (yet) been declared a dogma. It is believed that its proclamation by the Holy Father in unity with the bishops of the Catholic Church will enable the Blessed Mother to shower the world with a historic outpouring of grace, redemption, and peace.

There has been tremendous amount of work through the centuries for the declaration of the Mediatrix as the fifth dogma.

Mother Magdalen of Jesus was a Belgian Carmelite mystic. She had an interior locution regarding Mary’s mediation. She recounts: *“Once during prayer I came to realize that God intensely desired this*



glorification of Mary (with reference to the dogmatic definition of Mary's universal mediation of grace).

In 1906, she met the visiting Cardinal Joseph Mercier and revealed to him the message. This prompted the Cardinal, one of the greatest Church figures at that time, to make the first informal request to Pope St. Pius X for the dogmatic definition of Mary's universal mediation of grace. The following year, Cardinal Mercier and Mother Magdalen started a twenty-year spiritual cooperation and journey in promoting the Blessed Mother as the Mediatrix.

By April 1915, Cardinal Mercier formally announced through a Pastoral Letter his desire for a definition of Mary's universal Mediation. He organized petitions by the episcopacy, clergy, and religious of Belgium and the theological faculty of the Louvain to ask Pope Benedict XV for the dogmatic definition of Mary as Mediatrix.

Later that year in November, he approved the Statutes of the Association of Servants of Mary Mediatrix to spread the devotion to Mary as universal Mediatrix of the human race.

In 1919, Mother Magdalen herself made a direct appeal to Pope Benedict XV. She wrote:

"Many years ago... Our Lord granted me an inner understanding of Mary's mediation. He enabled me to realize how all graces of union and love, which I received in prayer and at Holy Communion, come through the maternal



intercession of the Queen of Heaven. Even more, our Lord showed me that all the prayers of the faithful via the canal, which is Mary, are transported and offered and placed before her divine Son. So important, so oft proclaimed, so clear, so significant, so overwhelming to my soul is this truth, that I would willingly underwrite it with my blood... the Lord has asked me to beseech Your Holiness to proclaim under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the doctrine of the universal mediation of the Virgin Mary and to define this as a dogma of our holy Faith. ...In virtue of the insistence of Our Lord I beg Your Holiness in childlike submission to bestow a new brilliance on the glory of Mary."

In 1921, Cardinal Mercier obtained Pope Benedict XV's approval of the feast of Mary Mediatrix of All Graces for Belgium and all other dioceses that would request it. May 31 was the assigned feast day in the liturgical calendar, serving as a good introduction to June, the month of the Sacred Heart.

Cardinal Mercier wrote to all bishops around the world to ask them to request permission to celebrate the feast. Thirty-eight additional bishops received permission to celebrate the feast in many parts of the world, including the Philippines. Lipa Bishop Alfredo Verzosa, who would later found the Lipa Carmel in 1946, was one of the signatories. The two other signatories from the Philippines were Bishop Juan Bautista Gorordo and Archbishop Guglielmo Piani.

Cardinal Mercier died in 1925. His last recorded



words were “*Marie Mediatrix.*”

In 1935, Sister Marie Fidelia of the Holy Wounds, another Carmelite from Lons-le-Saunier, France, started to receive her own private revelations on the Blessed Mother. In her diary, she wrote:

“Heaven asked me to write that Mary has her role as Mediatrix near the tabernacle, that graces are given in abundance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. And all these graces pass through the most pure hands of the Mother of God. Just as she cooperated at the altar of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass... It is the great will of God that Mary be known as the Mediatrix.”

In 1942, Mother Magdalen sent a pressing letter to the Father General of the Carmelite Order stressing the duty of the Carmelite Order toward the Mother of God. She died on 12 November 1946. It is remarkable that also on November 12 two years later, the Blessed Mother would reiterate herself as Mary Mediatrix of all Grace to a Carmelite postulant Teresing Castillo in Lipa.

Clearly from 1906 to 1935 on to 1948, God had planned for the Blessed Mother to be known as the Mediatrix. Through Carmel, the Blessed Mother has always wanted to be specifically known as the Mediatrix.

In 1996, at the Mariological Congress held at Czestochowa, a commission was established to look into the possibility of a fifth dogma on Mary as Mediatrix, Co-Redemptrix, and Advocate. The commission unanimously



declared it was not the opportune time. Now, there is renewed interest in pursuing this cause.

In March 2011, Bishop Guillermo Afable presented Pope Benedict XVI with a statue of the Mediatrix. The Bishop would later launch in August 2015 the revival of the movement for a dogmatic definition of the Mediatrix. According to him, the faithful need to establish the “*sensus fidelium*” of the matter so that the Holy Father could consider raising the doctrine to the level of the dogma.

During the Papal visit to the Philippines in January 2015, it was reported that Pope Francis in spite of his hurried schedule in Palo, Leyte and being



restrained by his security detail, insisted on turning back a few steps to pray before the image of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace that he had already passed.





Chapter 3

After the Apparitions
A Journey of Suffering





"Temptations will bother you. Have courage to fight the enemy. You will suffer, you will be ridiculed, but fear not, because your faith will bring you to Heaven. Remember that love was His strength up to His death in Calvary. "

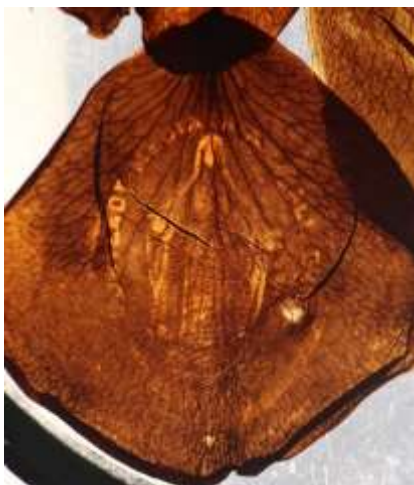
Message of Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace to Teresing
19 September 1948

Two Sisters in the Community did not believe. There were accusations that Teresing and the Prioress had made things up, conniving with each other to make it appear that the visions were true. Based on Teresing's account:

"Hurting words were said about Mother Prioress and myself but we would not blame our detractors because they knew nothing about what was happening. Jealousy and envy cropped up, followed by malicious accusations of familiarity and favoritism. I felt sorry for those whose peace of mind was disturbed. All these were part of the intense moral sufferings both Mother Prioress and I had to go through. It was truly a crucifixion for Mother Prioress and myself."

Soon after the last apparition, there were showers of rose petals within the convent grounds, and also outside, always preceded by an extraordinary floral fragrance that alerted the crowd. The petals were of a variety not grown within the convent. (After due examination, the rose variety was found to be from Russia.)





*The petals of the Mediatrix of Lipa (top photo) and the Sacred Heart date back to the times of the apparitions.
Photo credit: Dr. Joel Estrada*



Stories of the apparitions and the miraculous showers attracted daily crowds from all walks of life, first by the hundreds and then grew by the thousands. Morning and afternoon, pilgrims stood and waited around the monastery hoping to witness the shower and bring home some petals as mementos.

Pilgrims had different experiences with the petals. During the actual showers, some were unable to “see” the petals while others were in a mad scramble for them. Some were able to catch the petals from mid-air as they fell, and some picked them up from the ground. Some petals turned to dust before their eyes. While most petals were “plain”, some had imprints of religious images like the Blessed Mother, Sacred Heart, the Crucifixion, St. Joseph, Last Supper, to name a few. There were reports that imprinted images on some petals disappeared, while some plain petals were to have images later.

People came to see the showers for devotion, curiosity, and for commerce.

Lipa Carmel was in a situation where in as much as there were believers, there were likewise skeptics. The believers hailed the reported miraculous healings attributed to our Lady’s intercession. They provided a welcome respite from the spiritual and emotional stress of the war. The believers clutched at the stories to uplift their spirits crushed by the war. The skeptics, for their part, concocted stories such as the use of mechanical blowers and printing devices, to challenge and discredit the events. There was widespread commercialism among the people, on one hand, and a genuine need for funds for



the construction of the monastery, on the other, fueling innuendoes and accusations that the apparitions were a hoax and intended only to help raise money.

The Bishop of Lipa Monsignor Alfredo Verzosa grew concerned over the phenomenon. On 19 November 1948, he decided to step in and put a stop to the chaos at the monastery. However, as he reached the monastery, a shower of rose petals fell before him. This personal encounter changed his heart and allowed the continued public veneration of the image of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. He, together with Auxiliary Bishop Obviar, became staunch believers, defenders, and faithful devotees of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. They believed in the events of Lipa.

On 23 January 1949, the cornerstone was laid for the future chapel of Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. Bishop Obviar led the ceremony attended by a huge crowd of 30,000 to 50,000 people, including former First Lady Aurora Quezon. The chapel would be completed within two years, funded purely through donations.

As foretold by the Blessed Mother, barely a year after the shower of petals, persecution and suffering befell the central characters of the events in Lipa.

On 23 January 1950, Bishop Verzosa with 33 years of dedicated service behind him was relieved of his administration of the diocese of Lipa. Then apostolic administrator Monsignor Rufino Santos replaced him. Under his authority a commission was formed to



investigate the events of Lipa.

Auxiliary Bishop Obviar was also relieved of his position and demoted to the position of apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Lucena.

On 27 February 1950, Mother Mary Cecilia was only given thirty minutes to pack her things as she was unexplainably replaced as Prioress. She was sent away to Jaro Carmel, demoted to the status of a kitchen maid.

Teresing, deeply saddened by the departure of the Prioress, remained at Lipa Carmel to face heavy interrogation. It was in 1951 when she was asked to voluntarily leave the monastery.

The Investigation

A local commission set up to look into the events in Lipa Carmel. It was made up of Monsignor Rufino Santos, Monsignor Artemio Casas, Fr. Juan Ortega, Fr. Angelo Blas (psychologist), and Dr. Leopoldo Pardo (psychiatrist).

Teresing was puzzled when she was picked up from the monastery by Monsignor Santos and brought to the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Hospital. She was up for questioning. Sr. Stephanie was with her.

Fr. Blas first interrogated her about the apparitions. He looked also into her sexual orientation. After three hours, he asked her to sign a document



stating that she was admitting that the apparitions were not true but pure imagination; she invented the entire story to win the affection of the whole community; and she joined the Carmelite Order because of her family's feud with the Laurels. (In his final report, he declared Teresing as "perfectly normal and not suffering from hallucination or other mental disorder").

Teresing refused to sign and firmly maintained her position about the truth. This obviously so angered him that he hurled the ashtray at her. She could not be forced, insisting she was not lying. He came back the next day hoping she would change her mind. She still refused to sign the document that she considered an outright lie.

Dr. Pardo interrogated her two days later and focused on her mental health. He tried to intimidate her to hopefully make her retract her story but he also failed. She was not shaken.

As the investigation proceeded, Teresing was never called to face any of the bishops of the commission. Interestingly, Bishop Verzosa and Bishop Obviar were left out of the investigation too. (Until his dying day, Bishop Obviar waited in vain for the Church's representatives to come and listen to his testimony.)

The bishops who were part of the commission neither participated in any investigation, nor requested to see its findings before a verdict was reached. And none of the several documented celebrated cases of miraculous cures attributed to the rose petals were investigated.



The investigation seemed flawed from the very start. It was hurried, partial and sloppy – probably because it was not meant so much to arrive at the truth; as it was to put a brake on a phenomenon that in the eyes of the Church at that time seemed to be bordering on mass hysteria. In a sense, the verdict had already been reached, even before the investigation began. It seemed to be just an excuse to look for the evidence that would prove the preordained verdict and justify its passing.

On 11 April 1951, the commission released a decree stating:

“... have reached the unanimous decision and conclusion and hereby officially declare that the above mentioned evidence and testimonies exclude any supernatural intervention in the reported extraordinary happenings – including the shower of petals at the Carmel of Lipa.”

With the negative verdict, the monastery doors were closed and even the out-Sisters had to be admitted within the enclosure. The nuns were forbidden to see their families, not even to receive letters. Only Sr. Elizabeth was permitted to go out and look after the physical needs of the community. She singlehandedly did this, all the while enduring the painful taunts of those who did not believe in the apparitions.

Petals and water were not allowed to be given out to anyone.



All materials related to the apparitions were ordered destroyed! This included the rose petals, leaflets, statues, and the diaries of Teresing and Mother Mary Cecilia. It is also for this reason that detailed accounts of the events were reconstructed from memory years later. This may explain some discrepancies in the accounts, but this does not diminish the truth. Some messages are long because explanations were included, but only for further clarification.



The Carmelite Sisters tasked to burn the petals obeyed and were left with very painful memories that haunted them through the years.

The statue of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace in the chapel was ordered removed and banned from public veneration. (The original statue is now on display at the side chapel of the monastery.) Interestingly, the local church authorities never saw Her image at the upper façade of the main chapel. All these years, it has remained there untouched. Our Lady never left the monastery and has always been watching over it!



The “ban of silence” that was imposed lasted for forty years, leaving a generation unaware of the glorious events that happened in Lipa. So much time for Filipinos to have basked in the grace of our Lady, Mary Mediatrix was sadly wasted.

The seven signatories to the Episcopal Decree of 1951 were:

- Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi (Apostolic Nuncio)
- Archbishop Gabriel Reyes (Manila)
- Bishop Vicente Reyes (Auxiliary Bishop of Manila)
- Bishop Cesar Guerrero (San Fernando)
- Bishop Mariano Madriaga (Lingayen)
- Bishop Rufino Santos (Apostolic Administrator of Lipa)
- Bishop Juan Sison (Auxiliary Bishop of Nueva Segovia)

Years later, it was revealed that the bishops had been coerced by the papal nuncio to sign the verdict against their own free will and under threat of excommunication. All of them were reported to have kept their own rose petals from the showers, maintaining their belief in the authenticity of the events until their dying days.

Life After the Decree

From being the center of attention, Lipa Carmel seemed to have fallen from grace.

The Community and all those involved in the apparitions suffered as a result of the negative verdict. Some were physically isolated and exiled in other Carmel



communities. Mentally and emotionally, they had to overcome the allegations of fraud and take the ridicule and verbal insults of the public. The nuns were not allowed the freedom to express their belief in the apparitions. There was the possible anxiety of Lipa Carmel being ordered closed and the nuns dispersed.

Because of the sanctions on the community, the nuns were not allowed to accept postulants. They were also not allowed to hold elections. It was Bishop Santos who replaced and appointed the prioresses from other Carmels for Lipa Carmel. The prioresses who came after Mother Mary Cecilia were Mother Mary of Christ, followed by Mother Cecilia Kilayko, Mother Luz Soriano and Mother Angelina Lazatin. The stay of the prioresses were short (around six months).

Throughout all these quick changes, the Sisters were like “frightened kittens”, as Monsignor Domingo Librea described them.

The persecution was life changing, leaving faithful devotees scarred. But the resilience in overcoming the challenges prevailed and yes, they truly suffered!

Bishop Alfredo Verzosa was dismissed by Rome as Ordinary of Lipa. He returned to Vigan and lived in utter poverty, firmly believing that “*If this (the apparitions) is of God, no human power can stop it.*” Only God knows the extent of his sufferings. It can be said that the bishop is now highly regarded as a humble servant who became holy by obedience, particularly to the Holy Father, following the Will of God even in the most humiliating



circumstances. He died on 27 June 1954 at the age of 76 with the conviction that he had served God, Mary, and the Church with all his heart. His Cause for Sainthood has been introduced.

Bishop Alfredo Ma. Obviar was removed as the Auxiliary Bishop of Lipa and the Spiritual Confessor of the Carmelite Sisters. He was installed as administrator bishop of Lucena and lived a quiet holy life. He founded the Missionary Catechists of St. Therese. He died in 1978. Miracles began to happen through his intercession. He was declared Servant of God on 6 March 2001. His Cause for Sainthood has also been introduced.

Mother Mary Cecilia. After the verdict, she copied on a piece of scratch paper the following lines from *The Sentinel*, the ecclesiastical newspaper then, lines that resonated with her so fully: *“The hand of God is surely in this which has happened, and is happening to us. Not perhaps in the way we assumed, but just as truly in another way. It is a test. It is a test of our capacity to see in this statement on Lipa, not a rejection of our hopes and the seed of disillusion – but a chance; a chance for spiritual growth, a chance to stand steadfast in faith and loyalty under pressure, unembittered, humbled yet not shamed.”* From a person described as so full of life and joyful, she lost her zest for life. She was deprived of active and passive voice as a kind of punishment for more than nine years. She was not allowed to pray the Divine Office with the community and was obliged to pray only “the Paters.” Yet, in spite of her distress, she was never seen showing any signs of bitterness.



Ma Mère (Mo. Theresa of Jesus (Pagot)). Following the teachings of St. John of the Cross, she was always careful about matters similar to the Lipa apparitions. But with Lipa, she was so influenced and enthusiastic about it. She believed. From the accounts of Mother Natividad Dizon of Manila Carmel, Ma Mère suffered very much. *“When it was stopped she really became older and she said: ‘We shall see that in heaven.’ She believed.”*

Mother Natividad Dizon of Manila Carmel who had previously been sent to Lipa Carmel to help out as novice mistress , shared deeply of the same cup of humiliation. She too was deprived of active and passive voice as a kind of punishment for more than nine years and not allowed to pray the Divine Office with the community. She was obliged to pray only “the Paters.” She wrote: *“Ma Mère was so delicate as to place Mother Mary Cecilia with me in the provisory and vestment office. She helped me to accept what was happening as God’s Will. She always put God in. ‘God is there.’ Often I would end up sobbing hysterically because of what we were suffering. Mother Cecilia would then hold me in her arms and speak of God and the beauty of suffering.”*

She recalls a night when she and Mother Mary Cecilia were working in the vestment office. Both of them heard the agonizing moans of a dying man. Frightened, they embraced each other and then knelt down to pray for whoever he was. The next morning they learned of the death of one of the six bishops who had signed against the Lipa apparitions.



Bishop Federico Escaler, SJ, nephew of Mother Natividad recalls stories of how his aunt together with the other Sisters were all silenced and how they endured the painful experience of being unable to say or consult anything. But they obeyed and Mother Cecilia did not complain.

Sr. Mary Anne Cuna was taken from Lipa Carmel on 15 August 1950. She stayed for a time in an active Congregation of Sisters. To keep her whereabouts hidden, her name was changed to Sr. Martha. Then she was brought to Laoag Carmel where she stayed for eight months. The Sisters recalled that Sr. Mary Anne recounted that she was happy because she could see the blue bird of Lipa following her there. Eventually she spent the rest of her exile in Manila Carmel.





*The **Memorial Cross** lends an imposing presence in the inner garden of the Carmelite monastery. At the base of the tall wooden cross is a rose flower in full bloom and beside it is our Lady looking up at the cross.*

It was put up in 2013 as a fitting reminder of the heroic faith of Lipa Carmel's foundresses who believed steadfastly in the 1948 apparitions.

(This area is not accessible to the general public.)





The Foundresses of Lipa Carmel

Top photo (left to right):
*Sr. Mary Cecilia of Jesus, Mother Theresa of Jesus,
Sr. Mary of St. Joseph, and Sr. Mary Anne of Jesus*

Lower photo (front row):
*Sr. Elizabeth of the Sacred Heart (left most) and
Sr. Alphonse of Mary (second to the left)*





Mother Mary Cecilia knelt before her prioress and asked permission to die in order to hasten the cause of Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. The prioress, Mother Mary Aimee consented. Within a few days, on 13 December 1982, heaven accepted her proposition that in exchange for her life, the cause of Mary would go forward. For this, she is lovingly referred to as the "Hidden Saint".





*Teresita Castillo led a private life outside the monastery. Despite years of suffering, she never complained. She remained obedient to the Church, keeping both her faith and her silence. She continued to serve the Church as a member of the Legion of Mary and as church organist. She spent 35 years working on the English-Tagalog and Tagalog-English dictionaries as the secretary of Fr. Leo English, Redemptorist. She never married and raised her adopted daughter Mary Grace. In 2009, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Her unwavering faith and journey of suffering even in her twilight years make her ready to be with her heavenly mother **Mary Mediatrix of All Grace.***



The Journey of Enlightenment

*"Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed."
(John 20:29)*

This verse from the gospel of John was used by Archbishop Emeritus of Lipa Mariano Gaviola in his 1995 "Reflections on Mary Mediatrix of All Grace in Lipa Carmel Monastery from 1948 and Subsequent Years" to describe himself.

He humbly admitted that as a newly installed Archbishop of Lipa in 1981, he was one of the church authorities who believed that the events of Lipa were a hoax. His view was based on hearsay and he never bothered to study the matter.

Prompted by the growing number of petitions and requests from the faithful to have the image of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace brought out for public veneration, he took interest in the matter and started his own investigation sometime in 1986.

He came across several trustworthy persons who volunteered to testify for our Lady's cause. One of them was Sr. Melania Sunga, an Assumption Sister, who came to see him in 1987. He saw for himself her normal foot, once a club foot that was miraculously cured. After her visit, she wrote a deeply touching letter to him appealing for a speedy reopening of the 1948 case. She wanted to see in her lifetime the triumph of Mary Mediatrix. (See Chapter 5 for related story).



Sometime in 1988, Sr. Alphonse, one of the foundresses of Lipa Carmel, old and sickly wrote to him expressing her desire to testify. She too wanted to see in her lifetime the triumph of Mary Mediatrix. Her dying wish was to have the image of the Blessed Mother brought out to the chapel for the public to venerate. Sr. Alphonse left a great mark on the Archbishop, who saw her as an innocent soul and great religious of Carmel when he came to anoint her.

In 1989, the Archbishop met Teresing Castillo in person at the Archbishop's Residence in Lipa. She spontaneously and clearly narrated everything about the events of 1948 to him.

On February 1990, Lipa would be the scene of another phenomenon. It was reported that a white luminous silhouette of Our Lady was seen on a tall coconut tree. It remained visible for ninety consecutive days.

Just about the time the phenomenon ended on 21 May 1990, Sr. Alphonse passed away. Archbishop Gaviola announced he was allowing the exposition of the image of our Lady during the funeral mass. It was a truly joyful day for the Community and all the devotees who came. For him, "Sr. Alphonse was the last golden link in the chain of events that led to the decision to allow the public to again venerate the Image of Our Mother. She obtained in death what she could not obtain in life."

After 40 years, the image was out again!



Soon after, he created a Special Committee composed of seven members to re-investigate and reopen the Lipa case. He clarified that the committee was not to pass judgment nor question the decision contained in the 1952 Episcopal decree. It would focus on gathering testimonies and verifying cases of physical healing attributed to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. The Committee was to report about the events after the 1952 verdict, and to submit its findings, along with its members' considered opinion as to whether or not there were enough solid grounds to request from higher Church Authorities the re-investigation of the case.

On 24 January 1991, petals fell from nowhere when Teresing visited the monastery and was before the statue of the Mediatrix. In the months to come, there would be showers of petals not in Lipa but at her home and in other places where she was. Later, full roses and not just petals would fall out of nowhere. She would also have internal locutions and be receiving messages again from the Blessed Mother.

On 16 July 1991, the Archbishop during a mass in preparation for the feast day of Our Lady of Carmel, proclaimed that he was allowing the exposition of Her statue for daily veneration. He laid down the following conditions to be strictly observed: (This should hold true to this day.)

- ❖ First and foremost, utmost reverence and veneration be accorded the Blessed Sacrament at the main altar. Only after a visit to the Eucharistic



Lord may the devotees of Our Lady Mary Mediatrix proceed to venerate Her Image at Her Altar.

- ❖ Pilgrims and visitors should observe reverence, proper decorum, and silence in the chapel at all times.
- ❖ The chapel is an integral part of the Carmelite Monastery. Consequently, the rules of the monastery, especially those concerning the cloister, the observance of silence, of visiting hours, must be religiously observed.

On 6 February 1992, the first Saturday, at a mass attended by 20,000 to 30,000 devotees and concelebrated by a number of clergy, a first and unforgettable phenomenon happened. The Archbishop and some people in the crowd witnessed the sun “spinning and dancing”. As he described it, *“the sun shot through the radiant and crimson-red clouds, at times spinning vigorously, at other times as though shooting downwards and backwards in a rapid succession. The rays were of different colors. It was striking that I was able to stare straight into the sun for several minutes without suffering any glare. The sun appeared perfectly round. It seemed like the Holy Eucharist in a golden monstrence.”*

It was at that occasion that Archbishop Gaviola made a public declaration that he was fully convinced that the 1948 events of Lipa and subsequent events related to the Blessed Mother are “very much worthy of belief”. And that he was a firm believer and he interpreted the



experience as a farewell gift from the Blessed Mother. (He had resigned as Archbishop of Lipa on 30 December 1991.)

Following this declaration, September 12 became known as the National Day of Pilgrimage and Consecration at Lipa Carmel. Thousands of devotees flock to the monastery to take part in the annual celebration.

On 26 May 1995, Archbishop Emeritus Gaviola addressed his document “Reflections” to His Excellency Most Reverend Salvador Quizon, Chairman of the Committee on the Reported Lipa Carmel Apparitions. The document had been signed and sworn before Presiding Judge Harriet Demetriou. It said:

“In conclusion, allow me to submit, Your Excellency, that there are sufficient reasons for your Special Committee to delve more deeply and intensively into the areas of its (Special Committee) concern. As delineated somewhere in this paper, I humbly submit likewise that there is urgency in this matter....”

On September 2008, Archbishop Ramón Argüelles declared before an International Mariological Conference in Lourdes, France that “Yes, *Mary Mediatrix of All Grace did appear in Lipa.*”

On 12 November 2009, Archbishop Ramón Argüelles issued a decree that lifted the ban of silence



and called for the establishment of a new theological commission to review the 1948 events of Lipa. (Refer to the full text of the Decree at the Appendix)

He further stated: "I believe that the Mediatrix phenomenon is the most significant event in the local Church of Lipa in the last one hundred years. Undeniably, the Blessed Virgin Mary is extremely active during the last decades. If She had indeed shown Her presence and delivered Her message in various places throughout the world even in some nations in Asia, how can this 'pueblo amante de Maria' be different and excluded from Her powerful intervention?"

Perhaps, it is already God's right time to have the Blessed Mother recognized as the Mediatrix. On 12 September 2015, on the occasion of the anniversary of the apparitions, Archbishop Argüelles stated a decree declaring the 1948 events of Lipa as **"worthy of belief"**. (Refer to the full text of the Decree at the Appendix)



Photo credit:
James Benedict
Malabanan
(CBCP News)

Archbishop
Ramón Argüelles
on his knees
during the mass
last 12 Sept 2015
shortly before his
declaration.





*Archbishop
Alfredo Verzosa
(left) and Auxiliary
Bishop Alfredo
Obviar (top) were
staunch defenders
of the 1948 events
of Lipa.*

*The Cause for
Sainthood for both
of them has been
introduced.*





Through the efforts of Archbishop Mariano Gaviola (top) and Archbishop Ramón Argüelles, it is the prayer of the faithful that the 1948 events in Lipa will be given due recognition by the Holy Father.



*Photo credit:
Chito Segismundo
Fr. Eric Arada*



*The Chapel of Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace
at Lipa Carmel Monastery circa 1950 and 2015*



Photo Credit: Antonio Endaya





Top photo: Devotees at the World Novena for Peace (Oct 1950)

Bottom photo: Thousands of devotees attended the National Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage (Sept 2006)



Photo credit: Fr. Eric Arada



National Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage (Sept 2013)



Photo credit: Fr. Eric Arada

Pilgrims continue to stream to Lipa Carmel to venerate the image of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace (taken in 2009)



Chapter 4

Our Blessed Mother's Love
Messages and Reflections







"I want these messages to be known, loved, and respected. I want them studied and understood by my sons and daughters consecrated to God."

Message of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace to Teresing
26 July 1991

Our Blessed Mother, truly as the Mediatrix, left behind messages with Teresing when She appeared in 1948 and up to the 1990s born out of her deep concern for the salvation of the souls of Her children. Her messages dwelt on the sanctity of priests and religious, on doing penance and reparation for our sins, on the family, and on the youth. Similar to Her messages when She appeared in Lourdes and Fatima, She urged us to pray the Rosary daily with devotion.

We are sharing some of Her messages followed by some points for reflection.



Messages from the heart of the Mediatrix

***“Who are you, beautiful Lady?
I am your Mother.”***

***“Trust me. Love me.
Believe all I say because I am your Mother,
a loving Mother who cares for all of you.”***

St. John Paul II tells us: “We recall that Mary’s Mediation is essentially defined as her motherhood. Recognition of her role of Mediatrix is moreover implicit in the expression ‘our Mother’ which presents the doctrine of Marian mediation by putting the accent on her motherhood. Lastly, the title ‘Mother in the order of grace’ explains that the Blessed Virgin Mary cooperates with Christ in humanity’s spiritual rebirth.”



***“Pray, my child.
The people do not heed my words.”
“I am really sad but consoled
by those who believe and trust me.”
“The world is getting worse
and the enemies of the Church are around it,
trying to get as many souls as possible away from my Son.
Many souls are being led to damnation
in a very deceitful and convincing way.”***

Our Lady came to bring vital messages for humanity. These messages seem more urgent today when disoriented humanity, despite its breakthroughs in science and technology, seems to be floundering towards



chaos and divisiveness. Hence, it is so important that we listen to our Lady. Are we listening?



***“Time is passing so fast.
I have done what my Son wanted me to do.
I have appeared in different places
asking most lovingly for prayers, for sacrifices,
and above all these, for a much closer union
with my Son in the Holy Eucharist.”***

***“I wish to remind you that every priest
can share in the Sacrifice of the Mass
in which a priest alone can change
the bread and wine into my Son’s Flesh and Blood,
and then share them with others
through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.
This is the great privilege
that a priest receives in his Ordination.
Not only should the Word of God come from their lips,
but the Word of God
should come out of a soul consecrated to Him.
The people of God carry a burden caused by sins
and the priest uses his hands and lips
to absolve them through the Sacrament of Penance.
See how his hands alone cannot work without his lips!”***

***“See the Heart of my Son wounded,
bleeding and almost dry.
See His parched lips as if saying:
‘Mother, please help me quench My thirst
for the return of My fallen sons and daughters
consecrated to Me.’
Now, my little one, see how important a priest is.”***



In the 1930's, Sr. Marie Fidelia of the Carmel of Lons-le-Saunier in France received communications from the Mediatrix. She wrote: *"I felt that Mary was asking me to tell the Holy Father on her part that she desires the definition of the dogma of her Mediation and that her role as Mediatrix is always at the holy altar of the Mass."*

"Heaven asked me to write that Mary has her role as Mediatrix near the tabernacle and that graces are given in abundance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. All these graces pass through the most pure hands of the Mother of God. Just as She cooperated at the foot of the Cross, so she cooperated at the altar of the holy Sacrifice of the Mass."



***"I have the permission of my Son
to tell you something which will make you happy.
All souls consecrated to God are nearest to His Heart."
The sick and handicapped priest or religious has a
very special vocation before the eyes of my Son.
Their sicknesses, borne with courage, patience and
love of God are as noble as the suffering
and death of the martyrs who died for their faith.
They, too, can preach through their good example of loving
resignation, patience, courage and cheerfulness.***

***My Son loves a cheerful giver.
With the supernatural motive,
the priest and religious should be fully aware
of their personal relationship with God.
Yet at times the feeling of unworthiness will develop
as soon as they realize the infinite value and privilege***



***of being called to the priesthood and religious life.
They should pray for the grace they need to persevere.
These are reminders coming from a Mother
who loves much."***

***"The simple words I spoke to the angel
are of a special value for all mankind.
'Be it done unto me' is a complete surrender of myself
also to what God wanted.
It is a commitment to lovingly embrace
and save the world."***

One of the most crucial lessons the Mediatrix teaches us both through her messages as well as through Teresing's experiences is the supreme value of pain and suffering offered out of love. We see this most clearly in Jesus' choice of the Cross to be the instrument of our salvation. By becoming man, by suffering His Passion, Crucifixion and Death, Jesus taught us how to transmute suffering into Love . From the outset, our Lady taught this key lesson to Teresing. The journey through suffering to holiness would be her lifelong path to carry out what our Lady was asking of her.

***"Spread the meaning of the rosary
because this will be the instrument for peace
throughout the world. Tell the people to pray the rosary
with devotion and spread its value everyday."***

***"But be not afraid, for the love of my Son will soften the
hardest of hearts and my motherly love will be their
strength to crush the enemies of God."***



Teresing shares her own reflections -

“What better link could we have to Jesus and Mama Mary than the prayer that was asked in nearly all the apparitions of our Blessed Mother, the ROSARY? Why? Because she said that the Rosary depicts the life of her Son, Jesus, from the Annunciation to His death on Calvary. She said that in value and importance the Rosary comes next to the Mass and the Sacraments.

Just as Jesus asked His disciples to stay with Him for an hour, the Blessed Virgin Mary is also asking the whole world to keep her company for only twenty minutes everyday. She will be consoled to know that we, although sinners, still remember God and love God through the daily recitation of the Rosary.”



***“Do not forget that my Son is the “Way”.
If you lose your way He will tell you:
‘Come, my little ones and
I will lead you on the way to heaven.
He says ‘ I am the Truth.’***

Jesus reminds you that the Holy Spirit will help you to recall to your minds all that He taught you and will help you to apply this teaching to your everyday life.

Then He says: ‘I am your Life.’

He makes all realize that sin alone will destroy the promised everlasting life, unless you take the thorny and narrow path, carry the cross and follow Him, for at the end of this earth is HEAVEN.”



Our Mediatrix reminds us that God is the sole purpose of our existence, that our one fleeting life is just a test; that if we pass it, we can go to the next life – the TRUE LIFE, the one that counts because it will never end.



Message for the Philippines

“Once again, I repeat to my beloved Philippines that I am the Mother of love and tenderness. I come here to save souls. I love the Filipinos because in all the countries throughout the world, you come to me when you suffer, and ask for my help. Most of you love me and have a great devotion to me, your Mother. You recognize me as the Mother of Jesus. You defend this truth openly without fear of being ridiculed by other sects who attack me greatly. So it is to you that I come to ask for prayers; do little sacrifices and receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist frequently. It is you that I ask to say the Family Rosary daily. I wish to remind you that the recitation of the rosary is not only a devotion which will bring you closer to my Son, but it also serves as an occasion to offer the sacrifice of driving away distractions while saying it. The enemy of God is always there where my children pray to me. This country was created by God for something great.”



Messages for Parents
August 3, 1941 (4:00pm)

“Rejoice all of you who have children, for you have a good cause for rejoicing! Little one, this message comes from the innermost part of my heart, a message given with love for I am a Mother whose life was blessed with so much love for my Son. God willed to choose me as the Mother of Jesus and I have no cause for regret despite the tremendous sufferings which culminated in my Son’s death at Calvary.”

“The critical stage of parenthood is at times neglected and parents may fail to recognize their immense responsibility in the eyes of God and of society. Much time is spent in meeting material needs so that it becomes easy to neglect attending to the spiritual life of the children. Through this message, my wish is for parents to realize their obligations to bring their children close to God.

“Parents who experience joy and happiness in being able to cooperate with God in the birth and upbringing of their children have responded to their vocation. They have heeded the call of God. There is nothing greater or nobler than being able to help your children become real men, real Christians and true children of God. Parents must be concerned and aware of the example they set, and the way their life is led. It is from these that their children will adapt their own life.”



“A mother has a sublime mission because the glory of their children is her glory too. Blessed indeed are those mothers who try to bring their children close to my Son.”

“A father has a mission of sacrifice because there will be many days in which the fruit of his work will remain unseen. It is accompanied by worry and the burden of responsibility from which there is no escape.”

“Parents should realize the great things they may achieve if they exert more effort in training and educating their children. Teach them, mold them into becoming faithful, determined, responsible and hardworking people of the future. Help them to become persons of faith, hope and charity, which will enable them to build a better future for this troubled world.”

“Parents should be concerned about their home. A true Christian home is alive, energetic, happy and peaceful, a home full of love and trust, a home where the teachings of Christ will be lovingly accepted and put into practice by the whole family. It is love that binds a family together and it is only when love is present that a home becomes truly a Christian home.”

“Parents will be blessed with joy if they regard the birth of a new child as a blessing from God. When the death of a child is accepted as the will of God, they will be rewarded for their resignation. And when suffering is taken in the appropriate spirit, their home is a living one. Parents who suffer in silence when an afflicted or malformed child is born to them, must ask for the grace to



understand that their tears of sorrow will become tears of joy if taken with acceptance and resignation. They must still thank God and realize that there is always some good to be culled from the sorrows given by Him in their lives.”

“Couples who do not have children through their own wickedness have brutally cut off sources of life. They are committing a terrible crime. Remember that God gave you life and it is only He who can take it away. Repent and amend by changing your life.”

“Look at the world today and ask yourselves as parents if you have made your children realize that Christ is in your midst. The apostolate of a good life is one mission of parents. The use of words is not enough. Set your hearts on giving your children a good example of a holy life. This will surely make them heed your words more. Gestures of parental love and concern are capable of doing more good than critical advice. Treat your children with gentleness and they will respect you more for it. Let them see, hear and feel that you are faithful to God, to your family and to society. Do not lie to them, trust is precious and confidence is hard to bring back. If a child does something wrong, make him aware of your feelings. Do not pretend that you do not know about it. Make a conscious effort to lead your children away from situations that may cause them to sin. Correct yourselves so that your children may be corrected in the same manner.”

“As parents and first teachers of your children, you have ample opportunity to nurture and guide them. Take time to teach them. Teach your children the spirit of faith.



It is God's gift to them. It should permeate and dominate every aspect of life and govern man's thinking, actions and desires. It is faith that enables people to defend the Church and preserve Her teachings. Faith leads souls to God and eventually paves the way to heaven. Teach your children the spirit of hope, that they may feel that for every problem and trial there is an end, provided there is trust and forbearance. Teach your children the spirit of charity that they may have the desire to cooperate and contribute to the mission of the Church. Make them sensitive to the needs and feelings of others. Parents should be aware of their duties and accountabilities for their children's spiritual lives. It is their vocation, their answer to God's call."

"Little one, this is not a new message from me nor from my Son, Jesus. But parents need to be constantly reminded of these points which are so important for all the members of Christian families."

August 8, 1991

"My child, there is so much that has to be said about parents and how they must rear their children. Their role in the spiritual welfare of the souls that have been entrusted to them is a solemn responsibility. Parents must take part in the spiritual growth of their children and not be content to entrust it wholly to others. They can only lead their children to the Church by being faithful and joyful witnesses of Christ. It is my desire to see parents introduce my Son to their children as their Friend, Brother and Savior."



“How parents live their faith leaves an indelible impression on their children. It is their example that they see constantly. It is their life that children want to imitate. Christ must be alive in every home and only then can faith make a difference.”

“If children see clearly from their parents the love they express for each other, the peace and harmony brought about by living according to God’s holy will, these will serve as incentives and help draw them nearer to my Son.”

“Parents should tell their children not only about the spiritual graces they may receive from the Church, but about their responsibility as well. To know what the Church teaches, to accept and to follow in a spirit of loving willingness. Nothing can be more effective than seeing this daily in the lives of their father and mother. Tell your children about your relationship with God. Make Him present in your homes through prayer. Do all that you can to help your children have a closer union with Him. Prayer is the most effective platform in times of trouble and need.”

“Through disobedience death came into this world; through obedience, salvation was obtained. The freedom that parents should grant their children is spiritual freedom. Freedom from the assault of the enemy. Freedom from the flesh and all its selfish desires. Freedom from the worldly values that destroy the plan of God. Their freedom in turn comes from following Christ, from living in the presence of God, and under the power of the Holy Spirit, and lastly from following His divine will.



This is Christian life. This is the goal worthy of all God's children, lives worthy of God's calling so that they may spend eternity with Him in His Kingdom."

"I know that parents are tried and suffer under the burden of sorrow and uncertainty. I, your Mother, am here for you. And so is my Son who waits unceasingly in the Blessed Sacrament. He is waiting for you to talk to Him, to tell Him what is in your heart, to tell Him all that troubles you. My Son, Jesus, loves you. His love is immeasurable. His power is unfathomable. His mercy is inconceivable and His Heart is full of compassion. So, do not be discouraged. Do not lose hope for Jesus repeatedly promised to grant any request asked in fervent prayers, provided that they are in accordance with His will."

"One thing is certain – your children will start to grow up, but remember that they are not yet fully grown. They will start life as teenagers, which could either be the happiest or the most traumatic stage of their lives. They will seek freedom and independence just when they most need their parents' training and supervision. The youth these days are sometimes a cause of worry for their parents. Little one, I am a Mother, and I, too went through trials up to Calvary. I lost my Son when He was twelve, and found Him in the temple after three days. I lost Him again when He ascended into heaven. But the greatest joy of all was to find Him again in His Kingdom, and this time, I got hold of Him for eternity!"



“Aspire then, dear parents and children, to live a well-disciplined life, supported by daily Mass if possible, praying the Rosary together as one family and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion as often as possible. Remember that the Holy Eucharist, my Son’s own Flesh and Blood, is the greatest of all the gifts given to mankind.”



Messages for the Youth
September 20, 1991

“My child, I wish to assure all men of my constant maternal love for them. I address myself particularly to the youth of today. The world in which they live has become an increasingly troubled place. People are turning away from the Heavenly Father and are falling into sin. I, your Mother, desire to have all my children near me and my beloved Son.”

“My dear young adults, adolescence is the time you can examine changes. It is now that you have these meaningful dreams and challenges. From these experiences there will be some reactions and feelings which you have to control with the help of God’s grace. Do not act heedlessly. Listen to your elders and place God above all things.”

“Keep foremost in your heart and mind that you are a young Catholic individual, blessed with the Catholic Faith. This is the first spiritual gift which God gives to all



mankind. Embrace it with your heart, because Faith will be your shield. Faith, my dear young adults, is the collection of truths revealed by God, and the fullness of His revelation is in my Son, Jesus. You may think that you possess sufficient knowledge of these truths, but there is still so much that you have to learn and understand.”

“God wants you to believe His Word and to put your trust in Him. Believe that He always cares by loving you and that He wants you to be heirs of heaven. You have His Word for it, and it is far more dependable than anybody or anything else in the whole world. Believe that He is a Supreme Being who is perfect. He is a perfect Man. Since God is all perfection, so His Word is His perfect revelation. This is the kind of trust that He wants you to have. This is the kind of faith my Son gave you.”

“Please believe that God loves you with an eternal love; that He is your Father, your Brother and your Friend. He is your King, but where is His crown that glitters with precious gems? The crown He chose was a crown of thorns and the gem embedded in it was His Precious Blood. Where is His scepter? He chose a piece of reed which the soldiers forced Him to hold with His tied hands. This, too, was embedded with His Precious Blood. Where is His throne? It is in His eternal palace in heaven. This is the God who loves you.”

“In His humility, He was made man, totally like any human being, like you, except for sin. My only Son grew up like you; He worked with His hands for thirty years, hidden from the eyes of the people. He, too, like you experienced hunger and thirst. He knows what it is to be



exhausted from work, how it is to earn a living, how it is to obey and how it is to be poor.”

“Why did my Son consent to go through these hardships in life when He could have easily saved the world with just one drop of His Blood? LOVE is the hidden secret dwelling in my Son’s Heart! He gave up His life as a Supreme Sacrifice to make the world become the sons of God with the assurance of eternal salvation. What greater proof of love can a friend show to the persons he loves than to give his life for their sakes?”

“There is no better picture of love and trust in God than the story of the thief and the robber. The thief believed in God’s love for souls. He believed that if he repented his soul would be saved. He believed that there is a place like heaven awaiting repentant sinners. The thief was helpless and very weary. He was too weak to cast a glance at the dying Savior on the Cross, but it was his strong faith in God that enabled him to speak to Jesus these words: ‘Remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.’ What a beautiful lesson on Faith! And Jesus spoke to him and said: ‘Truly, you will be with Me today in Paradise.’ What a tremendous Lover of souls!”

“Challenge was clearly imprinted on the other robber’s face. He did not believe that God could save his soul. He was not ready to acknowledge that the dying Jesus was God. What a contrast between these two souls! It was faith that saved a soul from eternal damnation and it was pride that deprived a soul of the eternal happiness in heaven.”



“In your present stage of life as youth, many of you seek challenges. You are full of vigor, but you have to pray much for the grace to know what God wants you to do. Remember that you belong to the Catholic Church, so it becomes your Church now. Some young adults find the Church boring and they find it tedious to keep themselves busy for the Lord. Try to be aware of the events of the Church. Study how the Church solves the problems of today. Get involved in Church activities, and lastly, please cooperate and participate in God’s plan for salvation.”

“Little one, spread the message for the youth, the future leaders of all nations. They could be instruments for peace throughout the world if properly guided and trained in the spirit of my Son. They should work hand in hand with the grace of God through the Holy Spirit. I, your Mother, will always be at hand, ready to help as Mary Mediatrix of all Grace.”

October 2, 1991

“I, your Mother wish so much to make you realize the important role you will take in achieving peace throughout the world. This is the time when the entire world dreams of a world of love and peace, of justice and dignity for all; these are dreams built on faith, hope and charity, but never dreams built on anger, violence and vengeance.”

“My dear children, the world today needs young men and women on which the world can depend to bring about a better future for the Church, for humanity and the



world, which for so long has continued hoping for peace. God is calling you now to be His young disciples to the people your age. You have a very unique apostolate.”

“Let me tell you as a Mother that to be an apostle is never easy. This kind of call is never meant for cowards, but for brave souls who trust in my Son’s strength and power. Help fight poverty, oppression, injustice and greed by bringing Christ, my Son, to the hearts of those who know little or nothing about the goodness of God. Help fight so much bloodshed and abortion by making people aware of the value of human life. Help fight graft and corruption by campaigning for those whom God expects to have a conscience according to His standards, and not according to the standards of men. This will not be easy, my children, but do remember that houses are built stone laid on stone, and when the last stone is in its place, it is only then that the house is a dream come true.”

“Let not fear overpower you, for I, your Mother and the Mother of mankind, assure you of my motherly support in your mission as young disciples of my Son, Jesus. He, too, will always be with you.”

December 8, 1991

“My urgent call for the youth is pressing. The world needs those who sincerely care for each other, who pull one another on to holiness, you who encourage and support those around you, and who, by your good example can see clearly the power of my Son at work successfully in your life.”



“I am reminding you, dear children, as your Mother, of the two roads out of many open before you. One is the road of sin and selfishness, of past grudges and bitterness. Should you choose this road, being young, the evil spirit will immediately get hold of you. You will be blind to what is truth and will shut the door on much needed forgiveness for those who have hurt you. This is one of the most common causes of crimes today. This is vengeance, and the evil spirit will waste no time to lead you to eternal damnation, for vengeance is nothing but satisfying one’s self, and getting even with those who have harmed you.”

“Another road invites you – the path of love, hope and forgiveness. If you choose this road, be prepared, for it will be rough with stones, but your reward will be great. Heaven awaits you where you will be rewarded with eternal happiness with God.”

December 28, 1991

“My little ones, should danger cross your life, never stop from what you are chosen to do as young disciples of my Son. Rather, let it be your strength to face and accept God’s will, to work or suffer if need be and to offer your life in fulfilling your apostolate.”

“God’s Wisdom He shares with you through His words. If you cannot fathom His Wisdom, then reach Him in the innermost part of His Heart. He is always there for you. Join youth clubs where He will guide you through my



Son's priests, who will surely share with you the Wisdom of God."

"Pray hard, dear children, so you can choose well the road presented to you. Consider well the choice you make now, as it could well affect the lives of people yet to be born."

"Let my Son be your first Hero and Light in life because you cannot be all you are meant to be unless you are committed to Him as His young apostles for the youth. I bless you all and may God be with you and guide you as the loved and chosen ones of my Son. I am His Mother and so you, too, are my little ones."

February 2, 1992

"Little ones, let me remind you that memories of the past will haunt your feelings; cruel and unjust words and deeds will cause you so much pain. But harden not your hearts and let love lighten and brighten your life to bring peace to the world."

"Make new your hearts so you will realize that war, vengeance and violence are the weapons of the devil to bring as many souls as possible to his kingdom of fire."

"Do pray then for courage and strength to rise and stand after each fall. Be ready to forgive when others hurt you and always be ready to extend your sincere apology when you hurt others. You will need special graces to stand alone in defending the truth; and be faithful to the call of God as His young disciples. Remember that the



Apostles spread the Word of God with no human means, for they had none to offer, except faith and love for Jesus as Savior of the world.”

“Let peace begin with you by forgetting all resentments, grudges, hatred and spirit of revenge. This way, you will help build a better tomorrow and when death comes, you will leave something behind for which others will be grateful to you as a chosen, little disciple of Jesus, my Son.”

March 16, 1992

“My dear children, pray hard so that others may see in you that you believe, that you hope, that you pray and love, and that you work hard to make your dreams come true.”

“These days, little one, people often wonder how the world could survive at length, day after day, year after year, in the midst of so much crime and poverty rapidly spreading throughout the world. There is so much immorality, sex, drug abuse, greed, injustice, abuse of power, thirst for riches, graft and corruption, that without the love and power of God nothing could be achieved. His grace is needed badly, and His compassion is worth begging for.”

“This is the time to move, to do something for peace and love when there is still a little time left for the world to change.”



“No matter how corrupt the world seems to be, thank God for this world you live in. It is a very beautiful world of promise and hope, if you, as little apostles of Jesus, will extend your helping hand to convert the world once more into a very peaceful world. I am with you in your struggles, in your campaign for peace and love, in bearing your crosses and insults which you will experience in answering this special call of God. I bless you all.”



Message for Priests and Religious
July 26, 1991 (3:30pm)

“... This is also a message for those who have the desire to embrace the life of priesthood and that of the religious. I pray that my messages will be taken to heart, that each word may be understood so that they will finally believe that these messages come from a Mother who never stops loving them. And even if they erred, I will never stop waiting for their return because my desire is to meet them again, to forgive them and to pour out all the mercy I can. Let not despair creep into their souls so that they may be able to feel my loving hands which never tire of leading them back to my Son, and my arms always ready to embrace them in the warmth of my Immaculate Heart.

The world, no matter how beautiful it seems to be will never satisfy a heart that has been consecrated to God, because this heart is aware that one does not



become a priest or a religious for the wealthy and the healthy, but for sinners and those souls who are farthest from Him. From a poor family, a soul called for the religious life finds security in the way their faith leads them. From the rich, the soul should have sufficient endurance for the trials and sufferings that will surely be met in the religious life.

When Jesus tells you to take up your cross, He is not telling you to find some ways to suffer daily. He is giving you a glimpse of what happens to a soul that follows His call. The Cross symbolizes your willingness to die, if need be, or to give up your career, your ambitions, your money and your plans in life. Let God dispose of them according to His designs. Then, with love and sincerity of heart you can say that you want to follow my Son wholly. He will call on you to pick up your cross in the same way that He carried His own – not over your neck, but over your shoulder. And if you stare at it lying on the ground it appears too rough and heavy, but you will be surprised at how light it will be when you bear it with love. This is the great secret of the CROSS.

The world is facing moral failure owing to war, selfishness and greed. Little one, it is this situation that makes my Son suffer. But it is never too late for conversion. My dear sons and daughters, you must try to be counted among my children who not only admire and imitate, but who help, share, trust, suffer, and triumph with me, who was presented to the world as the Woman who will crush the serpent's head. Please try to be worthy sons and daughters of mine, ready to accomplish the tasks you have been called upon to fulfill. And in going



about these tasks you will suffer because of your loyalty to Jesus, but the enemy will find you standing very close to my suffering Son.

I, too, had to suffer when I heard the way of the Cross, prepared for me in Simeon's prophecy. When Jesus was twelve I lost Him for three days. When He was thirty, I followed Him in the struggles of years rich in fruit, brilliant with glory, but saddened with the gall of human ingratitude, I stood at the foot of the Cross and watched my Son bleeding till his last breath. I was desolate and buried in pain beyond human endurance; but I stood up to all these like a brave mother, because all I had to give was a life of silence amidst heartaches and tears. After His death I longed to pass into the next life to be with my Son in heaven, but I chose to stay. It was during my desolation that I felt a new sense of maternal love and care for the disciples of my Son and for all men.

My dear sons and daughters, if you have turned your back to God's will, if you have sinned greatly, remember that when Peter denied my Son thrice, he was treated with tenderness and love."



Total Consecration Requested by the Mediatrix

***“I want you to consecrate yourselves
to me on the 7th of October
and become my beloved slaves.”***

Message of the Blessed Mother to Teresing
24 September 1948

To consecrate means to make or declare holy. To devote to a purpose, dedicate.

In asking the Community to perform this consecration, the Blessed Mother used the phrase “become my beloved slaves”, referring to the consecration formula made and popularized by St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, one of the Church’s greatest Marian saints. The Montfortian formula defined in his book “True Devotion to Mary” -

**To do all our actions
by Mary, with Mary, in Mary, and for Mary
so that we may do them all the more perfectly
by Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus, and for Jesus.**

“In the presence of all the heavenly court, I choose you this day for my Mother and Queen. I deliver and consecrate to you, as your slave, my body and soul, my goods both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future, leaving to you the entire and full right of disposing of me and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to your good pleasure, for the greater glory of God in time and in eternity.”



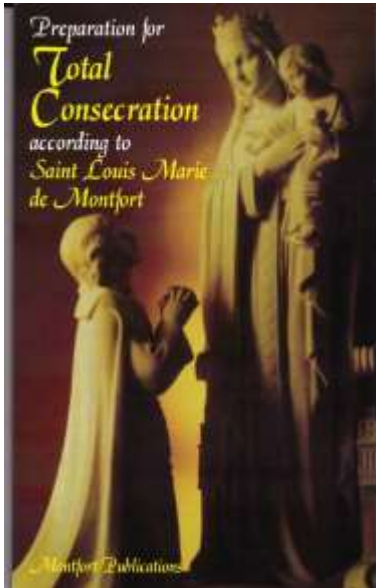
St. John Paul II points out that St. Grignon de Montfort “*proposes consecration to Christ through the hands of Mary, as an effective means for Christians to live faithfully their baptismal commitments*”.

Why did our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of all Grace single out this particular Consecration?

In 1921, Cardinal Mercier obtained the Holy See’s approval of a special feast in honor of Mary Mediatrix, with proper Mass and Office. Pope Benedict XV approved this on January 12 of the same year.

Two months later, the Religious of St. Grignon de Montfort established their first foundation that was called

“the house of the Mediatrix”. It is clear that an intimate link existed between the devotion to Mary Mediatrix and the “True Devotion” of Grignon de Montfort, whose sons most strongly promoted the doctrine of Mary’s Mediation.



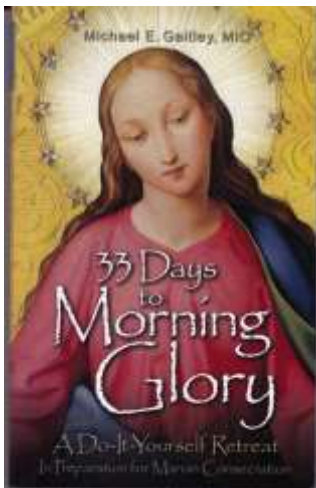
Pope Pius XII canonized Montfort in 1947, a year before Our Lady Mary Mediatrix of All Grace appeared in Lipa.



He is regarded as the first great prophet of Marian consecration. Popes were influenced by his Marian teachings. Pope Leo XIII beatified him in 1888 and granted a Church indulgence to Catholics who consecrate themselves to Mary using de Montfort's formula.

Pope St. Pius X also recommended de Montfort's teaching on Mary to the faithful. In fact, he granted a plenary indulgence in perpetuity to anyone who would pray de Montfort's formula for Marian consecration, and he offered his own apostolic blessing to anyone who would read *True Devotion*. This Pope so strongly encouraged the faithful to follow de Montfort's path of Marian devotion because he himself had experienced its power." - Michael Gaitley, MIC

Two books are available for helping the faithful to prepare themselves for the Total Consecration asked for by our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of all Grace.



a. Preparation for Total Consecration according to Saint Louis Marie de Montfort - Montfort Publications

b. 33 Days to Morning Glory - Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC





Cardinal Vidal reveals 1949 'Secret of Lipa': 'Pray hard for China'

SHARES: **4872**
VIEW COMMENTSBy: Josephine Darang
@inquirersecretPhilippine Daily Inquirer
07:16 AM July 13th, 2014

Cardinal Vidal reveals 1949 'Secret of Lipa'

By Josephine Darang

Published in the *Inquirer* newspaper

13 July 2014

Cardinal Ricardo J. Vidal, Archbishop Emeritus of Cebu, has written to the Philippine bishops that on Oct. 17, 1949, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace told Teresita Castillo:

“Pray hard for China’s dream is to invade the whole world. The Philippines is one of its favorites. Money is the evil force that will lead the people of the world to destruction.”

Castillo was a young Carmelite then in Lipa City. And the incident was known as the Lipa apparitions.

Before becoming Cebu patriarch, Vidal was Lipa archbishop.

Vidal said the last part of the message “gives us a reason to be hopeful.” It read: “Prayers, sacrifices, self-denials and the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary will soften the heart of my Son as I said before.”



It is thus to the Queen of Prophets under her title of Mediatrix of All Grace to whom we will have recourse in order to avert the buildup of tension and to check the territorial ambitions of this Asian superpower. It is by following this path of prayer and penance sounded out in Fatima and reiterated at Lipa that our beloved Philippines will be spared the scourge of war and the domination of a communist giant.

The Philippines cannot by any stretch of the imagination equal or overtake China in economic growth or prevail in a military confrontation. China can bring to bear its huge financial, material and human resources, as well as its advanced military capability in any struggle with a smaller and poorer country like the Philippines with its ill-equipped armed forces. The first and only line of defense the Philippines has is the mantle of protection provided by the Blessed Virgin Mary. Only She can help us! To whom shall we go?



Our Mediatrix is in China!

Mr. George Ty, founder of *Metrobank*, was asked by the Nationalist Government of China to develop two villages in Nanjing, with modern condominiums to be sold to tourists. Mr. Ty asked that a Catholic church be built there because he is a Catholic. Architect Joey Amistoso was asked to attend to the interior of the church. He was the same architect who renovated the apparition site where Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of all Grace appeared in Lipa. So when the Tys were looking for a statue of the



Blessed Mother to be installed in the new church, Architect Amistoso suggested the Mediatrix. Mrs. Ty and Solomon Cua, the Vice- President of *Metrobank*, went to see the Mediatrix in Lipa. When Mr. Cua prayed in the apparition site he said: *"I feel energy here."* The prioress then told them that the Lipa Carmelites have been praying for China since the time of the apparitions because of the secret revealed by our Lady to Teresing regarding China. So the Tys decided to bring the Mediatrix to Nanjing. The new church and the Mediatrix statue were formally blessed on January 15, 2013. Mr. Cua said the presence of the Mediatrix in Nanjing is unbelievable and incredible.

The Chinese are turning to her.



Chapter 5

A Living Witness of Our Blessed Mother's Love
The Story of Sr. Melania Suñga, RA

Written by Marie C. Franco





*“Wait for God’s time because God’s time is
God’s own right time.”*

Message of the Blessed Mother to Sr. Mely, RA
Sisters Convent La Salette H.S. Compound
Santiago, Isabela
April 15, 1974

*“You do not need petals anymore.
The petals through which others will see ME,
is no other than you.
You are the petals.”*

Message of the Blessed Mother to Sr. Mely, RA
Assumption Convent garden
Kadingilan, Bukidnon
1993

*“The greatest gift that the Filipino people has given ME,
is to have accepted me as their Mother.”*

Message of the Blessed Mother to Sr. Mely, RA
Assumption Convent
Kadingilan, Bukidnon
1994



Sr. Melania Suñga, RA was miraculously cured of her clubfoot when she was a young girl after her mother sought the intercession of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace.

She and her family felt Her presence through the brief period of unexplained appearances of rose petals in their house in Candon, Ilocos Sur similar to the occurrences in Lipa Carmel.

She answered the call to religious life, entering the Religious of the Assumption, a congregation she knew nothing about. Events conspired with time to make things happen. She first thought her encounters with the Blessed Mother as a child were Her ways to attract her to the life of a religious. And that once she answered the call, our Lady would be done with her.

The Blessed Mother never left Mely to be on her own. She followed her and continues to make her motherly presence felt.

In 1974, twenty-five years after her cure, Sr. Mely attempted to actively present herself as a living witness of the Blessed Mother's love in the events of the apparitions in Lipa in 1948. But it was not God's right time.

Now appears to be THE time.

This is Sr. Mely's story.



Graciano de los Reyes Suñga and wife Rosario Madarang raised a loving, closely-knit, and God-fearing family in Candon, Ilocos Sur. They were a prominent and highly respected family in their hometown, living comfortably but modestly. They lived in the ground floor of the ancestral home of Rosario's auntie Apo² Laura Madarang Abaya who stayed at the upper floor. The couple was blessed with six children – Elena, Jose, Antonio, Abelardo, Grace, and Melania.

Melania Maria, nicknamed Mely, was born on 31 December 1941 with a club foot of the worst type - "*talipes varus or pes valus*"³. Her left leg was normal but her right leg was shorter and thinner, her foot deformed. The foot double rolled inward making it appear like a bowl so that the ankle served as her sole. Her parents were advised that she was too small and too weak to undergo an operation and her condition was incurable. She grew up having difficulty in walking without any support or assistance and if she did on her own, she would be limping and jumping in pain. So, she was always carried around. In spite of her handicap and the teasing of other children, she did not develop any inferiority complex. She was showered with so much love and attention, and was even provided with her own pair of slippers that remained unused by her bedside.

² A local name to address a wise elderly

³ An abnormal bone formation in the foot where the foot generally turns inward so that the leg and the foot resemble the letter "J"



In the summer of 1949, eight year-old Mely would have an encounter with the Blessed Mother that would change and define her life.

The Miraculous Cure

Edmundo Abaya⁴, son of Apo Laura and cousin to Mely's mother, was a seminarian at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila at the time of the apparitions. He, together with other seminarians, went on a Marian pilgrimage to Lipa Carmel with their Rector. In Carmel, he saw the statue of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace enthroned on an elevated platform in a tent where it was put up for the public veneration of the pilgrims. Lined at the foot of the Blessed Mother were several clear bottles of water. Before heading back to the Manila, he requested from the Sisters one bottle that was intended for Mely. In addition, he was given the Tagalog version of the novena "*Inang Tagapamagitan ng Lahat ng Biyaya*" (Mother Mediatrix of All Grace).



*Medical illustration
of club foot.*

⁴ Edmund Abaya, a devotee to the Blessed Mother would later be ordained as a priest in 1953 and appointed Bishop of Laoag in 1978 and Archbishop of Nueva Segovia in 1999. He retired in 2005.



During his summer school break in 1949, he went home to Candon and gave the bottle of water from Lipa and the novena to Mely's mother.

That evening, Mely's mother Rosario got up in the middle of the night and quietly went to Mely's room with the bottle of water. She dipped her fingers into the water and gently applied it on her daughter's deformed leg and foot, careful not to rouse her from her sleep. She recited the rosary and the novena to personally ask for the intercession of "Ina" for her daughter's cure, then went back to sleep. She did this for nine consecutive nights unknown to her family.

The morning after the nine-day novena, Mely woke up, casually got up from her bed, wore her slippers, and walked naturally to the washroom without limping and jumping. Her father and brother Abelardo who were taking their morning coffee were surprised at what was going on. They were at a loss for words seeing her club foot almost straightened out. A normal foot was in place! They did not fuss over her and waited for Rosario to come home from the market to tell her the great news.

Rosario, upon seeing her daughter, was unable to contain her excitement. She called out through the window to Apo Laura who was at the upper floor to share the news of Mely's unexplained cure. At that instant, Apo Laura exclaimed in the local dialect Ilocano "*Ni Apo Santa Maria iti nangagas ken ni Mely!*" ("It is our Blessed Mother who healed Mely!").



Proud and overjoyed, Rosario immediately took Mely with her to the public market. Mely, holding on to her mother's *saya* (Filipino traditional long skirt), was walking naturally! The people noticed not only her walk but also the straightened right foot. Her miraculous cure instantly became the hottest and biggest news in Candon. For weeks, people streamed to their residence to satisfy their curiosity.

As far as the family was concerned, it was through the intercession of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace that Mely was miraculously cured of her physical deformity.

As a simple act of gratitude to the Blessed Mother, Rosario dressed up Mely every Sunday for Mass like Her, in a white, loose, round necked, long sleeved dress and a white veil. Mely felt conscious of her look, quite different from other children her age. But she obediently followed up to the time she entered the convent.

The Rose Petals

The loving presence of the Blessed Mother did not end with Mely's miraculous cure.

For the family breakfast, there would always be two types of bread on the table - *pan de sal* (local bread) and Abelardo's favorite donut (without the hole at the center). These were delivered to their house daily.

A week after Mely's miraculous cure, only *pan de sal* was delivered. Without the donut, 11-year old



Abelardo refused to eat. With his father's promise that he would be taken to the market to buy some donuts, he was persuaded to eat *pan de sal*. He took one piece and broke it into half. Lo and behold, the family was stunned to see a dry, slightly brown rose petal at the center of the bread Abelardo was holding.

Mely's father gently took the rose petal and held it against the light. On it was the half body image of the Blessed Mother with a halo.

At around nine o'clock the next morning, 17-year old Elena was sweeping the floor in front of the family altar where different religious images, including that of the Blessed Mother and the crucified Christ, were arranged. When she was about to collect the dust into the dustpan, there was a sudden gust of wind. Then she saw scattered on the dustpan six rose petals similarly with the image of the Blessed Mother on them.

Where would the petals have come from? Apo Laura grew American red roses in her rooftop garden and they had large petals. Those they found over the past days in their house were tiny, dry, and transparent enough to show the veins.

Two or three weeks later, 13-year old Antonio came home from a basketball game just in time for the family Angelus. In his shirt pocket, he kept three pieces of bubblegum wrappers with Batman, Tarzan, and Superman prints. He wanted to give these to Yaya (nanny) Merced to have the prints ironed-on and transferred to his shirts. When he took the wrappers out



of his pocket, he was surprised to find them individually folded neatly. He unfolded the wrappers and lo and behold, a dry rose petal also with the image of the Blessed Mother was in between the folds of each wrapper.

It seemed like the reported unexplained shower of rose petals in Lipa was also happening in Candon!

Mely's parents at this point decided to show all the rose petals to their parish priest Rev. Fr. Ferdinand Carmelo. The priest referred them to Bishop Juan Sison⁵ of Nueva Segovia. The bishop, after hearing their story and seeing the rose petals, advised them not to talk about the incidents anymore. He encouraged the family though to report back to him should there be more mysterious appearances of rose petals. True enough, they returned days later to report the new incidents.

One morning, Rosario was in the garden watering the ornamental plants and red carnations she was growing. As she put down the *tabo* (small plastic dipper) on the window ledge, she saw around ten rose petals on the ground among the carnations. Inside the house, Graciano, who was reading the newspaper *The Manila Times* with Mely seated beside him, found rose petals between the pages.

⁵ Bishop Juan Sison would later be part of the 6-man special commission to investigate the events of Lipa and be an official signatory of the negative church verdict released on 11 April 1951.



In the afternoon their neighbor Miguel Abaya, a public school superintendent, heard beautiful music and merrymaking and smelled the strong fragrance of sweet perfume coming from the house of the Suñgas. *Ilocanos* (locals of the Ilocos region) are thrifty and the use of perfume is associated only with special occasions and with visitors from the city. So he got curious and sent his househelp to find out who the visitors were.

The helper came to the door and found the family quietly taking *merienda* (afternoon snack). There were no visitors, no music playing, and no merrymaking. As she left to report back to Mr. Abaya, the family was surprised to see several rose petals strewn on the floor by the side of the table. This time, the rose petals had different images on them – Blessed Mother, Santo Niño, Holy Family, Christ the King, Immaculate Conception, and the Crucifixion.

This would be the last of the unexplained appearances of rose petals to the family.

Mely's father made a wonderful collection of the family's rose petals. He improvised a 3-folded sleeve made of cellophane, the length of a ruler, where he could insert the rose petals to keep them from curling up. He lined them inside the sleeve and kept them in his wallet. Wherever he went, he would show the rose petals to whoever would ask about them. Those who came to see Mely at their house to see Mely walk and her cured clubfoot also saw these petals.



Prompted by the note written at the back of the novena - *“Whatever graces you receive through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, please let Carmel of Lipa know about it.”* By May 1949 almost a month since the miraculous cure, Mely together with her parents, Jose and wife Elena, Abelardo, and family driver Tony went on a thanksgiving pilgrimage to Lipa Camel. They reported Mely’s story and showed the rose petals to one of the Carmelite Sisters, in one discreet corner of the tent.

The Sisters did not have enough rose petals from the shower to give to the hundreds of pilgrims. So they would raffle off the available petals. As luck would have it, all three siblings Mely, Jose, and Abelardo were among those picked and given their own rose petals before they headed back to Candon.

After this visit, Mely’s story was no longer heard of.



Sr. Mely flew in from Cagayan de Oro where she is based to meet with the Carmelite Sisters and the writer to personally give a full account of her story. Photo taken at Lipa Carmel last 3 November 2015.



The Call to the Religious Life

Mely was the youngest in the family. Her parents were against her vocation and were protective. She was rejected a number of times in her application to be a religious, but she persisted. The circumstances were very challenging, but she was always providentially able to overcome them. She always wanted to be a Carmelite nun but she was clothed as a Religious of the Assumption, a congregation she knew very little about.

Mely's journey in answering the call to the religious life is a story of the Blessed Mother's continuing love and presence in her life.

At age 12, first year high school student, Mely left their home in San Fernando, Pampanga without permission and went to the Carmelite Monastery in Angeles City. Being a minor, she was refused by the Carmelite Sisters and sent home. Since it was dark, she was allowed to stay in the room for visitors. The next morning, her father came to pick her up but she vehemently refused to go home with him. She only acceded after her father made a promise to the Prioress, Mother Angelina Lazatin, that she would be brought back to the monastery after she finishes high school. Her parents were really against her desire to be a nun, particularly a disalced Carmelite nun. They thought that once their youngest daughter enters the convent, they would not see her anymore and they would only hear her voice behind the bars.



Back home, she was constantly being dissuaded from pursuing her vocation. She was under tight watch and never allowed to leave the house without a companion, especially when she went to church and visited the monastery. Yaya Belen and Yaya Sally told her about how her mother would cry at the thought of the youngest daughter leaving the house to be a nun. Seeing that her mother was losing weight and not wanting to aggravate her failing health, she pretended to be no longer interested in her vocation. But in truth, she secretly kept sending letters to different congregations. Unfortunately, she was also being rejected for being under-aged.

Fate would have it that while still in her senior year in high school a providential opportunity would come and be the first step in her journey to fulfill her desire.

It was a Friday. Mely went home for lunch. Her mother asked her to skip her afternoon classes to accompany her to visit the family's first newly born grandson by her sister Elena at the Lourdes Hospital in Sta. Mesa. That afternoon, a Belgian CICM⁶ priest Fr. Robert van Esbroeck went to her school. The teachers thought he was recruiting for the seminary but his first greeting to them was, "*I came here because there is someone here in your school who wants to enter the religious life.*" The teachers, unaware of Mely's plans to go back to the Carmelite Monastery after high school, voluntarily submitted her name to the priest.

⁶ Latin: *Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae* or Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



When Mely came back to school the next Monday, she was given the address of the priest. She was both curious and excited. She wanted to grab any chance to be a nun, no matter what congregation. She immediately wrote Fr. Esbroeck and eventually got an interview schedule with him the following weekend at the Sacred Heart Academy in Guagua, Pampanga.

She was excited but also felt anxious. How would she be able to leave the house without a companion? How would she go to Guagua, a town two hours away from their house?

Mely noticed that her mother was lenient with her when it came to shopping for clothes and going to the parlor, stuff that would make her pretty. So she made up as an excuse: she wanted to buy a colorful dress in San Fernando. As expected, her mother gave her permission and money so she could shop for shoes, umbrella, and whatever she wanted. One problem down, Guagua was next.

That Sunday afternoon, Mely went to their parish church San Nicolas Tolentino to attend her regular 2pm meeting for the Legion of Mary. While waiting for the meeting to start, she knelt down to earnestly pray for guidance on how to reach Guagua. While praying, a lady transferred from the pew behind her to the empty seat beside her. She asked Mely if she was from the area and knew a certain Fr. Antonio Ibay whom she was supposed to meet.



Mely acknowledged knowing the priest since he was the assistant parish priest and spiritual director of the Legion of Mary. The lady asked her the favor to let the priest know that she was already around to see him and that she was going back to Guagua afterwards. With the mention of “Guagua”, Mely got excited. So it went that the stranger who later introduced herself as Mrs. Virginia Sibug, a third-order Carmelite, accompanied Mely to the Sacred Heart Academy in Guagua.

Mely did not go to San Fernando for the dress and instead met up with Fr. Esbroeck. During the interview, she expressed again her desire to be a Carmelite nun, to which he remarked, “*I cannot imagine you to be a discalced Carmelite, not even an extern Sister. I can only imagine you more to be an Assumption Sister!*” The interview was short and before long, Fr. Esbroeck was writing his recommendation letter for Mely to Mother Milagros of the Assumption Convent in Manila.

Assumption? Mely did not know anything about this congregation except of its graduates whom she would read about in the society pages of the newspaper. And, how would she go to Manila?

Her brother Antonio who was studying in Manila came home and informed his mother that Elena was calling for Mely. Her mother sent her to go with Antonio on his trip back to Manila. On the road, Mely confessed to Antonio that she wanted to enter the convent and showed Fr. Esbroeck’s letter that she had to take to Manila. Being an ex-seminarian, he supported Mely on her vocation and offered to take her there. By



coincidence, he was going to see a friend at the Ateneo Law School in Padre Faura ⁷ , very close to the Assumption Convent.

It was nighttime of March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, when they reached the convent. At the gate, there was a notice that the Mothers were having their retreat for 8 days. That meant they should not be disturbed. However, Segundo, the guard on duty, opened the gate, allowed them in, and accompanied them to the main building. Mother Milagros was in Baguio; so another Mother received the letter.

A week later, their parish priest, Rev. Fr. Generoso Pallasigui received a letter from Mother Rose, Vicar General of the Assumption Philippine Province informing him of Mely's acceptance as an aspirant to the congregation. The good news was announced during the Legion of Mary meeting with Mely and her sister Grace in attendance. Since nobody except Antonio knew about her application, Grace was taken aback and hurriedly went home to inform her mother. In her dismay, Rosario left the house and did not entertain the parish priest who came to visit to purposely tell her about the letter from the Assumption Convent.

The family continued to plead with Mely to change her mind at every opportunity and up to the last day. They hoped to dissuade her, telling her she would only be made to clean the toilets, scrub the floors, work in the kitchen, and handle only menial tasks since she was a

⁷ A street in Manila



college undergraduate in a congregation perceived to be for the aristocrats. *"I am ready for anything"*, was her reply.

Mely always depended on her parents, but unknown to them, she had been quietly preparing all by herself her requirements and everything she would need for the convent. When the time came, she was ready!

On 3 June 1962, Mely was accepted as an aspirant at the Religious of the Assumption in Manila. She saw her parents who would travel all the way from Pampanga, only once every month for a brief 30 minutes. It would take only ten months instead of the usual 12 months for her to be recommended to become a postulant.

On 13 May 1963, the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to the three Portuguese children, Mely received her white veil and habit as a postulant without the knowledge and presence of her parents.

As a postulant, she took the chance to share with the senior Sisters the story of her miraculous cure and the unexplained appearances of the rose petals to her family in Candon. They also saw the family's collections of rose petals.

On 15 April 1964, she became a novice. Ironically, it was on that same day that all the rose petals in her father's possession got lost and were never recovered.



He was in a pastry shop when a pickpocket snatched his wallet.

On 19 April 1965, she took her first vows to become a Junior Sister. And on 19 April 1970, she pronounced her perpetual vows.

Mely entered the religious congregation as a high school graduate. But she pursued and graduated major in Bachelor of Science in Education in 1977 at the La Salette College in Santiago, Isabela. She finished her Masters degree in 1982 at the University of the Assumption in San Fernando, Pampanga.

She has been assigned to convents and formation houses in Manila and the provinces. She took on several assignments that included being a classroom teacher at the elementary, intermediate, and tertiary levels and the graduate school. She was a guidance counselor, school administrator, superior, vocation promoter, and in-charge of marketing, cooking and accommodations.

On 15 April 2015, Sr. Mely celebrated her golden jubilee as a religious at the Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in Makati City with his Eminence Luis Antonio Tagle as main presider among bishops and priests concelebrating the Holy Eucharist.

Journey as a Living Witness

Perhaps, the miraculous cure of her club foot and the rose petals were the Blessed Mother's way of calling her into the religious life and of telling her all that She



wanted of her. Once she answered the call, She would leave her on her own. These were what were on Mely's mind. Little did she know that the Blessed Mother would continue to be by her side and manifest Herself to her again.

Nothing was heard of her story since she reported it to the church authorities in Candon, Ilocos Sur and to Lipa Carmel in 1949. But Mely always had the burning desire to tell the world about the Blessed Mother's love and to present herself as a living testimony. Her conscience kept nagging her to do something for Her.

In 15 April 1974, while completing her college education at La Salette College in Santiago, Isabela she was driven by a strong urge to follow up on her case. She wrote a letter addressed to the "Mother Prioress of Lipa Carmel" that partly read:

"In fairness to the Blessed Mother, I want to let you know that I was one of the recipients of Her blessings. I would like to say that what happened in Lipa that was looked at as a hoax was not at all a hoax because I stand as a living witness to that."

After a week, Lipa Carmel's Mother Prioress Mary Anne Cuna wrote back to express the community's gratitude and appreciation for her coming forward with her story and invited her to visit the monastery. She also explained that since the ban of silence had not yet been lifted, she and the Carmelite Community could not take any action on her inquiry.



She felt so disappointed and sought out her Superior Mother Maria Angela Ansaldo. She wanted to show her diary and get directions on what to do. She was brushed aside. She felt crushed, let down, and helpless. With her parents already deceased and her siblings not interested, there seemed no one except herself left to work on the cause for the Blessed Mother. What was she supposed to do? She was crying and distraught when she heard a gentle voice say to her:

*“Wait for God’s time because God’s time is
God’s own right time.”*

“You will become foolish for my sake.”

She was calm and at total peace. She knew it was the Blessed Mother.

After this incident, she joined the entire congregation for their annual eight-day retreat in Baguio. To her amazement, the topic given to her by one of the speakers, Carmelite priest Fr. Bernard Ybiernas for her personal reflection was “God’s Right Time”! This must be a confirmation of the message she earlier received from the Blessed Mother!

She searched for a scriptural passage and found John 2:1-4. It was at the wedding in Cana when the Blessed Mother first played Her role as the Mediatrix and the Lord reminded Her of His right time.



1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ^{[L] [SEP] 2} Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. ^{[L] [SEP] 3} When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ^{[L] [SEP] 4} (And) Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? **My hour has not yet come.**"

After the retreat, appeased by our Blessed Mother's message, Sr. Mely knew that her story had to wait. She obeyed, kept her silence but maintained in her heart the burning desire for Her to be recognized as Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. She also kept the Blessed Mother's messages as a tightly guarded secret.

Sr. Mely in the meantime obediently went about her responsibilities with the congregation. With the mantra "*Mary, my Mother, May all who look at me think of you*", she strove day by day to live a pious life, emulating the Blessed Mother's virtues of simplicity and humility.

Sometime in 1983, the Marian Research Center was compiling testimonies of cures attributed to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. Mr. Francisco Dychangco and Ms. Mely Kison from the Center sought her in Pampanga for an interview. She was excited at what seemed to be the opportunity she was waiting for. She was persuaded to write her own story "*How Our Lady of Lipa Healed My Club Foot*". She personally went back to Candon, Ilocos Sur to get the eyewitness testimonies of the locals who had seen her condition before and after the miraculous cure and the family's collection of rose petals.



She showed her written testimony to her uncle Bishop Abaya. While he agreed to her testimony, he told her she should not be the one going around for the signatures. It was his opinion that the people who knew her and the family as recipients of the Blessed Mother's miracles should be the ones working for its authenticity. He advised her to remain silent and to be humble. Very much at the center of the story, she may come across as seeking her own glorification.

Mr. Francisco Dychango and Ms. Mely Kison brought Mely to Lipa to visit Archbishop Gaviola. She narrated to him her miraculous cure, the rose petals that appeared to the family in Candon, and showed her cured club foot. She offered herself to be a living testimony for the cause of the Blessed Mother. She ended by asking him to allow the image of Lady Mediatrix to be publicly venerated in Lipa Carmel and everywhere.

The Archbishop listened with interest. In 1992, the Archbishop would lift the ban of silence and allow the public veneration of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace.

Sometime in 1993, the ban of silence already lifted, she prayed to the Blessed Mother for rose petals. In her simple mind, she just wanted something to convince people. The rose petals with images that were gathered in their house in Candon in 1949 would have been good proof but these were stolen in 1964, ironically on the same day she was clothed as a novice. She also did not have photos of her club foot. How could she convince people especially those not from her hometown in Candon, Ilocos Sur who did not see her as a child



before and after her physical deformity nor saw the rose petals before they were stolen?

Instead of petals, she received a message from the Blessed Mother while she was in the garden of the Assumption Convent in Kadingilan, Bukidnon:

*“You do not need petals anymore.
The petals through which others will see ME,
is no other than you. You are the petals.”*

In 1994, the Blessed Mother gave what would be Her last message to her:

*“The greatest gift that the Filipino people
has given ME, is to have accepted me
as their Mother.”*

This would support the message *“I am your Mother”* given to Teresita Castillo in 1948 and a similar message *“Am I not here as your Mother”* given to Juan Diego in Guadalupe in 1531.

In December 1994, Sr. Mely executed a sworn affidavit of her story for the special committee created immediately after the lifting of the ban of silence to reinvestigate the Lipa incident and gather testimonies.

All these years, Sr. Mely because of her deep love and devotion to the Blessed Mother seemed in a hurry to offer herself as a living testimony of Her presence and love to Her children in the Philippines. Perhaps all the past works completed also had to pause and wait for God’s right time. And perhaps her being an Assumption



Sister, and not a Discalced Carmelite, puts her in a better position to tell her story and work on Her cause.

It is her personal belief based on her experiences and circumstances that NOW is God's right time. Not so much for her own story but for our Blessed Mother as the Mediatrix. After 40 years and providentially within her jubilee year, Sr. Mely finally reveals her well-kept secrets.

There are indeed several initiatives by private devotees and the local Church working incessantly for the Blessed Mother's cause.

With the decree last 12 September 2015 of Archbishop Argüelles declaring the 1948 apparition of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace in Lipa as "worthy of belief", the momentum will accelerate and our Blessed Mother, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace will soon be given the very much delayed recognition.

Sr. Mely will be just one of the living testimonies for Her cause.





In November 2015, Sr. Mely Suñga, RA was given special consideration and allowed at the apparition site inside the enclosure of the Carmelite monastery in Lipa.



Chapter 6

“I am Your Mother”

Real Stories of Her Love and of Her Children’s Devotion

Written by Marie C. Franco





Each one of us has his or her own stories to tell about our personal encounters and devotion to our Blessed Mother, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. Did our encounter result in our devotion, or did our devotion lead us to the encounter with Her?

Our encounter with Her may have been accidental, from a random event with a complete stranger or through family and friends who shared their own devotion with us. It may have been providential, chosen by Her for a purpose.

Our encounter with Her may have brought about a miraculous cure, an inspiration for a renewed life, or a rejuvenation of our faith in God. We may have opted to keep the experience private between Her and ourselves or may have taken the bold step to share the experience with the public and be a living witness of Her love.

Our Blessed Mother may come to our lives in different periods and under different circumstances. We may take different paths to be in the bosom of Her warm embrace then take small strides or big leaps after. The journey may be easy or one of suffering. Whatever it was or will be, we believe in our hearts that Mary Mediatrix of All Grace is our Mother and She will lead us to God.

Here are short stories of different personal encounters and devotion to Mary, Mother of All Grace. Allow these to inspire you for your own personal journey with our Blessed Mother.



Joey Velasco: Artist of “Hapag ng Pag-asa” A Story of Spiritual Transformation

*“Life can only have meaning if it is shared with others.”
This is the legacy Joey Velasco wanted to leave.*

Joey Velasco is known as the artist behind “*Hapag ng Pag-asa*” (Table of Hope). The painting, just like his other artworks, communicates to the soul. It depicts Jesus at the last supper with twelve Filipino street children instead of His Apostles. But what is more awe-inspiring about the painting is the fact that prior to this 2005 masterpiece, the artist never learned nor tried his hand at oil painting.

Joey was a young successful businessman, had a beautiful wife Queeny and four children. With the success and financial blessings he was enjoying then, he was trapped in the material world, became proud and shrewd in his business dealings. Everything seemed perfect until at age 37, his life changed.

He started feeling pain in his abdomen. Despite a series of diagnostic tests, his doctors could not figure out what was wrong with him. This uncertainty made him depressed and reclusive. In January 2005, the repeat ultrasound test showed he had a big mass in his left kidney. This finding left him scared and desperate. He wanted a lifeline.

On 30 January 2005 the day before his operation, a family friend, Bebet Gaston, visited to pray over him. Bebet is a secular order Carmelite and a niece of Mother



Mary Cecilia. For the full 45 minutes during the pray-over session, Joey was sobbing profusely. After the pray-over, he declared he was in complete peace and ready for the operation.

On 31 January 2005, the feast day of Don Bosco, Joey went for the operation confident that Don Bosco and the Virgin Mary would be with him. The procedure was successful.

Two months into recovery in March 2005, Joey requested Queeny for art supplies. This caught his wife by surprise because he was not into the arts. He said he wanted to capture the image of the “beautiful lady in white with long hair without a crown” he saw during the pray-over. Without any formal training or previous experience in oil painting, he was able to complete a beautiful portrait of “the Lady”. Bebet, after seeing the painting told Joey that “the Lady” was Mary Mediatrix of All Grace! Although he had studied at the Don Bosco Seminary in Pampanga, he was not familiar with the Virgin Mary with this title.



The very first painting of the late Joey Velasco was of “the Lady” he saw during the pray-over before his operation.



For the remaining 5 years and 7 months of his life, Joey became Her faithful devotee. He prayed the rosary to seek Her protection and guidance, as he would lovingly touch and kiss Her statue everyday. Through Her grace, he received the talent to paint. He completed more than a hundred artworks that evoked the universal message of God's mercy, compassion, and special love using marginalized people as models.



The "Hapag ng Pag-asa" (Table of Hope) models were real children aged 4-14. The original painting together with his other artworks can be viewed in the Joey Velasco Museum in West Fairview, Quezon City.

Beyond giving inspiration through his paintings, Joey worked at uplifting the lives of the street children he had used as models. He provided the street children housing in a Gawad Kalinga project in Amparo, Calocan with his personal funds and support from friends. Even with limited time left and an ailing body, he made the rounds of speaking engagements to share his story and inspire people. He brought his family along during these occasions, allowing him to strengthen his bond with them.



In 2010 after braving seven months of dialysis, Joey at age 43 succumbed to kidney failure. For him, it was only divine grace that had kept him alive. It was through this grace that he got out of darkness and was at peace with himself when he joined his Creator. He was witness to God's mercy – that even if we are unworthy because of the kind of life we lived, God will take us back if we return to Him.

Joey's encounter with Mary Mediatrix of All Grace and his life after inspired his wife, his children, his friends, and countless strangers who come across his artwork. The devotion to the Blessed Mother lives on!

The Joey Velasco Foundation was set up after his death and to this day continues to care for the "*Hapag ng Pag-asa*" children and their families.

**Based on the personal sharing of Queeny Velasco, widow of Joey to the writer in October 2015.*



**Socorro Mendoza Dichoso: Businesswoman
A Story of a Mother's Faith and Trust
in Our Blessed Mother**

“... and the only explanation I can give is that it is supernatural. The only thing I can do now is to thank Our Lady of Lipa....”

- Dr. Telesforo Mendoza,
after the extraordinary cure of his daughter Socorro

Dr. Telesforo Mendoza was the Chief of the Department of Neuro-Surgery at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital in Manila and professor of Neuro-Anatomy at the university's College of Medicine. As if life was playing a joke on him, his daughter Ma. Socorro Mendoza was born on 18 December 1948 with a soft tumor on the left side of her head. What he earlier thought was a simple case of superficial hemorrhage common to newly-born babies turned out to be a case of *“deficient ossification of the cranium with consequent hernia (protrusion) of the membranes of the cerebrum containing cerebro-spinal fluid”*. The series of x-rays of the head by Dr. Paulino Garcia, Chief of the Radiology Department of the hospital gravely confirmed the findings. He was almost sure he was going to lose his daughter to the disease. The option for an operation in the United States was considered risky because of the infant's frail condition. He found himself helpless to treat his daughter!

Instead of losing heart, Socorro's mother Rosario went to Lipa Carmel in January 1949 to beg the Carmelite Sisters for prayers, having heard about the apparition of the Blessed Mother, Mary Mediatrix of all Grace. Following an audience with the Prioress Mother Mary



Cecilia, Sr. Elizabeth Cebrero gave her a copy of the novena and a rose petal from one of the showers. Full of motherly love, hope, and deep faith, she gently massaged the rose petal over Socorro's head while praying the novena. She would do this everyday.

In the afternoon of 28 January 1949, the fourth day of the novena, Dr. Mendoza came home and found his one-month-10-day old daughter lethargic and stiff. She exhibited symptoms of meningioma; a complication that he expected would be fatal. But after two hours, she opened her eyes, moved, and began crying. He examined her head and to his amazement, the tumor had disappeared and the cavity was closed.

With this unexplained medical development, Dr. Garcia performed a series of x-rays. There were no more signs of the tumor.

Socorro's case generated so much interest, prompting the then Bishop of Lipa to appoint a committee to look into the authenticity of the supposed cures attributed to the rose petals. Dr. Agerico Sison, President of the Committee, described the medical case of Socorro as one of the most interesting he had come across after reviewing X-ray results taken by another doctor before and after the cure. He said the clear X-ray results were strong proof of the child's extraordinary cure and shed light on her case.

The late Chief Justice Manuel Moran of the Supreme Court got very interested in the case. He took all the x-rays taken before and after the disappearance of



the tumor and Socorro's medical history for submission to the Vatican in support of the cause of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace. Since then up to the present, the family does not know what happened to the records.

Attributing the miraculous cure to our Blessed Mother, the family together with their parish priest in Paco, Manila Fr. Godofredo Aldenhuisen, went on a pilgrimage to Lipa Carmel in loving gratitude to Her. Socorro lived to become a healthy child.

One-year old Socorro with her parents after the cure.



Since then, the entire Mendoza family became faithful devotees of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace and decided individually to serve the Lord. Dr. Mendoza became president of the confraternity of Our Lord for seven years while his wife Rosario became president of the Catholic Women's League for two years at the church in Paco, Manila. The eldest daughter Sister Rosana Mendoza at age 23 joined the ICM order that runs the St. Theresa's Colleges in Quezon City and Cebu City. Another daughter entered the Carmelite Monastery in Lucena, Quezon and celebrated her golden jubilee last 3 October 2015 as Sr. Teresa of God's Merciful Love.

Socorro continues to this day to testify to anyone of her miraculous cure and her life as proof of the grace she received. Married to Aloysius Dichoso with three children, they as a family propagate the devotion to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace by funding and distributing rosary bracelets, "*I am Your Mother*" stickers, and printed reading materials about Her. In the simplicity of their ways, they manage to reach out to strangers and inspire little miracles of conversion back to the Lord.

** Based on the personal sharing of Socorro Mendoza Dichoso to the writer in October 2015*

** With reference to the 1 March 1995 Sworn Affidavit of the late Mrs. Rosario Cosme Mendoza before Presiding Judge Harriet Demetriou and her 2-page document "An Extraordinary Cure" co-signed by Dr. Ronaldo Asuncion (Head Division of Radiological Sciences, College of Medicine of the University of Santo Tomas)*



Julie Hughes-Sikora:
A Story of a Personal Commitment to
Spread the Devotion to Our Blessed Mother

Ms. Juliet Hughes-Sikora was born on 4 November 1912 in Ormoc City, Leyte to an American father and Filipina mother. She and her family migrated to the USA sometime in 1941.

In 1948, Juliet came to the Philippines to visit family. Curious about the stories on the apparitions and the shower of rose petals in Lipa, she went on a pilgrimage to Lipa.

While attending the Sunday mass held at the grounds of the monastery, a very strong wind blew suddenly, almost encircling the crowd. Someone shouted, "Petal!" Looking up, Juliet saw petals coming from the sky floating down. She grabbed one petal in the air and picked up another one that landed on the ground. She carefully placed both petals in a cigarette plastic cover. The rose petals were fresh, light red in color, and almost translucent.

Back home in Manila, she examined the petals against the light and did not see anything extraordinary. She kept them within the pages of her prayer book.

A few weeks later, she read in *Manila Daily Bulletin* (a daily newspaper) that some of the rose petals from the shower in Lipa had imprints of icon images on them. She decided to check on her petals. To her surprise, one petal this time already had the full image of



Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix while the image of the bust of Our Lady of Sorrows was on the other petal.

At that instant, she promised the Blessed Mother to travel and talk about the apparitions.

Julie went back to the USA with her two petals and a 24-inch statue of our Lady, Mary Mediatrix given to her by the Carmelite Sisters.

Immediately upon her arrival, she embarked on a tour from state to state to promote the devotion to our Blessed Mother with the permission of the local bishops.

In the summer of 1950, she had a speaking engagement before the high school students of Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Chicago. Before leaving the house, she received a disturbing phone call from the President of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) of Chicago. In terse language, she was being forbidden to keep talking about the apparitions and the rose petals.

Her muttered reply was *"I'm sorry but my rose petal is genuine!"* After the phone call, terrified, she tearfully knelt down before the Blessed Mother and intently prayed: *"Blessed Mother, you know this is a rose from heaven. I could never have the nerve of convincing people if this petal isn't real. You must help. You must convince the people that this is a rose petal from heaven that I could never imitate. Please help to prove this is real."*



She proceeded to the school with her rose petal and the statue of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. At the school lobby, she saw a big statue of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Before starting her talk, she prayed before it: “O Mother of God, please help me. What I have is a genuine rose petal. Please convince the people this is real.”

After the talk, the Felician Sister assigned to the infirmary borrowed the rose petal for a sick co-Sister, Sr. Mary Angela. She obliged.

From Chicago, she flew to Florida. Several weeks later while staying at the Assumption Convent, she received a letter from Sr. Mary Angela. She wrote:

Dear Julie,

I was cured by your rose petal. I want you to know that it had performed a miracle on me. I was cured of my cancer. I have been trying to trace you. I finally found out you were in Florida. That is why I am writing to you. Please come and see me when you get to Chicago.“

Julie thanked the Lord Jesus and our Blessed Mother for the reported miracle attributed to the rose petal. Now, people will be convinced!

She received an invitation from the Sikora couple to talk in New Jersey where they owned the biggest religious shop Philip E. Sikora & Sons, Inc. There she met and married the couple’s son, Philip Jr. It was on their way to their honeymoon that Julie and her husband Philip passed by Chicago to visit Sr. Mary Angela.



Sr. Mary Angela recounted that when the rose petal was brought to her, she was dying of bladder cancer and a coffin was already on standby. Alone in her room with the petal praying for relief of her pain, the Blessed Mother in her white dress and veil “came out” of the rose petal and stood floating on a cloud before her. The Blessed Mother smiled at her. With her pain so severe, she fainted. She woke up the next day with all her scars from her past operation gone. She felt well and healed completely.

Sr. Mary Angela’s urologist, Dr. Dooley, a non-Catholic, medically authenticated the miraculous cure and provided Julie a copy of the Sister’s medical history. Sr. Mary Angela lived for another twelve years.

The Blessed Mother heard Julie’s prayers and made it possible for doubting people to believe in the authenticity of the apparitions and the source of the rose petal.

According to her Mother Superior, who informed Julie immediately about the death of Sr. Mary Angela, she knew beforehand the time and date of her death. Her last words were: *“Call Miss Hughes and tell her she has a sister now in heaven who will pray for her.”*

Sometime between 2000 and 2004, Julie Hughes-Sikora came back to the Philippines and visited Lipa Carmel on several occasions. In one of her visits, she entrusted the rose petal with the image of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace, now carefully placed in a reliquary, to the Mother Prioress.



That would be her last visit and was never heard of since then. The rose petal was back to its home after having been an instrument to spread devotion to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace outside Lipa.

One of the rose petals of Julie Hughes-Sikora with the image of our Lady, Mary Mediatrix has been entrusted to Lipa Carmel



** Based on the 19 March 1995 Sworn Affidavit of Mrs. Julie Hughes-Sikora before Presiding Judge Harriet Demetriou and her "Testimony on my Holy Rose Petal of Lipa, Philippines" signed 5 October 1999.*



Thelma Paris: Retired Social Scientist A Story of a Providential Encounter with Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace

Thelma Paris was an eight-month old infant who had a medical emergency after drinking unsafe milk formula. She continuously vomited for days and her stool was black with traces of fresh blood. With her condition, her physician uncle advised her mother Dra. Florentina Romero, to take her immediately to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Manila for medical attention.

During those times in 1949, transportation from Laguna to Manila was very difficult. Dra. Romero had to go to the house of Judge Paulo Macasaet to borrow his car. Unfortunately, the judge was in Baguio. But before she left, the judge's wife gave her some oil and a rose petal from Lipa. As instructed, she rubbed the oil and placed the petals on Thelma's abdomen as they made their way to Manila.

Upon reaching the hospital, the resident physician diagnosed Thelma with *Intussusception or intestinal obstruction*. There would have been 90% probability that she would die if not operated on. Her condition was dangerous. The family started a novena to Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace.

After completing all the required diagnostic tests, Thelma was taken from the pediatric ward to the operating room. She was at the operating table, her attending surgeon Dr. Ambrocio Tangco ready to start the procedure. But at the last minute the operation was called



off because the mass had disappeared. Thelma was miraculously healed!

Thelma's desire to be a nun when she was in high school was aborted because she felt an obligation to help her widowed mother raise seven children. So she channeled her energy instead into teaching catechism to the marginalized youth of Lalakay, Los Baños in Laguna. In 1975 she joined the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) as a social scientist. She travelled extensively around the Philippines and to many Asian countries and was exposed to the poverty in rice farming villages. She developed a missionary zeal in her work. She received international and local awards, promotions, completed her PhD – all these blessings she never dreamt of having.

At the height of her career in 2005, she was found to have a cancerous tumor in her ovary as big as a mango fruit. After undergoing hysterectomy, she underwent chemotherapy treatment. At that point in her life, she again called on Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace and prayed the Novena. She and her family went to the Carmelite convent in Lipa to ask the Sisters to pray for her recovery. Throughout the difficult time, Thelma, armed with her deep faith in the Lord, remained calm and positive.

Thelma survived again through the grace and intercession of Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. Up until her retirement in 2013, she made it her mission to use her talent and expertise as a social scientist specializing in rice technologies to help marginalized



women farmers, women scientists and researches in the most difficult and remote places in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and other Asian countries. To this day, she continues to give hope to cancer patients through the novena to Our Lady using her own personal stories as inspiration.

Incidentally, Thelma was born on 12 September 1948, exactly the same day when Mary Mediatrix of All Grace appeared to Teresita Castillo. She was later baptized and given a second name Mediadora in Her honor.



Thelma Paris as a toddler (above left) and as a cancer survivor holding the miraculous rose petal from Julie Hughes-Sikora during her visit to Lipa Carmel

As for Dra. Florentina Romero (former dentist of UP Infirmary College, Laguna), who passed away at the age of 93, she provided regular volunteer dental service to the Carmelite Sisters in Lipa with Thelma in tow all throughout the years she was still practicing.

** Based on the personal sharing of Ms. Thelma Paris to the writer in October 2015*



Mediatrix Humanitarian Mission (Leyte, 2013)
A Story of Renewed Hope and Love
from Our Blessed Mother

8 November 2013. Super typhoon Yolanda hit land. Heavy rains and strong winds left widespread destruction to property and caused tremendous loss of lives. Tens of thousands of survivors were homeless, hopeless, hungry, and desperate. Palo, Leyte was one of the towns heavily damaged.

Archbishop John Du of Leyte appealed to Archbishop Ramón Argüelles of Lipa for help. Without hesitation, the latter mobilized the Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission (LASAC) to organize the relief operation for Leyte.

Rev. Fr. Jayson Siapco, Director of LASAC, quickly set up the Mediatrix Humanitarian Mission. Donations poured in. Volunteers came. Within days, two truckloads of food items and other basic necessities, a jeepful of volunteers, together with a 4-foot statue of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace given by the Carmelite Sisters headed for Leyte.

The mission distributed relief goods in Burauen, Leyte and three other neighboring parishes. When their own stocks ran out and while waiting for another wave of relief from Lipa to come in, they served as the “human aid” extending assistance in the distribution of relief goods coming from other sources. When the work for the day was done, the mission would pray the rosary. This daily



praying of the rosary went on until it caught the interest of the local youth volunteers.

Eventually, the local youth joined in the daily prayers and slowly got acquainted with the Blessed Mother as Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. And by December 2013, they formally organized themselves as the Confraternity of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace.

The next phase of the mission was rehabilitation. The goal was to build 100 homes on a budget of 8 million pesos. By the grace of God and the generosity of the people who responded to the call, the funds were raised in a month's time. By February 2014, work on the housing village began. As the housing village was being put up, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace was present in their midst.

With the increased cost of construction materials in the province due to the high demand against limited supply, the funds were adequate to complete only 63 units. Was it coincidence that Lipa had 63 parishes at that time? But grace continued to pour in. More funds came in to complete the balance of 37 units and a foreign NGO shouldered another 50 units plus the multi-purpose center. In all, 150 units were built.

The locals came to know and embrace Her as their Blessed Mother. While grateful to the mission, they attributed their blessings to the Blessed Mother. In Her honor, the village was named "Mary Mediatrix of All Grace BEC⁸ Village" with September 12, the first day of the

⁸ *Basic Ecclesial Community*



apparitions in Lipa, as their feast day. They even composed a Mediatrix song in their *Waray* (local dialect)!

A statue of Mary Mother of All Grace with one of the families in Mediatrix Village in Burauen, Leyte



Photo credit: Fr. Jayson Siapco

The tragedy brought out the goodness in people, put their faith into action, and moved the human spirit that went beyond the boundaries of religion. There were two non-Catholics who joined the mission.

From destruction and despair, the mission did not turn out to be just about relief, aid, and physical rehabilitation. It was about the restoration of hope, strengthening of faith, and the manifestation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as our Mother to Her children -- to the survivors and to the volunteers.

Out of the tragedy of typhoon Yolanda, the devotion to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace spread from Lipa to Leyte!

** Based on the personal sharing of Rev. Fr. Jayson Siapco to the writer (November 2015).*



Clarizza Reyes Cruz: Young Mother A Story of Devotion Paid Forward

Whose life has more value? Mother or unborn child?

Clarizza “Rizza” Reyes, 27 years old, was diagnosed in March 2013 with *parasagittal meningioma*. She had a 6-cm tumor almost the size of a golf ball at the left frontal section of her brain.

Upon learning of her medical condition, her aunt brought her to Lipa Carmel. She met the Carmelite Sisters and the Mother Prioress prayed over her. Before heading home, she spent quiet time with Mary Mediatrix of All Grace at the Prayer Deck and requested for Her intercession for her healing. She has since then prayed the novena to the Blessed Mother every day.

She was scheduled for surgery in May 2013 and was given anti-seizure medication. But a week before the procedure, she found out that she was five weeks pregnant. She was scared twice over – brain surgery and her unborn child’s safety. For the doctors, she was their priority. But for her, it was her child. So she stopped taking her medication that could adversely affect the development of her child. Abortion was definitely not an option. She resolved to accept her child even if born with any abnormality.

Rizza bravely went through the operation. With a team of skilled doctors, it was successful. Seven months later, on Christmas day, she gave birth to a beautiful, healthy, and yes, normal baby girl – Camila Adelle.



However a couple of months after giving birth, Rizza experienced seizures. The increased level of hormones due to her pregnancy triggered a regrowth of her tumor. So on August 2014, she had a second operation to remove a 7-cm tumor. She also had to undergo radiation treatment. All of these depressed her.

On the fifth birth centennial of St. Teresa of Avila last 28 March 2015 she went back to Lipa Carmel. During this visit, she was given a small bottle of oil with a speck of rose petal (from one of the showers from the Blessed Mother) in it and a flyer of the story of the Mediatrix. She would massage some oil on her head everyday as she continued to pray the novena.

One day, Rizza went to the hospital for an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) diagnostic test to check for any regrowth. She decided to bring the flyer to read while waiting at the center. When she arrived at the center, she saw a nun dressed in all white. She took it as a sign that everything was going to be fine. Indeed, the result showed that the residual tumor was just the size of a small corn kernel. And it had stopped growing!

While waiting at the reception area, she was seated beside a mother who brought in her two-year-old child for MRI also. She shared her story and her devotion to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace and encouraged her to visit Lipa Carmel to ask for Her intercession. She gave the flyer and the bottle of oil to the woman. From one mother to another, the devotion to the Blessed Mother was passed on!

**Based on the personal sharing of Ms. Reyes to the writer (Nov 2015)*



Other Short Testimonies of Our Blessed Mother's Love to Her Devotees

The following are excerpts taken by the writer from signed testimonies and affidavits made available to Lipa Carmel.

Teresita (Tehet) Africa in 1992 had a lump on her right thyroid. She fervently prayed day and night to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace to spare her from a similar surgery she had in 1978 for a lump on her left thyroid. The lump disappeared. Twenty-three years have passed, the lump has not returned. Tehet, now 87 years old, has not wavered in her devotion to our Blessed Mother.

Santiago Datu Sapadas of Davao City converted from Islam to Catholicism in 2000 after witnessing the healing of his Catholic wife Minda from her critical condition due to an enlarged heart.

Mrs. Nieves Puyod came to the hospital with a priest for the last sacraments. She placed a rose petal from Lipa and a picture of Sister Faustina on his wife's chest, and incessantly prayed, begging for the intercession of the Blessed Mother for healing.




Mrs. **Rufina Canlas**, or Nanay Pining, of Tondo, Manila narrated an incident when a middle aged woman holding a *bayong* (native woven basket) knocked on her apartment door begging for alms one evening. She was meek and calm, beautiful, had long hair, wearing white clothes and barefooted. When asked where she was from, the stranger replied “*Sa Lipa po*” (“I came from Lipa.”)



Nanay Pining was momentarily distracted by her child so when she returned to the door to hand the woman a few coins, she had disappeared. She attempted to look for her in the neighborhood but failed. Passing by a drugstore, she was given a calendar as a Christmas giveaway by the owner Mrs. Natividad. She had goose bumps upon seeing Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace in the calendar. The woman who came begging at her door looked exactly like her.

Nanay Pining became a devotee of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. She is the mother of Msgr. Bobby Canlas who is also a firm believer in the Mediatrix of Lipa.





Juanito Salazar of Calauan, Laguna was scheduled for an operation at the San Pablo Hospital one day in October 1989 to remove a mass formation on the right iliac area with very acute infection. But no surgery took place because one of the doctors did not arrive. Relieved that it was postponed, he and his wife again visited the hospital chapel. The 4-foot tall statue of the Blessed Mother with outstretched arms that was not there the day before struck him. He placed his hands on Her hands, prayed for healing, and then ran his hands over his stomach. The pain immediately ceased. Feeling cured, he refused any operation and instead requested for a physical examination and diagnostic tests. To the doctor's surprise, he was completely healed! Before his discharge, he visited the chapel to thank the Blessed Mother.

He returned to the hospital two days later for his check-up. He dropped by the chapel for a candle offering but did not find the statue. He asked the hospital staff, describing the statue but was told that the hospital only had the statue of our Lady of Fatima at the entrance. For 3 years, he and his wife relentlessly kept searching for the statue.

In October 1992, he was given a copy of the book "*Lipa*" written by June Keithley by neighbors Ruben and Lulu Orig. As he went through the book, he saw the picture of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. He felt emotional and hugged the book. Days later, he and his family went on a pilgrimage to Lipa Carmel. At the little chapel, he shamelessly cried as he saw the same statue that he had seen in the hospital!



A Marian Pilgrimage

Carmel of Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace
Carmelite Monastery
Torres St., Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Batangas, Philippines 4217
Landline: (043) 756 2234

The Carmel Monastery is open everyday from 5am to 6pm.
Entrance and parking is FREE.



Photo Credit: Fr. Eric Joaquin V. Arada

Areas of interest: (Other areas are restricted to the general public)

- Prayer Deck/Apparition Site
- Main Chapel
- Original image of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace (side chapel)

Regular Mass Schedule at the Main Chapel

Monday to Friday	6am
Saturday (ordinary)	6am / 8am
1 st Saturday of the month	6am / 8am / 9am / 11am / 4pm
Sunday	6am / 7:30am / 9am / 11am
Every 12 th of the month	4pm after the 3pm Penitential Procession that starts at the Lipa Cathedral



Prayer Deck and Apparition Site

Our Lady appeared to Sister Teresing in the garden within the walls of the monastery, making it inaccessible to the general public. The Prayer Deck was built in 2010 to allow pilgrims to view the vine where our Lady appeared in 1948.

Pilgrims can spend quiet time overlooking the apparition site. For group tours, an area is available for private masses.

A motorized lift is available for PWDs to get to the prayer deck.



The original 4-ft tall statue of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace is enshrined at the right side chapel inside the main chapel.

Pilgrims can comfortably meditate in front of our Lady.



How to Get to Carmel Monastery

A. By public transportation

- At the bus station near Buendia-LRT station, take a bus going to “Lipa-Calabarzon/Lipa SM/Tambo”. (Available bus companies plying the route are JAM, ALPS, DLTBCO, RRCG, CERES)
- Get off at Brgy. Tambo along Pres. Jose P. Laurel Hi-way corner STAR Toll (corner with Jollibee outlet)
- Take the jeep to “Palengke”. Get off at the intersection of CM Recto St.
- Take the tricycle and ask to be brought to “Carmel”

Alternative route (if bus passes via Tanauan)

- Get off at the Lipa City Hall
- Take jeep and disembark at the Lipa Cathedral
- Take the tricycle and ask to be brought to “Carmel”

B. By private transportation

- Take SLEX headed south
- After the SLEX Calamba exit, continue on to the STAR (Southern Tagalog Arterial Road) toll way
- From STAR, take the exit towards Lipa
- After the toll plaza, turn right onto Pres. Jose P. Laurel Hi-way. (Landmark is a Jollibee branch at the corner)
- Continue on passing La Salle Lipa at your left towards roundabout in front of the Robinsons Mall
- Continue on passing Burger King outlet to your right.
- Turn right onto Altimarano St.
From Altimarano St, turn left the first intersection onto MK Luna St.
- Continue on towards CM Recto St passing the Redemptorist Church at your right.
- Turn right onto Torres St. (you will not reach the San Sebastian Cathedral)
- Continue on till you see the Carmelite Monastery at your right fronting the TOTAL gas station.





Prayers to
MARY MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE



Daily Novena to Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace

Recite with devotion and fervor five decades of the Rosary, meditating on the Joyful, Sorrowful or Glorious mysteries as the Virgin asked at Fatima; then say:

V. Incline unto my aid, O Lord
R. Lord, make haste to help me
V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
R. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you O Virgin of all virgins my Mother, to you do I come; before you I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

(3 years indulgence. Plenary once a month if recited daily, S.P. Ap. 8 Sept 1935)

We fly to Your protection, O Holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers. O glorious and blessed Virgin Mary.

(5 years indulgence. Plenary once a month if recited daily. 12 Dec 1935)

Recite three times the Hail Mary and Glory to the Father.

(To all the faithful who recite devoutly three times the Glory to the Father, morning, noon, and evening, to thank the Most Holy Trinity for the graces and privileges bestowed on the Blessed Virgin Mary, the following indulgences are granted: 500 days each time and Plenary once a month if recited daily. 25 March 1936)

Remember us, O Virgin Mother of God, in the presence of the Lord, and do you speak in our favor so that His wrath may be averted from us.

(300 days indulgence. Plenary once a month if recited daily; 22 Nov 1934)

V. Our most powerful Mediatrix, pray for us.
R. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Mediator with the Father, who has appointed the most Blessed Virgin, Your Mother, to be our Mother also and our Mediatrix before You; grant that whosoever draws near to You to beseech any benefit, may rejoice to receive all things through Her. You who live and reign with God the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

HEALING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
I call on You right now in a special way.
It is through Your power that I was created.
Every breath I take, every morning I wake,
and every moment of every hour,
I live under Your power.

Father, I ask you now to touch me with that same power.
For if You created me from nothing,
You can certainly recreate me.
Fill me with the healing power of Your spirit.
Cast out anything that should not be in me.
Mend what is broken.
Root out any unproductive cells.
Open any blocked arteries or veins
and rebuild any damaged areas.
Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection.

Let the warmth of Your healing love
pass through my body
to make new any unhealthy areas
so that my body will function
the way You created it to function.

And Father, restore me to full health in mind and body
so that I may serve You the rest of my life.

I ask this through the intercession of
Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace,
St. Joseph, and
Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of Consecration to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace

*I, (name), a faithless sinner,
renew and ratify today in your hands the vows of my Baptism;
and I renounce forever Satan, his pomp and works,
and I give myself entirely to your Son,
Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom,
to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life
and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before.*

*I humbly consecrate myself, my family, my country,
the Catholic Church, especially the religious and the clergy
and the entire human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ
and to your Immaculate Heart.*

*I invoke You, under the title close to your heart,
as our Mother and Mediatrix of All Grace.
Intercede and mediate to Christ for us, your Son and Our Lord
who is All Life, All Holiness, and All Grace Himself.*

*Obtain for us the triumph against the evil forces
that seek to destroy the family, the sacrament of marriage
and the sanctity of human life.*

*In the presence of the Holy Court
I choose You this day for my Mother and Queen.
I deliver and consecrate to you,
as your slave, my body and soul,
my goods both interior and exterior
and even the value of all my good actions
– past, present, and future –
leaving to you the entire and full right of disposing of me
and all that belongs to me, without exception,
according to your good pleasure,
for the greater glory of God and in eternity.*

Amen.

Appendix

A Copy of the Decree of November 12, 2009
Archbishop Ramon Arguelles
Anniversary of the last Apparition of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace

Decree

Whereas, on April 12, 1951 the then Apostolic Administrator of Lipa, Rufino J. Santos, D.D., issued a decree banning public veneration of the image of Our Lady Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace;

Whereas, while the Carmelite nuns and some others, most especially the Lipa clergy, obediently observed the ban, the great majority of ordinary faithful silently but perseveringly continued their prayer to and devotion towards the Mediatrix of All Grace;

Whereas, on July 16, 1991 after 40 years of silence the Most Rev Mariano G. Gaviola in effect lifted the ban and allowed the veneration of the Image of Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace for the people to pray for world peace;

Whereas, the fervor of numerous faithful from the Archdiocese of Lipa and from elsewhere continued and even increased throughout the subsequent years and many miracles of physical and spiritual healing have been ceaselessly reported;

Whereas, increasing number of pilgrims heed the supposed call of the Blessed Mother Mediatrix of All Grace by visiting the monastery making penitential processions and praying almost every day but most of all on first Saturdays and every twelfth day of the month;

Whereas, the faithful seek from the official church guidance and assistance in deeper faith;

Whereas, the local church of Lipa that will celebrate its centenary from April 10, 2010 to April 10, 2011 looks forward to a deeper renewal of faith in all the faithful and the increase in

missionary fervor with the help of Mary, the Star of Third Millennium Evangelization;

Whereas in the last one hundred years apparently the issue on the Mediatrix of All Grace, regardless of the authenticity or not of the so-called Marian apparitions in the Carmel of Lipa, is the most celebrated event recorded of this local Church;

So, therefore, I, the undersigned Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Lipa declare and publicly announce:

1. That pursuant to the instructions and conditions issued by my predecessor Archbishop Mariano G. Gaviola, the decree of 1951 is hereby reversed;
2. That the public veneration of the image of Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace in the Carmelite Monastery of Lipa be continued and made available for the prayer of the pilgrims for true peace in our nation and the sanctification of all priests;
3. That the contemplative and prayerful atmosphere of the Carmelite monastery as willed by the reforms of St. Teresa of Avila be properly maintained for the edification and spiritual growth of the pilgrims who join the prayers of the contemplatives of the said place;
4. That all bans written or unwritten intended to curtail or diminish the devotion to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace **be lifted**;
5. Finally, that a new commission be established to review the documents about the so-called apparitions in 1948 as well as to compile further documents thereafter up to the present.

Given this 12th day of November in the year of the Lord two thousand and nine.

Archbishop Ramón C. Argüelles, D.D.
Archbishop of Lipa

A copy of the Decree of September 12, 2015
Archbishop Ramon Arguelles
Anniversary of the
Apparition of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace

DECREE

WHEREAS, THE TITLE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE HAS BEEN ASCRIBED TO THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD ALREADY IN AGES PAST EVEN DURING THE PERIOD OF THE EARLIEST CHURCH FATHERS;

WHEREAS, THE FAITHFUL OF BELGIUM UNDER THE SHEPHERD CARE OF THEN CARDINAL MERCIER FOSTERED THE DEVOTION TO THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE AND ENDORSED THE DOGMATIC DEFINITION OF MARY AS MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE;

WHEREAS, THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CHINA CONSECRATED IN 1942 THE CHURCH IN CHINA TO MARY MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE ASSURING THE FIDELITY OF CATHOLICS TO THE CHURCH EVEN IN THE MOST TRYING MOMENTS THUS RENDERING THE CHURCH IN CHINA STRONG AND FAITHFUL;

WHEREAS, THE BLESSED MOTHER APPEARED TO A CARMELITE POSTULANT NAMED TERESITA CASTILLO SEVERAL TIMES IN 1948 MAKING HERSELF KNOWN AS THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE;

WHEREAS, THE SAID POSTULANT AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPARITION ENDURED SEVERE SUFFERINGS GIVING PROOF OF THE REALIZATION OF THE WARNING GIVEN BY THE BLESSED MOTHER HERSELF: **'You will suffer, you will be ridiculed, but fear not, because your faith will bring you to Heaven';**

WHEREAS, THE SECOND BISHOP OF LIPA, THE FIRST FILIPINO BISHOP OF THIS LOCAL CHURCH, WHO SPENT THIRTY FOUR YEARS (1916-1950) OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY IN THIS DIOCESE THAT THEN EXTENDS FROM THE PRESENT PROVINCE OF AURORA TO THE BOUNDARIES OF BICOLANDIA, SENT BACK HUMILIATED TO HIS

HOMETOWN, VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR, BECAUSE OF MISMANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE DEVOTION TO THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE, REVEALED UNTIL HIS UNTIMELY DEATH SANCTITY OF LIFE AND TOTAL SUBMISSION TO GOD'S HOLY WILL;

WHEREAS, THE FIRST BATANGUENO BISHOP, THE FIRST AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF LIPA, AFTER EXPRESSING CREDENCE IN THE MARIAN APPARITION IN LIPA AND CONSEQUENTLY UNTIMELY MOVED TO SERVE ONLY AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE THEN NEWLY ERECTED DIOCESE OF LUCENA UNTIL ALMOST THE MOMENT OF HIS DEMISE, SHOWED HOLINESS AND HUMBLY OBEYED THE VERDICT METED ON HIM;

WHEREAS, THE APRIL 10, 1951, DOCUMENT DECLARING THERE WAS NOTHING SUPERNATURAL IN THE ALLEGED APPARITIONS AND MIRACLES IN LIPA, WAS FROM THE VERY START SEEN WITH A SHADOW OF DOUBT BECAUSE OF NOTARIZED TESTIMONIES THAT NEAR THE END OF THEIR LIFE THE BISHOP SIGNATORIES EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEF IN THE SAID MARIAN APPARITION;

WHEREAS, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DIOCESE OF LIPA AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE RESIDENT BISHOP IN THE APRIL 11, 1951, DOCUMENT FORBADE THE DEVOTION TO THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE BUT IN SEPTEMBER 25, 1963, APPROVED AND ALLOWED THE SPREAD OF THE SAID DEVOTION;

WHEREAS, ON JULY 16, 1992, ARCHBISHOP MARIANO GAVIOLA LIFTED THE 1951 BAN ON THE DEVOTION TO THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE AFTER DUE PRAYER AND STUDY OPENLY EXPRESSING HIS BELIEF IN THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE 1948 MARIAN APPARITIONS IN LIPA;

WHEREAS, THE DEVOTION OF THE FAITHFUL FROM NEAR AND FAR TO THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE HAS NEVER WANED DURING THE PROSCRIPTION PERIOD AND OPENLY DEVELOPED EVEN MORE AFTER THE DECLARATION OF ARCHBISHOP GAVIOLA;

WHEREAS, IN SPITE OF THE SUPPOSED BAN OF THE DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED MOTHER MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE, THE DIOCESE OF DIGOS AND THE DIOCESE OF KIDAPAWAN ARE PLACED UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF MARY, MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE, AND MANY PARISHES IN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO HAVE BEEN DEDICATED IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED MOTHER UNDER THIS PREFERRED TITLE;

WHEREAS, THE UNDERSIGNED, INCUMBENT ARCHBISHOP OF LIPA, OPENLY EXPRESSING BELIEF IN THE LIPA PHENOMENON AND THE FIRM PRESENCE OF MARY IN LIPA OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED THE YEARLY MARIAN DAYS OF PRAYER AND PILGRIMAGE TO LIPA WHICH STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 12, 2004, DRAWING EVER GROWING NUMBER OF PILGRIMS NOT ONLY FROM THE PHILIPPINES BUT ALSO FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD;

WHEREAS THIS PRAYERFUL GATHERING WITH MARY HAS BEEN REPLICATED IN MANY NATIONS IN EUROPE, IN THE AMERICAS, IN ASIA, EVEN IN AFRICA AND

WHEREAS, THE SAME ARCHBISHOP, IN NOVEMBER 12, 2009, REINFORCED THE 1992 GAVIOLA DECLARATION IN ENCOURAGING THE DEVOTION TO THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE EVERYWHERE BELIEVERS AND LOVERS OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER ARE TO BE FOUND;

WHEREAS, BESIDES THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND EVEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS, THE DEVOTION TO THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE CONTINUE TO SPREAD AND BRING UNITY AMONG PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES AND SHOWER UNTOLD BLESSINGS;

WHEREAS, THE LOVE FOR THE HOLY MOTHER AND THE APPRECIATION OF THE URGENCY OF THE PLEA OF THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY AS SEEN IN THE GREAT THRONG GATHERING IN LIPA AND IN THE EVER MORE BEAUTIFUL CELEBRATION OF THE TAAL LAKE MARIAN FLUVIAL PROCESSION (REGATTA);

WHEREAS, SEVERAL (ARCH)BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND LAY LEADERS JOIN IN CALLING MANY DEVOTEES TO GO ON PILGRIMAGE TO LIPA CARMEL LEADING TO THE JANUARY 2013 ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE BY THE CBCP;

WHEREAS, THE BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER UNDER HER TITLE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE LEADS CATHOLIC AND MARIAN PHILIPPINES IN STEADFAST STRUGGLE IN DEFENSE OF LIFE, THE SACREDNESS OF THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE, THE INTEGRITY OF THE FAMILY, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL UNION OF MAN AND WIFE;

WHEREAS, THE HELP OF THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE IS MOST ESSENTIAL AS THE PHILIPPINES, THIS PUEBLO AMANTE DE MARIA, SHOWS AND LEADS THE WORLD IN THE EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION, TO RENEW ITSELF ACCORDING TO THE STAND POINT OF FAITH IN GOD, TO REJECT THE PREVALENCE OF MATERIALISM, SECULARISM AND ATHEISM, TO UPHOLD THE CULTURE OF GOODNESS, LOVE, GENEROSITY, SELFLESSNESS, SHARING AND SOLIDARITY AMONG INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS;

WHEREAS, THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE IS MUCH SOUGHT FOR TO LIVE THE DEMANDS OF THE CHURCH OF THE POOR, FOR THE POOR AND WITH THE POOR, SO THAT THE YEAR FOR THE POOR WILL BE NO MERE SLOGAN BUT A REALITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST WHO IN HIS POVERTY ENRICHES ALL HUMANITY;

WHEREAS, THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE IS NEEDED VERY MUCH TO BRING ABOUT A TRUE AND LASTING TRANSFORMATION IN THIS NATION WHOSE CALL TO BE THE BEARER OF THE GOOD NEWS MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ITS TOTALITY: NAMELY, IN THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMICAL AND SPIRITUAL SPHERE;

WHEREAS, THE PHILIPPINES, CALLED TO BE THE HUMBLE INSTRUMENTS AND EAGER COMPANIONS OF THE STAR OF THIRD MILLENNIUM EVANGELIZATION, MARY,

MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE, NEED HER TO COMBAT ALL KINDS OF CORRUPTION, ERADICATE ALL KINDS OF ADDICTIONS, ERASE ALL FORMS OF SELF-CENTEREDNESS, OPPOSE THE CULTURE OF GREED;

SO THEREFORE, I, BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE, THE SEVENTH BISHOP OF THIS LOCAL CHURCH OF LIPA, THE FIFTH ARCHBISHOP OF THIS METROPOLITAN SEE, THE MOST UNWORTHY SERVUS ANCILLAE FILIUS, DECLARE WITH MORAL CERTAINTY AND WITH THE BEST INTENTIONS AND HOPES IN MIND, SEEKING THE COMPLIANCE OF THE NORMS OF THE HOLY SEE, ACTING FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD AND ASCERTAINING ALWAYS GREATER LOVE FOR HOLY MOTHER THE CHURCH,

THAT THE EVENTS AND APPARITION OF 1948 ALSO KNOWN AS THE MARIAN PHENOMENON IN LIPA AND ITS AFTERMATH EVEN IN RECENT TIMES DO EXHIBIT SUPERNATURAL CHARACTER AND IS WORTHY OF BELIEF.

THUS I ENCOURAGE THE DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY MOTHER MARY UNDER HER REVERED AND WORTHY TITLE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE.

GIVEN THIS 12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF MARY, OBSERVED IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA AS FEAST OF MARY, MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE, IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD, TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN.

(Signed) RAMÒN CABRERA ARGÜELLES, DD

BIBLIOGRAPHY

I am Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace, Teresita Castillo

Reflections, Most Rev. Mariano G. Gaviola, D.D., J.C.D.

The Wonders of Lipa, Dr. Francisco C. Villanueva, Jr.

The Virgin Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace, Gloria Falcão Dodd (copyright ©2009), Academy of the Immaculate, New Bedford, MA.

Lipa, June Keithley, (copyright ©1992), Cacho Publishing House

33 Days to Morning Glory – A Do-It-Yourself Retreat In Preparation for Marian Consecration, Michael E. Gaitley, MIC (copyright ©2011 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.)

The Lipa Carmel Apparitions: The Shower of Roses and The Revolving Sun (An in-depth study in response to Our Lady's plea for truth to prevail worldwide), Efigenia Aurora Lagman, 2007

<http://www.amsterdamapparitions.com/author/fr-manfred-hauke/> **Fr. Manfred Hauke** (Mary Mediatrix of Grace, [February 27, 2012](#) by [Fr. Manfred Hauke](#))

The Movement for a Dogmatic Definition of Mary's Universal Mediation of Grace (Iloilo Chapter), Commission on the Laity, Archbishop's Residence, Jaro, Iloilo City 5000.

This book is about our Blessed Mother and her desire to be known, loved and venerated as "Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace." It is about the extraordinary gift of God to the Filipino people of our Lady's apparitions and miracles in 1948. The apparitions accompanied with showers of rose petals were investigated and shrouded in controversy. Over the years, the devotion to Mary Mediatrix of All Grace had not been easy and caused a lot of suffering to Teresita, the Carmelite community, the Church leadership in Lipa, and Her devotees. But those who remained steadfast in their faith and in the truth of Her apparitions would experience Her grace and grow in holiness.

On the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the apparitions last 12 September 2015, the Archbishop of Lipa, the Most Reverend Ramón C. Argüelles, DD, STL issued a decree stating -

"That the events and apparition of 1948 also known as the Marian phenomenon in Lipa and its aftermath even in recent times do exhibit supernatural character and is worthy of belief. Thus I encourage the devotion to the most Holy Mother Mary under Her revered and worthy title MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE."



Author Rene C. de Jesus is a member of the Volunteers of God branch of the Focolare Movement. He writes for Focolare's New City Magazine and is a member of its Editorial Board. In his chosen apostolate at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, he directs spiritual formation meetings for inmates at the maximum-security compound.

He is founder and president of ThinkTools Training and Consulting that brought the Edward de Bono Thinking Programs to the Philippines. In 2004, he became the first independent and accredited trainer of de Bono Thinking Systems in the Philippines certified in Dr. de Bono's Six Thinking Hats[®], Direct Attention Thinking Tools[™] and Lateral Thinking[®] programs.