

CHILDHOOD

María Claudia Josefa Astorga Liceras, future "Mother Socorro", was born in Archidona on 30th of October 1769 in the breast of a family that offered her a careful education as much in the spiritual things as in the human things.

Her father Francisco de Astorga was a great builder, built among other many works the square Ochavada and the tower of the church of the monastery of the Minim nuns in 1790.



When she only counted three and a half years old, her mother died for what didn't remember anything about her, but she filled comfort to hear speak of her virtues and of the education that had began to give her.

She went this way growing her love to the Virgin for which distinguished all her life.



In those years of childhood, when she was still five years old, fearful of her stepmother and heart-stricken because her father had married again, she saw in dreams the Virgin Mary who took her as daughter, revering her from then on as Mother and lady. From that dream whenever she referred to the Virgin Mary, made it saying: "My Sweet Mother." **She went this way growing her love to the Virgin for which distinguished all her life.**



When she did the first Communion, with eight years old began to have greater knowledge of the religion. She liked to be alone at home; to kneel down in the floor and adore the Blessed Sacrament, since from their house located in the Church Square could see the parish, giving thanks to God for have made her His neighbour.

Since young she suffered with strength all the tribulations without complaining and without telling them to anybody, keeping them alone in silence.

YOUNG

With fourteen years, they wrote her a paper seeking her for marriage state; she didn't end up commenting it with anybody, not even with her parents, but didn't know how to respond.

She went crying to her Sweet Mother, requesting light to know the will of God. While she was praying, she understood that her "Sweet Mother" wanted her to be a nun.

With this knowledge increased more her desires to fast with more frequency, and to look for the way to be mortified. Many times, undercover, she fasted and kept the food, to give it as charity to the poor.

In the adolescence she worked helping in the house and taking care of her brothers.

On 5th October 1786, died Maria Cubero, the second wife of Francisco de Astorga (her father), this circumstance forced Maria to take the reins of the house.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

She decided to talk to her father, who was so good and of deep Christian roots, about the vocation and her burning desires of being religious, who told her that he was very happy because if the marriage state was good the religious one was better.

But where the will of God wanted her to enter?.

The answer soon arrived, a certain day of the novena of Saint Francis of Paola, Maria was in the church of the Victory of Archidona requesting light to the Holy Sacrament to know his holy will, she kept a lot of interior withdrawal and there understood that the Lord wanted her to enter in the Order of the Minims.



MINIM NUN

In the night of 27 August of 1799, María was preparing her self, because the following day, 28 of August the same year, day of Saint Augustine, she would take the habit. She wanted to break all ties that she had with the world; didn't want nobody to bother her; neither wanted parties, nor to say goodbye to the family members and friends.

That night she was unable to get a sleep, rose up very early in the morning, requested the blessing to her father and went to the church, where she confessed and received the Holy Communion. She explains that in the communion, seemed that her beloved Husband caressed her soul and He was happy with her entrance in religion and the firm intentions that she wanted to take out.



The fr. Provincial of the Minims called her Socorro as a religious name, when he authorized her entrance in the convent in 1799, saying that this was the name that God wanted her to have.

God wanted to give her as a present from the first years as a Minim Nun the cross of the illness that she knew to carry on with great generosity.

Her beloved Husband prepared her with a lot of interior withdrawal for her profession.

"I started my life with new fervours. Eager to fulfil the new obligations that i had entered in to with my loving Lord , with fidelity"

The first occupation that she exercised in the community was as a nurse, service that hardly left her time to assist the community prayers, but she exercised it with a lot of love since she used to see the Lord in all the sick persons.

In occasions during the work, she meditated on certain passages of the Passion.



She also exercised other occupations like that of porter and turner.

Occupations that caused her some troubles, but she knew how to over carry them with a lot of love and happiness.

Every day, before beginning to carry out the occupation, and to remove the bolt to the revolving widow, she used to prostrate on the floor and pray.

She used to provide food to the many poor people who went to the revolving widow asking for help.



Her spiritual writings are fruit of the obedience to her spiritual director who ordered her to write all her spiritual experiences. Through them, M.SOCORRO states to the world the **GREAT MERCY AND GOODNESS OF GOD.**

The penitential charism of the Order of the Minim, of atonement, repair and intercession, was strongly marked in M. Socorro.

"And she spent the whole time of her personal prayer, requesting mercy for all the sinners"



In February of 1813, her writings were interrupted, we don't know the reasons, and the fact is that on 31st of March 1814, died in prise of holiness at 44 years old.



Saint Francis of Paula founder of the Order of the Minims

For more information, to communicate the graces received and contributions contact with:
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Sr. M^a del Socorro Astorga Liceras. (Minim Nun)



"Blessed be to God of infinite Goodness, God of infinite Mercy, God of infinite Love."

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