

# BRINGING THE CARMELITE SAINTS ALIVE

SEVENTEENTH EDITION 2025



IN THIS MONTH OF AUGUST, WE WILL BE HIGHLIGHTING  
BLESSED MARIA SAGRARIO OF SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA WHOSE FEAST DAY IS AUGUST 16TH



THE MOST DIRECT WAY TO UNITE OURSELVES TO GOD IS THAT OF THE CROSS,  
SO, WE SHOULD ALWAYS DESIRE IT.

Elvira Moragas Cantarero who became Blessed Maria Sagrario of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, was born in Lilo, Spain, January 8, 1881, to Richard Moragas and Isabel Cantarero, the third of four children. She was a Spanish Nun of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel. Following in her father's footsteps, she became a student of pharmacy, excelling in this field, and became one of the first women in Spain to become a pharmacist. Although she had excellent prospects in pharmacy, and much ability, she eventually discerned a call to the religious life, and after some necessary delay to aid her family, she was admitted as a postulant to the Carmel of St. Anne and St. Joseph in Madrid, in 1951. She was solemnly professed on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1920.

She became prioress of her community in 1927, and novice-mistress in 1930. She frequently told her novices of her desire to be a martyr. Just before the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, with its corresponding wave of virulent religious persecutions, she was elected prioress for the second time on July 1, 1936. On July 20<sup>th</sup> of that same year, the convent was attacked by a mob. Mother Maria Sagraria spirited her sisters to safety and sought shelter with one of them at the home of that sister's parents. She was arrested, along with the other sister, on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Surviving testimony well documents her serenity and abandonment to God's will. During interrogations she staunchly refused not to betray anyone and remained silent as her questioners asked where the convent's valuables were being hidden since raids revealed nothing of value. Instead, her silence caused great anger to her interrogators who pressed her for information. Her refusal prompted a militiaman to give her a piece of paper in which she wrote: "Viva Cristo Rey!" (Long Live Christ).

This infuriated the militiamen who decided to kill her if no information could be obtained from her. Blessed Maria was shot dead at the San Isidro hermitage after being transported there during the late evening on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1936, before midnight the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pope John Paul II confirmed the beatification of Maria Sagario de San Luis Gonzaga on March 8, 1997, after confirming that she had died in odium fidei ("in hatred of the faith"). The pope presided over the beatification rites in Saint Peter's Square on May 10, 1998. The current postulator for this cause is the Discalced Carmelite Romano Gambalunga. In 1998 the Archbishop of Madrid Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco Varela proposed her as a patron for pharmacist on the occasion of her beatification.

#### OUR CARMELITE MISSION

MAY WE EMBRACE MARY'S PURITY OF HEART (PURITAS CORDIAS), AS SHE HELPS US TO PONDER THE LAW OF THE LORD DAY AND NIGHT ASSISTING US TO BE CONTEMPLATIVES AND TEACHING US TO LISTEN. AS WE WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR FATHER AND LEADER ST. ELIJAH; WITH HIS FLAMING ZEAL AND COURAGE WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO COMBAT THE EVILS OF HIS DAY. MAY WE PRAY THAT HIS PROPHETIC SPIRIT BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR CARMELITE LIFE."

MAY OUR LADY'S MANTLE WRAP YOU ALL WITH HER PRECIOUS LOVE. ALL THROUGH THE IMMACULATE & SORROWFUL HEART & TEARS OF MARY, ALL THROUGH THE PURE AND CHASTE HEART OF ST. JOSEPH, ALL IN UNION WITH THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS. YOUR SISTER IN CARMEL, LINDA

