

Letter 1
Miss Maria Jimenez

Atotonilco, September 24, 1910

Miss Maria Jimenez (*no data could be found regarding this person*)

My esteemed Maria,

Better late than never! Finally, I now have the pleasure of answering your much-appreciated letter. So! You've been very sad. *Pobrecita!* **Yes, it's proper to our nature to feel depressed sometimes and then at other times to feel very joyful and strong enough for anything. Blessed be God. These changing feelings can help us to understand just how changeable this life of ours really is. These feelings can also help us to detach ourselves and focus our desires toward heaven.** Do you agree? I hope that you'll be stopping by and I'll be very happy to see you. I'm also hoping that God has already given you the solution to the needs that you mentioned in your letter.

May God our Lord fill you with His love and holy joy. Good-bye.

Affectionately yours in Christ,

Luisa of the Holy Eucharist

Letter 2
Miss Maria Jimenez

09-30-1911

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Miss Maria Jimenez
Rancho Viejo (Old Ranch)

The peace of our Lord be with you, my dear Maria.

It wasn't possible for me to answer your kind letter because I received it just as I was beginning my yearly retreat in Guadalajara. I'm doing so now not only greet to you, but to show you my good will in helping you in any way I that I can; therefore, tell your

papacito (an affectionate term for father) that we're already praying in Community for his intentions, and that we'll be very happy to continue doing so, trusting that God our Lord will grant him the grace he wishes regarding his present need. God is so good and powerful that we shouldn't doubt that He will grant it.

When are you coming to visit us? It's been a long time since I've had the pleasure of seeing you. May God grant you the grace to take a little pleasure trip and then I'll give you a little scolding.

Be very good, my Maria, and valiant in suffering whatever our Lord disposes for you.

Good-bye. Give my regards to your parents and to Trinita.

Yours in Christ,
Luisa of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Letter 3
Miss Adelaida Navarro

Atotonilco, May 9, 1920

Miss Adelaida Navarro
Ocotlan

My very esteemed little sister in Christ,

It is a pleasure for me to send you these lines and a very affectionate greeting, thanking you for your kind condolence letter which you sent me from the Chapel (*the town of Guadalupe Chapel, near Atotonilco*).

In my humble opinion, you should be very happy precisely because of these contradictions which you are encountering in trying to establish the venerable Order of Carmel because, as you well know, difficulties in this kind of work are the seal of approval for God's plans. What else could you wish for other than the certainty that what you are doing is pleasing to God? Do not fear, in spite of the scarecrows that the devil is placing on your path. Always be firm, and carry on the beautiful work

you have begun, letting it also be for our Blessed Mother.

We'll continue praying for the healing of the lawyer (*Adelaida's brother*) because he is a person very useful to the Church, and also for your other brother, *pobrecito*. **You'll see, Adelita, how our good Lord is going to make everything come out all right. Just have a little patience and fortitude and, of course, great confidence in God.**

The two sisters, Jesusita and Conception, reciprocate your kind greetings and we commend ourselves to your prayers and greet your esteemed family. I'm also very happy that the image of our Blessed Mother turned out so beautifully. It will do much good to the people of Ocotlan.

That God our Lord fill you with His divine love is the prayer of your affectionate friend in Christ who appreciates you in God and for God.

Luisa of the Blessed Sacrament

**Letter 4
Miss Adelaida Navarro**

J.M. + J.T.

Atotonilco el Alto
May 21, 1921

Miss Adelaida Navarro

May Jesus be with you, my dear sister. The bearer of this note is a little upset, so I'll have to be brief. I want you to know through these lines that, thanks be to God, the foundation of the Tertian Cloistered Carmelites is now established in this house. I think you'll be very happy and will help us to thank God our Lord.

My best regards to your beloved family.

May you be a saint.

Sister Maria Luisa J. of the Blessed Sacrament, T.C.E.

Letter 5

Miss Adelaida Navarro

House of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Atotonilco el Alto
May 5, 1922

Miss Adelaida Navarro
Ocotlan

My very esteemed little sister,

May Jesus be with you and fill you with His holy love.

Forgive me for having taken so long to answer you, but it was really impossible for me to do so. However, now I'm very happy to be able to greet you and answer your kind letter.

I had been expecting you after your promise to come over, but the time you specified has already passed. What happened?

Regarding the House you want to establish (*she wanted Mother Luisita to begin a school in Ocotlan*), it seems to me you'll attain it if you persevere, and I'm sure it will be very pleasing to God because it will be a *palomacito (novitiate)* of His Blessed Mother. Let's leave this beautiful work to be accomplished through her hands.

About the girl you mention in your letter, it would be enough to have your recommendation and that of the pastor for her to do whatever it takes to be accepted in our Community. I wish she could come to visit us whenever it would be possible for her, or at least have her write to me.

Adelita, I sent you notice about the death of my mother. I commend her to your prayers.

Sister Maria Teresa greets you affectionately and your sisters, also. Please tell them I do, too.

The least of your sisters in Christ, who commends herself to your prayers.

Sister M. Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, T.C.D.

Letter 6
Mrs. Maria de Jesus Chavez

J.M. + J.T.

House of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Atotonilco el Alto, August 22,
1923.

Mrs. Maria de Jesus M. Vda. (*widow of*) Chavez
(*the mother of Mother Carmen de Jesus (Mother Carmelita) and*
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face.)
Durango

Very esteemed in Christ,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

With great joy I greet you affectionately in Our Lord, wishing you to
be well.

It would be a great pleasure to see you all, and now that Sor
Guadalupe (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face*
Chavez Martinez) will be receiving the holy habit, I hope that
somehow you'll obtain the means to come over. What a great
surprise it would be for your daughters and for us as well!

Give thanks to God our Lord for the many graces that He has
bestowed on your daughters. Both have been well in body and soul.
They are very good religious. Blessed be God! Pray to God our
Lord that they will become saints.

I congratulate you upon the birth of your new grandson. One more
soul in your family to praise God!

We have been praying for the intention you mentioned in your little.
May God remedy that immense need which is causing the Church
in Durango so much suffering.

My best regards to your beloved family.

Affectionately yours in Christ from one who appreciates you in

God and wishes for you to be a saint.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, T.C.D.

Letter 7

**Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez,
Archbishop of Guadalajara**

J.M. + J.T.

Cloistered Tertian Carmelites Discalced established at the Hospital of Atotonilco el Alto

Your Excellency:

The Superior of the Cloistered Tertian Discalced Carmelite Sisters established in Atotonilco el Alto informs Your Excellency that she has received a letter from Father Jesus Angulo, pastor, informing her that he has in his possession the permission granted by the Archbishop for the foundation of one of our Houses to take care of the education at San Francisco de Asis (*the parish of St. Francis of Assis*) parish.

I humbly beg Your Excellency to deign to give your permission so that the Mother Vicar and myself may go and establish the said House and to take four sisters with us who will be the ones to take care of that house at this time.

May God our Lord guard Your Excellency's life for many years to come.

Atotonilco el Alto, May 16, 1924.

(no signature)

Letter 8

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

December of 1924

Sister Guadalupe del Nino Jesus (*of the Infant Jesus*)

San Francisco

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul, my very beloved daughter.

I greet you with much affection, praying to the Divine Child of Bethlehem to give you a year filled with merits for heaven.

The other day when I wrote to the sisters I didn't write to you because there just wasn't enough time. Now, thanks be to God, He is allowing me some time to let you know of my gratitude for your loving little letter. Thank you, my daughter, and may God bless you.
Be good. Do not offend your God.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Letter 9

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

May Jesus be with my most beloved daughter, Maria del Socorro. I greet you most affectionately in Our Lord.

Thank you so much for your note. You'll be receiving your "santos" (*All Saints' Day*) penny (*little gift*) when God our Lord grants us the grace of seeing each other. Be very good, my daughter, and don't you ever displease your God Who loves you so much.

Without any more time left to continue, I beg you to pray to our good God for me.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Letter 10

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

J.M. + J.T.

Jesus

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in the soul of my dear daughter, Socorro, in Jesus Christ.

I greet you affectionately in God our Lord and I'm so very glad you are well. **I'm suppose that you have been very pleasing to our good God with your rigorous observance, the observance to which all religious are called. We need also to practice solid virtue and I mean solid. Practice true humility and rectitude of intention so all your actions, ordinary as they may be, will gain great merit before God our Lord.**

I congratulate you for your renewal. I hope it was pleasing to God. I don't see any inconvenience in sending a note to Father Sanchez (*Father Arcadio Medrano Sanchez, pastor in Atotonilco*). You may do it.

Practice your penmanship now that you've a little free time and study. I wish you could buy the Catechism of Perseverance, the abridged version. I do think, though, that we have it at home. We also have Sacred History. I'll be sending you something you can use for the school. Over here the sisters are getting ready to begin the school year.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Approximate date: 1924. (Mother Socorro Cholico renewed her vows in 1924. Her final profession was in 1925.)

Letter 11

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(no date)

J.M. + J.T.

Jesus

May God our Lord make my precious daughter, Refugita, a saint. With all my affection in Our Lord, I greet you and congratulate you for your renewal (of vows). I hope that God

our Lord Who received your vows will also give you the grace to keep them because the keeping of our vows is our sacred duty.

Let's bless Our Lord for granting you the joy of seeing your two brothers. The satisfaction that this gave you was a very just one. Now, try not to allow your affection to deviate from your God. We have to be very careful with our relatives because very easily, and almost without noticing it, they can rob God of what belongs to Him alone. Be careful!

Try not to go in the street, even if you want to visit blessed Teresita (*Blessed Teresita of the Child Jesus had not yet been canonized a saint*). You can pray to her right there in your own house where her picture is. **Be careful about getting dissipated. Try to be very recollected and don't forget the need we have for religious modesty. No idle conversations; that's very harmful to the spirit.**

Good-bye, my daughter. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.
Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament.

Approximate date: 1924. (Sister Maria del Refugio made her renewal of vows in 1924 and her final vows in 1925. St. Therese of the Child Jesus was still Blessed Therese at the beginning of 1924.)

Letter 12

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

J.M. + J.T.

October 5, 1925

R.H. (*Reverend Sister*) Josefina,

May Jesus be in your soul, my dearest daughter.

Most certainly I have received your kind little letters with joy. May God reward you.

I think that it would be perfectly fine for you to prepare the celebration for Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the*

Holy Face Chavez Martinez). You have my permission, or better still, my orders.

Give Luisa whatever she needs to get the Baby Jesus [statue] repaired and help her with the expenses for [the statue of] St. Therese and the image of our Mother St. Teresa. We'll have to wait awhile, though, because right now it isn't possible either to order them or to keep them in the house. When we do place the order, the size would have to be at least a meter and a half. Don't you think that would be better? Eventually I'll be going there, and at that time we can order them.

Is the medicine helping you at all? I hope you are well in body and spirit.

Form a beautiful and rich tabernacle for Our Lord within your heart and then do not let Him go. In that way, you will always have Him with you. Enter within yourself, and meeting Him, tell Him all your experiences.

It is only just for you to write to Victorita (*the first director of the school in Atotonilco*) each month. She's feeling much better now.

If you see Luisita please tell her, or you could send word to her in order to make her happy.

Pray for Rosario and Maria Barrera because the fifteenth is their deadline.

May you be very happy and filled with the love of God.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 13
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

May Jesus be in your soul, my beloved daughter, Socorro.

A very happy Easter to you and great joy in Our Lord, my daughter. **We should never open the door of our souls to sadness. Especially during these days the spouses of Christ shouldn't be sad but smiling serenely and without tears-- those tears aren't good.** What is that? Crying because mother made her vows and you did not? That's no reason to cry. May God deliver us from those moods! You'll be making your vows when your superiors decide, and not on whatever feast one's spirit of self-will wishes to make them. That spirit of self-will isn't good at all.

Eat well and sleep well, obediently. That shaking that comes upon you is the result of not eating well and going to bed so late the previous evening. **Be observant and responsible in the fulfillment of all your duties.**

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Possible Date: 1925. (Mother Luisita pronounced her vows on July 15, 1925. (Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 2.)

Letter No. 14
Mrs. Conception Gonzalez Hernandez

Jesus
J.M. + J.T.

Atotonilco el Alto, January 14, 1926

Mrs. Conception G. Vda. de (*widow of*) Hernandez
Guadalajara

My esteemed Conchita,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul. It is my great pleasure to greet you. How are you?

Regarding the errands we asked you to run for us, everything has already arrived here. May God our Lord reward you, Conchita. You do so many favors for us! Now, I'm asking you for another favor--to please deliver the letter I'm enclosing with this one.

Your daughter (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) is very well in soul and body, and she's earnestly asking Our Lord for the entrance of Maria de la Luz (*Lucita--Mother Margarita's sister*). She also wants her to be a religious.

Because I don't have any more time to write, I'll say good-bye now, wishing both of you a very happy new year.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Letter 15

Mrs. Conception H. Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

Atotonilco el Alto, March 15, 1926

Mrs. Concepcion G. Vda. de (*widow of*) Hernandez

My dear Conchita,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

I greet you with affection, hoping that you are well.

By practicing patience we're gaining great merit for heaven. We load you with so many errands when you're already so busy. Now we need four hundred gum balls (*boletas de chicle*) to use for grapes for Holy Week (*during Holy Week the sisters used to decorate the altar using purple gum balls to make clusters of grapes*). Would you do us the favor of letting us know how much they cost? Not very long ago, Maria Davila's (*Sister Maria Davila*) sisters sent us some and they were a very good size. They would be able to tell you where they purchased them. We'll be sending you a money order. We also need a diploma or certificate, whatever it's called, for a young lady (*sister*) who finished the training in cloth-cutting. Perhaps Miss Magdalena Ruiz Velazco could furnish it, or maybe you could obtain it at one of the Sunday schools.

Please forgive us, Conchita because we bother you so much.

Your daughter (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart*)

Hernandez Gonzalez) arrived very well (*enter the convent*) and she is progressing very nicely, blessed be God!

What can you tell me about Victorita and Luisita? How's their health? Greet them for me and your sisters, also.

May you become a saint.

Your affectionate servant in Christ,
Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Letter No. 16

Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez

August 16, 1926

Miss Maria Amada,

What a joy it's been for all the family (*community*), myself included, to know that you're so much better now. We're truly hoping that your recuperation will be one hundred percent.

Let's bless our good God for so many graces! I'm sure that Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) is taking good care of you. You, on your part, should do everything in your power to follow the directives that the doctor gives you. Then just see how soon you'll be all right again.

Be very grateful with Mrs. Merceditas (*the first director of the school in Atotonilco*) for the many favors you're receiving from her, and pray to Our Lord for her so He will be able to repay her for all that she is doing for you.

Find a way that won't be detrimental to your health to try to continue your studies. Lupe can give you some classes. Greet her for me and tell her that I'll be writing to her on another occasion. Give my regards to Merceditas, also.

Be good and be very united to Our Lord.

Josefa Navarro

Letter 17

Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul, my beloved daughter, Maria de la Trinidad.

Affectionate greetings! **May your life in that little corner of the earth be as a bonfire of love, consuming itself in the love of God and zeal for souls. Yes, win many souls for Him by your prayers, good example and teaching. But in order to do this, you need to eat well and take advantage of every possible means of keeping well.**

Prepare yourself for next year during your vacation time. Get all your resumes ready so that Mother Carmen (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) will have time to correct them, and in that way you'll go there very well-prepared. Then you won't be getting so very tired and the children will profit more.

I beg you to pray very much for the dire needs in a certain family we know. The head of the family, the father, is very wrong in his beliefs and his children notice that he doesn't fulfill his religious obligations. Win that soul.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Date: 1926. (Chronicle, p. 62)

Letter 18

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

The Infant Jesus is now making His preparations so that He may be born in your soul, my dear daughter Josephine. With what earnestness you must be beautifying your soul so

that the Divine Infant may choose you for His abode and His place of rest during these times in which He is persecuted so very much. May your abnegation while serving those little girls whom God our Lord has entrusted to you [in the orphanage in Atotonilco] through obedience, be the greatest present you can give the Divine Infant. Let's be generous. Let's not deny Him anything He asks from us.

If Father Bracho (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) can't go to hear your confession, then let them take you over to see him.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Letter 19

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

Los Angeles, California, July 2, 1927

Miss Refugio Navarro

My very dear daughter,

I'm hoping that you'll be receiving this letter just in time for your actual feastday. If it doesn't reach you by then, please accept my desire to have greeted you with all my affection on your very day. **I know that you might be overwhelmed with sadness right now, but if that state is filling your soul with merit before God, what does it matter if you are deep in sorrow? Knowing that this sadness is not eternal is enough. Isn't it true?**

How are you? Write to me. In my imagination I see you in Tonita's house, in that little paradise on earth.

It is certainly beautiful over here, both the city itself and papa's house (*the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California*). Both he (*Archbishop John Cantwell*) and his family (*Father Leroy Callahan who was the Archdiocesan liaison with the Mexican refugees during the religious persecution, as well as Father Francis Ott, who took the sisters under his care, and the Immaculate Heart Sisters who hosted the sisters for the first few months*) are very good to us, but we get teary-eyed, nonetheless, and that's only natural. Even more for me knowing that I had to leave you. Remember that it was you

who made me come here to look for a little house where you could come to rest. **Pray to God to grant us that grace if it is pleasing to Him.**

I'm supposing that you went to see Papa Nachito (*Father Ignatius, a priest who helped Sister Refugio*) and are now at peace. **Pray to our Blessed Mother during her month (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel's feastday is in July*) to give you peace of soul.**

Give my loving regards to your little brothers, to Tonita and her husband, and also to Refugito. Please go visit them in my name on her feastday. Good-bye, daughter

Josefa

Letter 20

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Long Beach, California, November 5, 1927

Miss Mariana Ramirez
Guadalajara

My dear daughter,

With how much love I greet you! And it would be with even greater joy if I could do so personally, but waiting to find out if there is going to be work for us in Oakland (*with the Christian Brothers at the newly-built St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, which is near Oakland*) is detaining me. The foreman (*the Christian Brothers were constructing a convent for the sisters to live in*) is going to be coming one of these days. I'm hoping that everything will already be arranged and I'll be able leaving the girls (*sisters*) already working there.

You'll understand how worried I've been knowing that Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Tere are sick, and that I'm unable to go see them. **Blessed be God, Who gives us these means of sanctifying ourselves by practicing patience and conformity to His will.**

The girls (*sisters*) are well and fortunately have now found

employment. Both they and their employers (*ecclesiastical authorities*) are happy. They look well-rested and have very good appetites. If we find employment in Oakland, Manuelita's family (*local community of sisters*) will go there, and if you would like to join them, we'll see if we can get work for you, too. Start saving for the cost of transportation because traveling is expensive. On second thought, it would be better for you to stay where you are because without knowing any English, it would be more difficult for you here. The girls' (*sisters*) English is already improving, and the teacher tells them that in six months they'll be able to carry on a conversation. Margarita (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) is already conversing in English. She also gives Spanish classes to the American girls, which is really a great help to her because she is practicing English at the same time.

Good-bye, daughter, and don't you be worrying about us being separated. We'll see if either I can return or you come here. My regards to your family.

Josefa

Letter 21

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Long Beach, California, December 26, 1927

Guadalajara
Miss Socorro Cholico

Dear daughter,

May you have a very happy Christmas, and I am asking Our Lord to fill your new year with heavenly merits and blessings.

So, you are sick? Thank you for letting me know. I suggest that you go to Dr. Gonzalez Arechiga and tell him frankly how you are feeling, and then make sure they get the medicine for you. Take care of yourself and keep me informed. Again, don't delay your visit to the doctor.

I'm glad you had the little celebration for the two "Lupes" and I am sharing in your happiness. Your joy is my joy because a mother is always happy when her daughters are happy.

Your father (*God*) hasn't allowed me to leave. Nor does He say anything regarding you sisters coming over here. I cry out to Him every day to either send me to you or to bring the rest of the family here with me. I plead, but He keeps silence.

I do hope that one of these days He will be surprising me with the news that either I'm going over or that you are coming. I want to be wherever we would have enough work to sustain us--not only can we work better if we are together, but my desire is to be with my daughters.

I also wish you could see how beautifully this season is celebrated here. Everyone seems to be so happy giving each other their "crismas" or "*aguinaldo*" (*New Year's gift*) as we call it in Mexico.

We have received many, many presents, and among them holy cards (*Christmas cards*) of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, small but beautiful. Some cards depict the baby Jesus lying in a manger surrounded by six little lambs, the ox and the cow.

We have also been given three very good carpets, and we'll be able to one of them in Jesus's room (*chapel*) and another in the parlor. I'm in awe, for never have I encountered such good and generous people. Blessed be God!

Give my best regards to Raphael and Maria Luisa.
Good-bye, my daughter.

Be good always.

Josefa

Letter 22
Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez
Ortega

(no date)

J.M. + J.T.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph be with my beloved daughter, Jesus Teresa.

It is always a pleasure for me to receive your splendid letters, and I always answer them with pleasure.

Our good Lord gives you so many proofs of His love for you, my daughter, and how I wish that you would correspond to that love! You have to be very grateful and not deny Him anything that He asks of you. Be very generous and love Him with all your soul, and even more now that He is persecuted so very much. Try to console Him with innumerable acts of love, praying at the same time, for our holy Mother the Church, for the conversion of sinners, and make acts of faith for those who have none.

God willing, I'll be going over to visit you in a few days.

Study much because you have your class to take care of now. You can attract an infinite number of souls for Our Lord and make our Blessed Mother much loved.

Don't pay attention to the persons you are acquainted with. Just try to do good to them by your good example and your prayers.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Approximate date: 1927. (This letter was written during the religious persecution in Mexico. Mother Jesus Teresa left for California in August of 1928. Chronicle p.72)

Letter 23

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Maria Ana

My dear little granddaughter,

I greet you, hoping that you are in good health.

How deeply I appreciate your affectionate letters in which you share with me your desire that I go over and visit you. I'd like very much to

be over there with you, and there are times when I have to be very strong with myself so that I won't be carried away by the sadness I feel at being over here, but what can we do?

Someday you'll be coming over here (*California*). Right now, however, I understand it just isn't possible, and that's why I didn't even bring up the subject.

A letter that was written to you some time ago was returned. Perhaps the mix-up happened at the time when I was so sick.

For the past few days, though, I've been feeling well. I haven't been experiencing those dizzy spells which scare me so much. God knows what He will do, whether He wants to leave my skull over here or to bring me back there which is where I really would like to be. I know it's foolishness to allow myself to think in this way because in reality one place is the same as another.

My regards to all the family (*community*) and tell them that I hope they do very well in their exams. Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Perhaps we'll be moving from this house one of these days. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) will tell you where you can send your letters in the meantime.

Approximate date: 1927. (In 1927 Mother Luisita left Mexico for the United States because of the religious persecution in Mexico. She was accompanied by Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez and Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro. Chronicle, p. 66 and following.)

Letter 24

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

Marianita,

I become so happy every time I receive a letter from you. Your letters never bother me. On the contrary, try to write to me longer

ones.

It's true that wherever we go we will find the cross. And woe to us if it were not so. We need to suffer. God our Lord sends us whatever sufferings are beneficial for us so that we may be purified and practice virtue. How could we practice patience if the opportunity to be patient never presented itself? And it is the same with all the other virtues. How can we enrich our souls if we never practice any virtue? According to the love that God has for us, and the place He's destined in heaven for us, He provides us with the means to beautify our souls. Oh, my daughter, let us love the cross! Let's embrace it and see it as the proof of the love of a crucified God.

Help Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). Between the two of you maintain the good order of the house. God willing, we'll see each other soon, and I'll help you with the family (*community*). I hope we'll be able fix up the house a little.

Try to eat and sleep well and bathe frequently. Above all, do not neglect your soul for that's more important than anything else.

Give my regards to Dona Refugito and your sisters.

Good bye, daughter. Be good and God will bless you in the manner that I'm asking of Him.

Josefa

Date: 1927. (When Mother Luisita left Mexico to seek refuge in the United States she left Mother Carmelita in charge, followed by Mother Manuela. Chronicle, p. 76.)

Letter 25

Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

(no date)

Miss Maria de Lourdes Jimenez

My very dear granddaughter,

You can't imagine how much I appreciated your letter and what joy I experienced upon receiving it! May God reward you, daughter.

I long so very much to see you. I hope we can see each other again soon. Either you could come here or I could go there.

Thanks be to God, we already have a house and it's already furnished. The person for whom the girls are working is very good to us and doesn't want us to be lacking in anything. She looks after all our needs. Pray to our Blessed Mother that she can continue helping us, as she has done up to now.

You are right to count on my poor prayers. It's precisely for that purpose that I am offering them for all of you. It could never be otherwise because I have so much interest and love for you [sisters].

I'd like for you to be a part of the second group of the family that comes (*the second group of refugees to come to the United States*). Long Beach (*California*), the city where [the sisters] are staying, is only a few blocks from the beach.

Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*), Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*), and myself send regards to Maria de la Luz (*the sister of Mother Lourdes who entered in 1930 and took the name of Sister Dolores of Jesus*). Good-bye, daughter, and may you keep well.

Josefa

Date: 1927. (Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior left Mexico and traveled to the United States in 1928. Chronicle, p. 71)

Letter 26

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Teresita.

My very dear granddaughter,

What a joy it is for me to be able to write to you, and I would be even happier if I could see you, which I hope will be happening very soon. I'll be making some arrangements so that I can leave this family (*community*), and then I'll go see your mother and then you.

Tell me, little one, what happened to you that you've become so sick? You must be very worried because of the severe ways of Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). Now there, try not to worry about anything and don't worry about these "little nothings" either. That would be harmful to you. Don't be foolish and find some kind of entertainment for yourself. I learned you need some more little toys, so I'll be getting some little shells, little pebbles, and sand from the beach for you. All this that I'm offering you can be found right here against our fence.

I had wanted very much to be there with you, but right after the extraction, you weren't able to endure such a long trip, but as soon as you are well, yes. As for myself, I've been sick ever since I came here, (and I've been gravely ill). At any rate, I arrived safely. God will grant you the grace of getting well and coming over, or sending me over to you.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) has advanced very well in English. She looks well and is teaching her classes. Blessed be God!

You'll see, my little daughter, how much we have all been worried about your illness, and especially me because you are my "*consentida*" (*pampered child*) and we have been praying to Our Lord to cure you.

Teresita, offer Him all of your sufferings. God is watching over you, and He will not allow you to despair. He loves you very much but He wants you, also, to offer Him very much. Be generous with Him.

Your grandmother,
Josefa

Approximate date: 1927. (Chronicle, Part 1-a, Page 76 and Letter of Mother Luisita to Mother Socorro dated November 5, 1927.)

Letter 27
Sister Soledad of Saint Teresa Valle Ibarra

(no date)

My very dear daughter, Maria de la Soledad,

Many happy returns of the day! I do hope you'll be very happy as you celebrate on the fifteenth. I'll be united with you in spirit from here, and my present will be my prayers.

I like it when you write to me. A mother is always happy when she receives a letter from her daughters, and I also like you to continue talking to me with such simplicity, as if we were having a very nice conversation. I'd like very much to see all the family (*community*) again. It is, indeed, a great sacrifice for me to be separated from you. May God our Lord accept it.

I've seen *Lorencito (little Lawrence)*. He's grown very much. He's a very good little boy and very affectionate with me. Good-bye, my daughter. Be good and pray for me.

Conception

Approximate date: 1927. (In 1927 Mother Luisita went to the United States and she spoke with Lawrence Valle, a relative of Sister Soledad. Chronicle, p.66)

Letter 28
Mr. Salvador de la Pena

Long Beach, California, February 18, 1928

Mr. Salvador de la Pena
Guadalajara

My dearest brother,

With much affection I greet you, hoping that you are well and happy in doing God's will.

Well, here I am at the beach. This is a very beautiful city, truly

picturesque and peaceful. We're nineteen blocks away from the sea and the weather is good and pleasant. At this time of the year it's cold and in the summertime, it's very mild. I want you to know that I've tried to take care of myself. I do get up a little later and cover myself very well. Whenever it's very cold, I don't go outside because my age and aches and pains demand that from me. What else can I do? **I'm already very old and, imagine, although it's very foolish of me, I find myself not wanting to die away from my country, as if God were farther away from here. We have to do whatever God wants because He is wisdom itself and our Creator, besides, and He loves us without measure and arranges the events of our lives as He knows best. I have to make up my mind about this, and be at peace. Isn't it true?**

You should see how well I'm being treated by the Americans and Mexicans! We were given a house, electricity, gas, food, enough furniture and even a record player was given to us at Christmas. **Blessed be God in everything! He is the One who has moved the wills of the people to do these kindnesses to us.**

I can imagine how worried you've been as a result of the difficulties you've had in harvesting your fields and the other obligations which you have to meet daily. I'm praying for you as you already know how much I love you. It seems to me that this love of mine for you is as intense as the love that our mother had for you, if I'm not mistaken.

Listen, Salvador. Give thanks to Our Lord that you have these sufferings to endure because that means He loves you, and He wants to reward the natural abilities He has given you. Perhaps if you were in the midst of riches and well-being, you wouldn't be saved, for "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world if at the end, he loses his soul?" These are St. Ignatius's very words. In exchange, you have the main things: An excellent wife and very good children who help you and are a consolation to you and do not cause you any headaches. We have to recognize the gifts that God our Lord bestows upon us and be grateful for them.

I think of your children often. Tell me something about each of them. Is Mina very big already? Tell them to write to me. Greet them for

me and also tell them I wish very much to see them, and the same goes for you and Isabelita (*Salvador's wife*). We'll see each other soon; in the meantime, I am sending you an embrace.

Your sister who loves you and wishes for you to be a good man.
L. Pena

Letter 29

Sister Dolores of Jesus Crucified Jimenez Alba, O.C.D.

Long Beach, April 12, 1928

Miss Maria de la Luz Jimenez
Guadalajara

My dear Maria de la Luz,

May the peace and love of the Divine Heart always reign in your soul.

I have before me your letter of March 26, which I'm answering with great joy. I give thanks to Our Lord for the grace He is bestowing on you in granting what you desire. Be assured that if it's pleasing to Him, everything will be taken care of very soon. Be very faithful to Him since He is treating you with such a singular sign of predilection.

It seems that the only way that our work here (*in the United States*) can be established will be through prayer. Let's, then, earnestly pray to reach great success. Maria de Lourdes (*Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba*) is very well. My regards to all your family.

Yours in Christ,
Josefa Navarro

Letter 30

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Long Beach, California, March 1, 1928

Miss (Sister) Socorro Cholico

My dear daughter,

I was really happy to receive your letter because you hadn't written to me for a long time. What's happened to you? You wrote about suffering intensely for three days. Won't you give me some idea what made you suffer so much? May it all be for the love of God!

I long so much to go over to see you, if it is God's will. If it isn't His will, then ask Him to accept my great sacrifice at having to be separated from you.

So you have a brand new aqua-colored dress, my daughter! That's good, and I'm sure that it will look very nice when you wear it for the first time.

Please don't forget that we're beginning the month of St. Joseph. Ask him to take away your *tapichuda* or *caprichuda* (*stubbornness*) as Carmen Arambula used to say as a child.

Don't allow yourself to be overcome by sadness. It's a most undesirable companion and an even worse advisor. And don't be thinking so much about the future. The future belongs to God, Who loves us very much and gives us whatever is best for us. You remind me of a little foolish child by thinking and getting upset about things. Don't do that any more and try to always be happy and joyful in whatever setting God permits for you. Prayer and more prayer!

The girls (*sisters*) remember you frequently and my father (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) sends you word that he will be leaving soon and for you not to worry. Be happy working with those pupils and give my best regards to the principal, telling her I shall write to her very soon. Good-bye, my daughter. Be good. Your mother who blesses you.

Josefa

Letter 31

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Long Beach, California, April 24, 1926

Miss Maria Ana
Guadalajara

It gives me so much joy whenever I receive your letters. I appreciate them so very much. May God reward you, my daughter.

I'm feeling better now, blessed be God, but at the same time I'm more swollen. I had a form of asthma, but it has gone away already. Now I'm sleeping well and taking my meals with "*gusto*" (*a good appetite*). In other words, I am well now.

Don't worry, my daughter. Our Lord is going to grant me the grace of returning and dying among you. Yet, if He determines that I die here, well, then let His will be done. He never errs in what He allows to happen. Besides, I'm only separated from you physically, not spiritually. I think of you at almost every moment and find myself wondering how you all are doing. So you see, I'm with you through my thoughts, my affection and my prayers. I am a little beggar before Our Lord--always praying for my daughters.

Try to eat well so you'll be strong for your exams. I'll ask Our Lord to help you, and you'll see--everything will come out all right.

I'd like to bring you here but God wants you there. Perhaps you wouldn't be able to tolerate this climate for it's quite cold.

Pray much for me and as soon as I leave my daughters (*sisters*) settled in Oakland, perhaps I'll go back and stay with you.

May you be good and keep well.

Josefa
Letter 32

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Long Beach, California, April 30, 1928

Guadalajara
Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My unforgettable and dear daughter,

It really gives me great pleasure to receive your letters. God willing, I hope you'll be writing to me more frequently.

My daughter, it seems to me that it's your own lack of experience which is making it difficult for you to give advice to Peter. Just take care of your duties and nothing else.

I'm very happy you've moved to a different house. Blessed be God that the family with whom you're now living is a good one. May God give you the money to pay the rent so that house won't be taken away from you.

As far as my health is concerned, I'm a little better. Thanks be to God, the weather has changed and although it's rather hot now, it seems to be better for my health. I'm taking part of the family (*the sisters*) with me to work in Oakland (*St. Mary's College in Moraga, near Oakland, California*) so that we will be able to be able to support ourselves. There's no other solution. Please ask Our Lord to help us and, hopefully, once I leave the family settled, I'll be able to go for the short visit with you which I've been looking forward to with all my heart and soul. Try to eat and sleep well so you'll be able to pass your exams.

Good-bye, my daughter, and **may you continue to be well and happy--the way God wants you to be. Joys and sufferings constantly follow one after another in this life and each must be accepted by us in whatever manner God sends them.** My regards to your sisters and tell them I'll be writing to them very soon.

Josefa

Letter 33

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Long Beach, California. May 4, 1928

Miss Maria Ana Ramirez

My dear daughter,

I appreciate your letters very much, my daughter, and your last one was a consolation for me because it reflected the joy and peace you now have in your soul, which I didn't find in your previous letter.

There is no doubt that at times we ourselves can be our own worst enemies. Maybe it's because our self-love makes us see little mosquitoes as if they were elephants, or perhaps it might be that we lack submission to the will of God. I do know that this happens when we neglect prayer, mortification, and humility, but if we ask Our Lord for these virtues, we will receive them. I want you to be happy, at peace in all circumstances of your life, offering Our Lord your sorrows and your joys because everything comes from His loving hand for the good of our souls.

I'm feeling a little better, blessed be God, and it's already getting warm. This weather is good for me.

Try to eat well so that you'll be strong and finish out your school year. When are the examinations? May God our Lord help you as I am asking of Him.

God willing, I'll be leaving for Oakland and remaining there during this warm weather, but as soon as the winter season begins, I'll be leaving that city. Right now we are doing as God wills for us. One part of the family (*community*) will remain working here. The girls (*sisters*) are teaching some classes and also attending English classes. They're doing very well. I'm told that Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) are speaking English well. Whenever it's necessary to write a letter, they're able to write it in English, and they can also keep up a conversation in English. The American ladies know Margarita well now. When they go to the house, she's the one they ask for.

Well, I've already conversed with you a little. Be happy and at peace.

Good-bye. Pray for me.

I know that Maria Teresa and Luisita are coming. Good! We'll be very happy to see them. Give them my regards.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Josefa

P.S. Please give Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharist Heart Barbosa*) the letter.

Letter 34

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Long Beach, California. May 15, 1928

Miss Maria Ana Ramirez

My very dear daughter,

Yesterday I had the pleasure of receiving your letter and now I'm hurrying to answer it. Inform your Aunt Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega, a Council Member*) right away about your cousin (*another sister*). Her behavior isn't good at all. Don't hide anything from Manuelita because you would be making yourself responsible for whatever harm may come to that poor girl. Don't allow her to go to the neighbors' houses, much less alone and at night. In addition, share with her [Manuelita] all of the advantages you have living right there in your present house. Tell her about the fears you have regarding moving out, and then do whatever she tells you and be at peace.

A daughter never annoys her mother with her long letters. On the contrary, the mother is very pleased with them. Write to me as many times as you wish and tell me whatever you want.

On Friday I'll be leaving for Oakland, God willing, and I'll be sending you the new address. Pray to God to help me with this family (*Congregation*) so that they may grow in virtue every day.

Give my loving regards to Manuelita and the girls (*sisters*). Because right now I'm very busy arranging the trip, I'll end for now.

Good-bye, daughter. Receive my blessing.

Josefa

Letter 35
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Oakland, California, June 15, 1928

Guadalajara
Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My very dear daughter,

When I received your letter I could sense some nervousness in you. What's happening, little one? **Be careful. Don't allow yourself to be dominated by your nerves nor admit into your soul disturbances that will only damage you. Try to eat and sleep well and don't be worrying. God will help you with your exams. You've already done your part. Now you have to leave everything to Him.** Once your exams are over, bathe more frequently, take *hipofosfitos* (a powdered substance containing phosphorous) and put aside what you're doing so your mind can rest.

Regarding those matters in your last letters, do whatever you think is called for. I can't advise you on such a delicate matter.

The girls (*sisters*) are studying English. They have a very good teacher and are already learning how to read and write in that language. Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez*) can already carry on a conversation with the American ladies. I hope she'll graduate.

It would make me so happy to bring you over here, but the expense is very great and we simply don't have enough money. On the other hand, we're very hopeful that my father will be paid a little account owed him and then he'll bring me. I keep on telling him I wish to go and, *el pobrecito* (*poor little dear one*) is so good that he's agreed. Therefore, I'll be seeing you soon.

Today, the feast of the Sacred Heart, I prayed for the needs of your soul, and I hope that you were doing the same for me!

I was very happy to receive Leonor's letter. I love that family. Since we've watched those little girls grow up, I still have a special fondness for them.

About my illnesses, I am feeling only so-so. The symptoms I was experiencing when I was in Long Beach, thanks be to God, have disappeared. I sleep well, and my appetite is somewhat better, but even though my cough is gone, I remain very swollen. I'm living now on the third floor and although climbing the stairs doesn't help me any, I do enjoy the fresh air and the beautiful view.

Let's bless Our Lord whether we are in prosperity or in suffering, for these blend together in life--joy will follow our suffering, and those sufferings, in turn, will be followed by joy. Ask Our Lord to grant me the grace of visiting you, although I'll have to come back because my father (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) and the family are remaining here.

Josefa

Letter 36

Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez

Oakland, California, July 10, 1928

Miss Magdalena Castellanos
Atotonilco

My very beloved little goddaughter,

I understood that you weren't able to finish your last letter because of illness. So now I'm writing to you because I want to find out how you are feeling now. As far as I'm concerned, I'm well, blessed be God!

I'll be very happy to pray for David. I'm supposing he was Gabriel's brother. I offer you my condolences.

Do me a favor, little goddaughter. Have Jesusita Lomeli or some other person pay a condolence visit in my name to Delfina Vazquez for Elena. I did appreciate her very much. I remember when she was very little and Carmen Nunez used to take her [to our house]. Do you recall? *Pobrecita!* She died so young and her children are so little. **Still, God our Lord knows what He is doing. He never errs and does everything for our own good, for our sanctification. All we have to do is to respect His designs and be submissive [to Him].**

Now, don't you be thinking, not even for one moment, that I'm indifferent to your problems. No. On the contrary, it's just that God our Lord has allowed the people in this country to also have problems and difficulties. You are seeing your own pain, while the others, in turn, are seeing theirs. The ones (*sisters*) who live here are suffering in another way and maybe their suffering is even greater! We find ourselves envying others, without ever realizing that the problems they are facing are more serious than our own; at the same time, we erroneously envision others to be lying on a bed of roses while we remain on our bed of thorns. So much misjudging! And the reason for this is that we love ourselves inordinately and lack both mortification and conformity with God's will. May God our Lord have mercy on us. Some of our sufferings we bring upon ourselves and others God inflicts upon us. Those are the ones we should use to gain merits for heaven. The ones we bring upon ourselves because of our character or some little passion lead us nowhere and we don't have God's help in bearing them.

I'm thinking of going to Guadalajara, and then, God willing, you'll also be going over to spend a few days with me to rest awhile from your labors.

My regards to the girls, your brother Jose, and your *madrina* (*godmother, i.e. Mother Luisita herself*) would like you to take care of yourself.

Josefa

Letter 37
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

Oakland, California, September 3, 1928

R.M. Maria del Refugio del S.C. (*Reverend Mother Refugio of the Sacred Heart*)

May the peace of God be in the soul of my beloved daughter!

I have truly wanted to write to you, but it just wasn't possible. Now, thanks be to God, I am doing so with much pleasure.

How are you, my daughter? Tell me about your impressions as superior. How do you feel with your little load? I'm sure that you are visiting the Blessed Sacrament very frequently and asking Him to help you fulfill such an important assignment, even if it will be only for a few days, but you'll have to give Him an account of those souls He has entrusted to you for awhile. At the same time, don't be alarmed because you didn't have anything to do with it; obedience placed you there. That should be reason enough for you to be at peace. Expect everything from God!

How beautiful obedience is! And with what ease it leads us to heaven! Receive Holy Communion always. Consecrate your soul and those of your religious to the Sacred Heart every day morning and evening and ask for the blessing of God our Lord to help you do all of those zealous deeds which He has commanded.

Pray very much for the souls of these poor Mexicans which Our Lord has entrusted to us (*the sisters worked with the Mexican refugees who had come to Los Angeles*) and work very hard for the good of their souls.

The catechism classes at Our Lady of Guadalupe should always be in full forces. Don't allow them to weaken. Keep the discipline and teach them hymns. **Let everyone there see your enthusiasm, fervor, and kindness to the catechists who teach there. Win them over so that you will be able to lead them to God.**

Much, much charity toward the sisters. You are serving as

their mother, and all of them will help you much, above all, Sor Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). Sor Luisa Gonzaga (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) knows the needs of each of the families very well, so she shouldn't neglect the home visits. For the present Sister Ines de Jesus (*Mother Ines of Jesus*) could accompany her and while Sister Luisa talks to the adults, Sister Ines can talk to the children.

Regarding what is happening over here, Our Lord has allowed sorrow to visit us. On the twenty-seventh, the feast of the Transverberation of our Holy Mother St. Teresa, in the evening just as we were finishing the retreat given by Father Santos, Sister Maria Teresa began crying out to Our Lord. She was shrieking loudly. That's how it all started. Then she ran up to the tabernacle and opened it. She was like a crazy woman. As of now she is still being taken care of in the hospital. Pray for her to get well so we'll be able to send her back to Mexico. Let it be for God!

Brother Gregory's blood brother just died. (*Brother Gregory was a Christian Brother at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, and helped the sisters with their financial matters.*) He was a religious priest--I think he was a member of the Order of St. Paul. Brother Gregory has really edified us by his strength and submission to the will of God. He's continued performing his duties as if nothing happened. It would be good for you to send him a condolence letter as our benefactor, which he is, and offer prayers for his deceased brother. Do it soon.

Be happy, my daughter. We have to serve Our Lord with joy. Good-bye, daughter. **Much prayer, much prayer, and much prayer.** May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa J. of the Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Letter 38

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Oakland, California, September 18, 1928

Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with all my affection, praying that all may be well with you.

This letter is being written in a hurry because I'd like it to go out today. Later, I'll write in more detail.

I wrote to Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) telling her to send Chayito (*Sister Rosario of the Sacred Heart Hernandez*) and Chole (*Sister Maria Soledad of St. Teresa Valle Ibarra*) immediately to Guadalajara so that you'll be able to send them here (*Oakland, California*) as soon as possible and to also send Crucita (*Sister Mary of the Cross Gutierrez*). I do hope that Teresa's husband will be able to lend you the money for the fare as he's done other times. It doesn't matter if they don't come in Pullman (*a train*). Do whatever is more economical, and they can wear their shawls (*the sisters couldn't wear the habit in Mexico during these times of persecution*). In Nogales at Mr. Levien's home, they should change into their woolen dresses (*holy habits*) so they won't be embarrassed when they arrive in Los Angeles where Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) will be waiting for them. Make every effort to send them soon, so that they will be able to come and help the girls (*sisters*).

My regards to all the family whom I love so much.

Eat and sleep well and take care of yourselves so that what happened to poor Maria Teresa will not also happen to you. It's heartbreaking to get that kind of sickness, yet I'm told she is now getting better and being taken care of in a sanitarium.

Good-bye, my daughter.

Josefa

My address is Saint Mary's College C.C.C., Moraga, California

Letter 39
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

Moraga, California, September 19, 1928

R.H. Maria del Refugio del Sagrado Corazon
(*Reverend Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart*)
Long Beach

My dear daughter,
I just read your letter. May God reward your concern for me.

Our move to this place and then the tremendous workload we've carried since we arrived here have made it practically impossible for me to write to you.

We're now at the foot of the mountains in Moraga (*California*), enjoying a sky as clean and beautiful as that of Mexico and a temperature like the one in Atotonilco--somewhat hot. We're surrounded by elegance and work. I think there are seven dining rooms we have to set. The one for the students is very, very, big and quite elegant.

The sisters spend almost all day long working very fast, to the point that I fear they're going to become sick. The Brothers, as always, are very considerate. I know that they're worried about the amount of work we're doing--so much so, that they took away the washing of the dishes. And now, even though we only have the cleaning of the dining rooms and the resetting of the tables, it's still too much work. Blessed be God for everything! In my name, in conversation, please relay this information to Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*). Greet him for me and tell him at the same time that the number of sisters will soon be complete. Let him know that I might go and see him then because I need to seek his advice as well as his prayers for us.

It would be good for you and Sor Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) to go out and invite the children to come to catechism classes at the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This has to be done soon. **Show much kindness to each family so that the children may look at you with the desire to come to you.**

Regarding the present for Father Ott, I think it would be a good idea to give him a hand towel. Buy one and put his initials on it in *calado* (*handwork in linen*). Sister Ines can do it.

Please tell Mrs. Sanchez that I'm very grateful for the money which she so kindly allowed us borrow, and ask her also if she could wait until next month for us to repay her. Tell her that we would be deeply grateful.

Try to please Our Lord, asking Him for His help so that you will be able to do everything earnestly and in keeping with your rule.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa J. del Santisimo. C.D.T.
(*Maria Luisa J. of the Blessed Sacrament*)

Letter 40
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

St. Mary's College, California, November 14, 1928

Guadalajara
Sister Maria del Socorro Cholico

My beloved daughter,

It is with great pleasure that I answer your kind letters. May Our Lord repay you.

It seems that at the present time Our Lord wants you to take care of your little sisters (*postulants and novices*). *Pobrecitas!* Take good care of them. Treat them with a mother's heart. Good mothers both advise and reprimand. They watch and foresee any dangers that might come their children's way. Now that's what you are supposed to be doing and not just worrying over your position. God will help you. I'd like to go and visit you. Pray to God that your father will allow me to go, and when you least expect it, I'll be there.

I'm sorry about Conchita's illnesses (*Sister Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*). They only increase my desire to

go there so that I can be near her, at her side. In my opinion, she is a beautiful lily transplanted from heaven. This little one is very good, blessed be God! When I told the sisters about her maladies, tears were shed. They're too attached to her, and your father (*God our Father*) just kept looking at us in silence.

I suppose Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Conchita went to join Magdalena (*Sister Magdalen of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*). On your part, begin to look earnestly for a little house so that you will be able to move to a new location. Otherwise, you'll need to disinfect the present house thoroughly because that sickness is terrible. On second thought, I think it's better for you to move because I wouldn't be at peace knowing that you're remaining in that same house.

Mr. Lomeli's loan to us, according to Manuelita, is in the amount of \$500.00. Try very hard to economize and make monthly payments. That debt is too large. Rosita knows about a little money someone owes us and perhaps you could collect. Damaso, whom you've already met, could pay it back to us because it's money that we loaned his Uncle Francisco. We hope we can get it through Lorenzo (*Msr. Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*). Carmen Josefa (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) tried to get it but couldn't. I think Lorenzo can do it. I know it's very little, but it could help to make a payment.

The girls (*sisters*) arrived safely, blessed be God! The flu is hitting us very hard and the sisters are going to bed with very high fevers. Now, I'm afraid that I'll catch it, also. It would be very difficult for me to withstand it and as if that were not enough, this month the rainy season begins and it's cold besides. Thanks be to God, the little house where we are living is sturdily built and there are heaters in the bedrooms.

I order you to eat and sleep well and avoid that which could destroy you. How stubborn you are! Take care of yourself lest you disobey.

My regards to the sisters (*novices and postulants*). I'd like to see them all, so pray to God that I'll be able to come over for a visit.

Good-bye, my daughter. Be good. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Josefa

Letter 41
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

St. Mary's College, California, December 5, 1928

Guadalajara
Miss Socorro Cholico

My dear daughter,

After your prolonged silence, I received your letter just a moment ago. However, I haven't received any of your other letters. Perhaps they're still at the post office. **Let it be all for God!**

After her marriage (*perpetual profession*), Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) left with her husband (*Jesus our Lord*) in order to help Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) in the workshop (*school--the sisters taught in private homes during the religious persecution in Mexico*). Carmelita is currently in Long Beach, waiting. She'll manage to pay her fare for the first phase of her trip--from Long Beach to Nogales, Arizona. She's still trying to acquire enough money to continue her journey, and I wish you would help by sending her the train fare from Nogales to Guadalajara. I'm very worried and quite anxious for Carmela to get there. Poor Lupe is very sick and overwhelmed with work, but without any money nothing can be done.

Let me know your new address because I've been told you've moved, and I don't know where to send either my letters or the telegram notifying you when to send someone to the station to pick up Carmelita.

The marriage ceremony (*profession of vows*) of Carmela and Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) was beautiful. Nena and Carmela were most excited and very happy. Their father (*Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament*) was also very happy with them. He (*Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament*) spends an hour, more or less, with us here every day. Very often in the

morning and afternoon, He comes ceremoniously with much regalia (*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*). If you could see him, you would be very happy. Over there he was very hidden (*because of the religious persecution in Mexico*) and here, He comes to us with great joy.

It seems to me that scarlet fever is highly contagious and neither you nor the girls who work with Conchita (*Sister Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) should enter the shop while she is sick. Listen carefully to this and obey me. May God give her strength to suffer that illness. I'm hopeful that she'll soon be all right.

I'm worried about our debt with Mr. Lomeli. Try to pay him as you can. Regarding Aurelio (*Father Aurelio Vidrio referred young ladies with religious vocations to the sisters*), tell him that I'm willing to accept his daughters in the boarding house (*Novitiate*). Kindly make the arrangements with Lorenzo (*Msgr. Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) and please give my best regards to them both.

Take good care of my little ones (sisters), and see to it that they are virtuous as well as happy. The girls (sisters) from here, thanks be to God, are very good. They edify me with their spirit of obedience, hard work, humility, and affection for their father (God). May they continue that way always.

I would be most grateful if you'd write me often, for I always receive your letters with great pleasure.

Take good care of yourself for it's our duty to protect our good health. We can't, we mustn't carelessly destroy our lives and our health. Only God can determine these things because He created us and owns our lives. Our good health is His gift to us.

I'll write to you again soon and send the aforementioned letter, so you may receive the rent even if it's such a small amount.

My regards to my daughters whom I love so much. Good-bye.
Josefa Navarro

Letter 42
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Oakland, California, December 13, 1928

Miss Socorro Cholico
Guadalajara

My beloved daughter,

I've received your letters. May God reward you for writing to me. Through them I'm perceiving that you aren't only sick with rheumatism, but that your mind is overly-stressed, also. Obey the doctor in whatever he prescribes and see to it that he continues taking care of you. Calm down--your nerves are overly-excited. **Be simple, humble and obedient and get rid of those illusions that are nothing but a product of your own imagination.** So that you'll be able to become calm, you must try to sleep well, get up a little later, and eat eggs at every meal. Don't be letting your imagination run wild with so many fantasies. Get rid of them! They are the result of being overtired and, as a result, your mind can't function very well. And not only that, but together with your other sufferings, the phosphorous level in your body has fallen too low. May it be all for God!

I'm so very happy to learn that Conchita (*Sister Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) is much better. Please ask the doctor if a visit to the little town (*Atotonilco*) would be beneficial to her or if she would be better off staying where she is now. Do whatever is better for her well-being, then, but take into consideration the danger of contagion spreading to the others.

I wrote to Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) telling her about Mr. Vidrio's girls, and letting him know that the place is available for them. (*Father Aurelio Vidrio who was sending girls with possible religious vocations to visit the Congregation.*) I think that you should interview the girls so you'll be able to stipulate the conditions. If my Uncle Lorenzo (*Monsignor Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) is in agreement, on my part, I'll be very happy to receive them. As for the other girls who also want to come to the boarding house (to *join the*

Congregation), tell them that I'm hopeful that the house will be ready soon so they'll be able to also come. However, if the waiting is too much for them, tell them to feel free to go to another school (*another religious congregation*).

One of these days Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) will be arriving there. She's still waiting for a companion. Perhaps Maria Esperanza's (*Sister Maria Esperanza of St. Joseph Gomez*) sister will be the one to accompany her. May God permit that this will happen soon so that Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) will be able to rest a little.

Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) is improving, blessed be God! As for myself, I'm getting along well, except for a little rheumatism. I'm sure that both it and my hearing loss are both the result of age. Other than that, I'm just fine.

Maria Teresa continues with her ups and downs. **Let everything be for God!** Pray much for her. What a terrible illness!

My desire to see you is growing greater every day. Oh, if only this would be granted some day--to see all of you! Your father (*God*) will allow me to go. How I hope that it will be soon!

The weather is terribly cold and rainy, besides. The climate over here is the opposite of Mexico's. Fortunately, the house where we're living is very warm, and we don't feel the cold when we're inside.

Jesus Teresa (*Sister Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) wants to get married (*profess her religious vows*) next month, after all. So, please tell Lorenzo (*Monsignor Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) about it, and also ask him concerning Maria Teresa's illness. What does he want me to do about it?

My regards to everyone and let them know that I'll be writing to them all very soon.

Josefa

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

St. Mary's College, December 17, 1928

Miss Mariana Ramirez
Guadalajara

My dear daughter,

Even though I wanted to answer you sooner, it simply wasn't possible. Now, I'm writing you with very much pleasure. How is everyone? As for myself, I've had my ups and downs, for that's the nature of my illness. It may very well be that in one of these moments I'll die, but those times are pretty infrequent. **Let it be all for God!**

Lupe Escoto (*Mother Luisita's life-long friend from Atotonilco who helped the Congregation*) was here visiting me. Such a refined--such a good person--as always! I thanked her very much for her visit. She told me that she had seen you, that you were happy right where you are and that you didn't especially want to come over here. She also told me that you looked very formal because you no longer have the effects of your nervousness. She said that you aren't moving as much anymore. I'm very glad that your "San Victor's Dance" (*a medical condition*) is over, which even increases my desire to see you. How I hope that my father (*God*) will give me permission to go! How glad I'll be to see you now as a very appreciated young lady, and no doubt with beautiful qualities. **May your virtues increase every day and become more solid, as you grow in age and reflect more as a grown-up, getting to know the world with all its facets, and seeing suffering as that wonderful school in which the great saints have acquired their sanctity.**

St. Ignatius the Martyr used to say that "it is necessary for the grains of wheat to be ground solidly together in order to become a host." The truth is that I would be most proud of a daughter who honors her parents with her good behavior. Eat well, little child, for that's what you need. Getting enough nutrients will provide you with strength for anything and

improve your good character even more. In other words, we need to nourish ourselves well even to save our souls.

Over here where I am staying, Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Maria of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*), Pachita (*Sister Francesca Teresa who changed her name to Sister Margarita of Christ and of St. Martin de Porres*) and Maria del Carmen (*Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*) are becoming a little plump. Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) is the one who looks exhausted. It's been very hard for her to be in the United States, and she tells me, "Let's go back to Mexico, ya! (*I've had enough!*)"

May you have a very happy Christmas and a new year filled with merits for heaven.

When you write to Dona Refugito, give her my regards, and Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*), also. **That you may remain virtuous and very happy is the desire of your mother who blesses you and wants to see you.**

Good-bye.

Josefa

**Letter 44
Mr. Salvador de la Pena**

(no date)

Mrs. Isabel M. de de la Pena (*wife of Mother Luisita's brother, Salvador*)

My dear sister, Isabelita,

I begin by sending you an embrace through this letter until the time when Our Lord grants us the grace of really embracing each other when we meet again.

How are you? **I hope that you are enriching your life by gaining many merits for heaven and using the sufferings of this life for that purpose. These sufferings purify us and help us to**

practice virtue, so that we may be able to appear before Our Lord.

I'm longing to see you all. May God our Lord grant it to me if it is His will, and maybe we'll have a little party upon my return. Start preparing a turkey and *tamalitos* (a festive Mexican main dish) as tasty as you know how to prepare them. All right, Isabelita?

I went to San Francisco and Oakland and I liked it over there very much. I was able to contemplate the sea on the way, and I even went sailing for a little while. God our Lord has granted that I see very many beautiful things, but always with you in my mind. It's really a mixture of feelings, but blessed be God for all!

I am a little beggar before our Lord, always asking Him to look over you.

Give my best regards to your *mamacita* (mother). How has she been?

I already know some little words in English. Let me know if you want some classes when I return. You should see me. It's really comical for me to just sit there and listen to the Americans. I end up just laughing with them because I don't understand them. How awful it is not to be able to understand when someone is speaking to you!

I don't have any more time to continue. Good-bye and give my best regards to your sisters and your children.

Ma. de la Pena

Approximate date: 1928.

Letter 45

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez
(no date)

Maria Ana Ramirez

My very dear daughter,

May God give you a very happy new year, and may you take full

advantage of all it has stored within it for you.

I received your letter, the previous letter, and the very charming bookmark which I'll be very happy to use. May God reward you, daughter.

So, you are feeling depressed? And sad? I understand that you're feeling as if your soul is troubled. Is it true? This is very natural, but now don't be foolish. Pray. Have a heart-to-Heart talk with Our Lord about how you are feeling, and He will give you courage and consolation. Try to read some little book that will console you. Reading helps very much. It's an ointment healing all the wounds of our souls which can be even more painful than those of the body.

God willing, we'll see each other again very soon. I desire that so very much. The work we hope to get in Oakland is already being arranged for my family (*Congregation*). Once they start working, are secure in their jobs, and start bringing in some money, then I'll be able to go see you and all my other daughters.

Remember that it's a consolation for you to have your Spouse (Our Lord Jesus Christ). So, please don't be sad. Let's submit in everything to the will of God.

Someone gave us some presents. We've received a beautiful nativity scene, a record player and many other things. My regards to all the family (*community*).

Josefa

Approximate date: 1928. (The foundation of St. Mary's in Moraga, Chronicle, p. 77.)

Letter 46

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Marianita.

I've learned that you've been sick. Are you all right now? Why do

you think you have those blisters?

We've been having, as they say over here, a very hard winter. It's been exceptionally cold to the point of not being able to sleep because of it. I know that you are also having sleet there. Cover yourself well. Just imagine! The girls (*sisters*) cover me with five folded zarapes (*a heavy cape-like covering worn in Mexico*) at night, and during the day I wear two shirts plus the vest, plus the woolen dress and then I still put on a yarn coat. The girls laugh at me because I look so fat with so much clothing on.

Did you like the little present I sent to you with Lupe Escoto (*a long-time friend of Mother Luisita from Atotonilco*)? The little seashells are from here. The ocean is only a few blocks from our house, so we can find little shells in our own yard. I would be so happy if you could come to see this area. Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) must have told you already how beautiful it is. **But don't be thinking that we don't experience our Calvary just like any other place. No, suffering is found everywhere and it's so useful to us. Our Lord does very well in sending it to us, even if our nature resists it. How many of us want to be there, and how many of you want to be here. So it continues to go on, and even more so when we do not see things according to God's will.**

I know that little Victoria has been gravely ill. Get well-informed [about her condition] and then let me know. You know how much I appreciate her. My regards to all the family (*sisters*).

J. Navarro

Approximate date: 1928.

Letter 47

Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco, O.C.D.

(no date)

For Maria Amada.

My good and dear daughter,

I've just learned about the death of Jose Maria, your uncle, and

I understand very well how much you are suffering because separations of any kind are always sad. Nevertheless, if you just think about it a little bit, you'll come to see how great your debt to Our Lord is. He was the One who has called him, and He granted you the grace to assist him in his last moments, which should be very consoling to you. The lonely life he led was a cause of sadness to you, but the one he will live in heaven is so different! What you should do now is to pray very much for the eternal repose of his soul; through your prayers you should take him out of Purgatory very soon and try to be happy. Don't see only the physical; see his soul. Our life here is full of dangers and sadness; in the next life, it will be secure and happy.

You must be exhausted with sorrow and lack of sleep. Try to recuperate, bathe often, eat well and perhaps the doctor could prescribe some injections to prevent you from getting the fever.

Tell me about your little children. How are they coming along? How many do you have now?

I would like to see you. Tell Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) to bring you along with her some day when she is coming over here so that you may also have the opportunity to make your retreat. What are you reading now? **Try not to neglect your spiritual reading, prayer, and examination of conscience and have some fun, also.**

(The following was written in a different handwriting.)

Your mamacita (*M. Luisita*) says she can't continue writing anymore, all right?

(no signature)

Approximate date: 1928. (Testimony of Mother Maria Amada)

Letter 48

Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco, O.C.D.

(no date)

Maria Amada

My very dear daughter,

How are you behaving in school (*the novitiate*)? I'm sure you are doing very well. I would very much like to bring you over for vacation to Long Beach. In that way you will be able to experience being by the ocean. You could also spend a little time with me. In that way you could have your little celebration (*profession of vows*) on the fifteenth of August. Pray to God that it can be so! I'd like it very much.

I don't have time for more and bid you good-bye with an embrace, even if it's in spirit.

Josefa Navarro

Date: 1928 (Chronicle p. 68 and following.)

Letter 49
Mother Maria of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia

(no date)

For Mary of Jesus.

My dear daughter,

I now have received your loving letters. May God reward you.

I long to see you and all the family (*sisters*), but your father (*God*) wants us to stay here for some time so that we can make a little money to be able to support you because all of you are still very young. Pray that God our Lord will grant me the grace of going over to see you.

Well, the bell rang as I was just about to begin giving you some advice. The day will come when I'll be able to give it to you personally. For the time being, I can only say to you--behave well with Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of the Sacred Heart Chavez Martinez*), be very humble and obedient, and try to be very happy.

I want to send this right away, so I'm not adding anything else. Pray

for me.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1928. (In 1928 Mother Luisita was in the United States. Mother Carmen was in Guadalajara and responsible for the sisters there. Chronicle, pp. 76-77)

Letter 50

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Reverend Sister Maria del Refugio

My good daughter,

May the peace of God be with you.

I just read your letter and am hurrying to answer it. You didn't mention in your letter where the feast of Christ the King is going to be held. I'm supposing it's in Los Angeles. As long as you don't omit your obligations and you're able to return at an acceptable hour, you'll be able to attend as an extraordinary permission, but pay attention to the conditions and don't deviate from them.

Let Sister Maria de la Soledad (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle Ibarra*) come over also, but the three of you should come back by boat so the trip will be less expensive.

Remember that you are all religious and young ones at that. This should be enough reason to conduct yourselves with modesty and dignity. The eyes of many people are on all of you. What they see in you either will give glory to or take glory away from God our Lord. What they see will also reflect well or badly on your Congregation. The priests who visit you will be the first one to notice how you sisters are conducting yourselves, and they're going to be the ones to recommend you or not. They won't refer to "the Carmelite" but "the Carmelites." Be very careful in all your actions, words, and movements. Recall that the eyes of God and man are on you

sisters. Close your doors at an early hour, and don't be receiving visitors at night.

We would like Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) to come over here and receive the perpetual vows of Sister Carmen (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and Sister Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*). I'm enclosing one (*possibly a copy of the vow formula or an invitation to the ceremony*) for him, and in case it's necessary, you sisters should read it to him or translate it.

If it's possible, you should begin studying how to play the piano and Sor Margarita (*Sister Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) can give Spanish lessons to the piano teacher.

(no signature)

Approximate date: 1928. (Mother Refugio was fulfilling the responsibilities of superior that year. Letter of Mother Luisita, September 3, 1928.

Letter 51
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

R.H. (Reverend Sister) Maria del Refugio of the Sacred Heart)

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you, my dear and unforgettable daughter.

You did the right thing sending me the letter of your brother (*Father Guadalupe Navarro S.J. was the brother of Sister Refugio and at this time still a novice in the Jesuit Order*). You brought me joy by sharing it with me. May God reward you, daughter.

I most sincerely desire to see you, so pray to our Lord that He will grant it to me, if it's His Divine pleasure.

It made me very happy to learn that Father Huerta (*Father Edward Huerta, S.J., pastor in Atotonilco*) is helping your soul. You have to correspond with all these graces Our Lord is sending you. Make good use of them and you'll be without any doubt following the "Little Way" of your dear little Saint Therese. Be obedient, my daughter, and your will obtain victory. Continue working for souls as you were doing. Don't abandon the visits to our countrymen (*the refugees who, like the sisters, had left Mexico because of the religious persecution there*) nor the catechism classes, and be sure you let me know every detail of those visits.

'd like to write to you a little longer, but it's time to go to the refectory. I just heard the bell.

My regards to the sisters, and if God permits, I'll write to them very soon. Good-bye, daughter. Be good and pray for me.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Approximate date: 1928. (It was in 1928 that Sister Refugio was in California and working in the apostolates mentioned in this letter.)

Letter 52

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Senora (*Mrs.*) Socorro Cholico,

After greeting you, I'd like this letter to be as close as possible to a real face-to-face visit with you in order to give you my answer. Ay, my daughter! I can't agree with you. You can't behave badly with your husband (*Our Lord*) like this.

You say He left you, and I'm telling you--don't worry for He is there by your side always watching over you. He doesn't forget you for a single moment. I assure you, He loves you dearly and on His return--for you say He has left you--He's going to give you everything that you need, or He'll have it sent to you. Just remain very faithful to Him as Pedro (*probably Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) says. Husbands are like that. They sometimes

seem to keep away to test the love of the wife. Never forget Him and write to Him daily telling Him everything you are going through, whether it be sadness or joy, but don't omit anything. Let Him see that you are always loving and submissive to whatever He ordains.

Take good care of yourself and keep occupied. Study so you will be able to be able to teach little classes. Practice your penmanship and watch your spelling. Keep your mind active through writing compositions. Ask Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) what you should study.

I want to go over and see you soon, but you know we'll have to wait until the good Lord permits it. Francisco (*Father Francis Ott*) is determined to buy us a house here in Long Beach. He is a very good person and he is our employer. I hope the house is purchased soon, and that we'll be able to move. Right now we're lodging with a Mexican family, but as soon as we have our little house, the girls (*sisters*) will come and I'll leave.

Good-bye, my daughter, and pray for me.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1928. (Chronicle of our Sisters in Guadalajara, p. 66+ and p.77 "seeking refuge...")

Letter 53

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M.+J.T.

Jesus

(no date)

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in the soul of my beloved daughter, Maria del Socorro.

I've received your letters and they have brought me great joy because you've been open with me. It's only natural that I'm interested in everything about you and my other daughters.

It's very good that the little car is Our Lord's. You'll have to be

careful not to damage it while driving over those stones on the road, especially if the driver is inexperienced.

Be good. Through kindness your soul will find everything it needs to be pleasing to our good God.

Don't fear the second grade. It'll be easy for you. I don't know which transcripts you are requesting, so I'm sending you Sister Maria del Refugio's (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) for you to copy. Mail them as soon as possible.

Don't forget to begin the novena to St. Therese tomorrow. Good-bye and pray for me.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Approximate date: 1928.

Letter 54
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

My beloved daughter, Socorrito,

How happy I am to greet you, my daughter, and to answer your notes which I've been receiving for quite some time and which I do appreciate even if I'm not able to answer them. Know that I want to. God our Lord will bless you for your goodness toward me, for whatever you do for me you are really doing for Him. Give me the pleasure of writing to me on Sundays.

There is no time left for me to waste. I now prepare to march into eternity, or rather for my arrival there because am I not already marching? Perhaps we're all very close to the end. It really doesn't matter how long we live, for even the longest life is brief in the light of eternity.

You've said nothing about your new address and what your position is there. I suppose you are the head of the house as I disposed. Pray earnestly that God will help you and I recommend to you not to go out unless your conscience deems it necessary. **Remain good**

**and never lie. Be totally God's and submissive to His will.
Whatever order you receive, do it immediately.**

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you. Loving regards to everyone.
Josefa

Approximate date: 1928. (Chronicle. p.76-77)

Letter 55

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

For Socorro.

My very dear daughter,

I receive your notes with much pleasure. May God reward you.

It's really lamentable that you sisters are going out so much. I just read your letters and learned that you went to Magdalena's and to the ranch, and what's sadder still is that you're doing these things without my permission. What displeases me the most is that I have only been away for a very short time and I'm afraid that you're already different from the way I trained you. Let it be for God!

I can see through your letters that you're still nervous. You need to eat well, sleep eight hours and be prudent with your practice of mortification. You are exposing yourself to becoming mentally ill. Don't try to be singular. It's not good. Get rid of all those illusions that can greatly harm you. I don't agree with what you are telling me, and I do see that you need to take eggs in the morning, noon and night, and plenty of meat and milk. Keep this in conscience, and if I have any authority over you, you will obey me. An American family is going to the United States next month, and I'll avail myself of the opportunity of having such good companions to go over to visit you.

Write to me and let me know if the girls (*sisters*) are coming over or not. It's urgent for me to know.

I need to make some recommendations to you, but I'm afraid I'll be talking in the desert. Don't be staying too long at the shop (*apostolic works*), and as soon as the day's work is finished, return immediately to the house. For no reason stay out late at night. Some time ago I sent word that Mariquita (*Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) should go live with you. Was it done?

I have been well, all things considered. The weather in the place where I'm living is very similar to yours. It's located out in the country in the beautiful foothills and, consequently, we enjoy plenty of fresh air which is good for our health. The swelling continues--in fact, I think it's getting worse. When I press my fingers against it, they almost stay in. I look like a very ripe black zapote (*a fruit*).

Your little sisters (*postulants and novices*) are very good. You should see them. They're so charming, obedient and loving with their father; (they are) really beautiful. Blessed be God! I do hope they continue that way always.

My fondest regards to your cousins (*sisters*) whom I don't forget. I'll write to them little by little. Your mother who loves you very much.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1928. (Chronicle of Santa Maria, p. 77+)

Letter 56

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Long Beach, January 1, 1929

Guadalajara
Miss Maria del Socorro

My dear daughter,

It's been a long time since I've had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you. What's the matter? Please write to me.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) is telling me about the marriage (*profession of vows*) of Maria Teresa. Perhaps it won't take place after all. The last time my daughters went to visit

her, she sounded confused and they were very mortified. Nevertheless, I asked for the doctor's opinion and I'll tell Nacho about it.

You've seen Micaela (*Sister Maria del Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*). I want your opinion if you think it would be better to keep her or shall we send her home. Let me know soon.

I arrived here in Long Beach last Sunday, so you can write to me at this address. I hope that Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) will be able to rest now that Carmelita is helping her in the shop (*school*), and I pray that she's regaining her strength.

How is Conchita (*Mother Maria Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez*) getting along? *Pobrecita!* Sickness has really taken a hold of her, but I hope that she'll recover once the fever is gone. Perhaps she should accept her aunt's invitation to stay with her for a few days. I think the whole family should move from that house because of the danger of contagion. I'm also taking into consideration the humidity in that area.

I left behind the letter with the new address of the school; I don't remember it by heart. Would you please give it to me again? Right here, the girls (*sisters*) are working too hard, but what can be done about it? They send their regards to both you and the little girls (*novices*) and so do I.

Good-bye, my daughter. Be good and take good care of yourself. I almost forgot to tell you we had a very happy Christmas and New Year. We hope yours was, also.

Your mother who blesses you,

Josefa

Letter 57
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Long Beach, California, January 16, 1929

Miss Socorro Cholico

My very dear daughter,

Let's praise our good Lord because you've passed your examinations. I'm glad the girls (*sisters*) are doing so well.

I'm longing to see you. Ask Our Lord to grant me this grace, and if not, then to give me strength to bear it. Think of how much we'll have to say to each other when we finally meet again! It's been such a long separation.

Because I have urgent business pending, I need to stop this letter now, but I want you to tell Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) not to reveal what I mentioned in my last letter to her. I'll write to you more extensively very soon. For now, I just want to greet you and give you the message for Carmelita.

Call Micaela (*Sister Maria del Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*) so that she will be able to make arrangements for her wedding (*final profession of vows*) right there, or perhaps with Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) would be better.

Good-bye, daughter.

Your mother who blesses you,

Josefa

Letter 58
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Long Beach, California, January 23, 1929

Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with much affection, desiring very much to see you again.

I'm concerned about the debt we have with Lomeli. Haven't you turned in what was received from Refugito (*Sister Refugio of the*

Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez)? Tell her niece, Maria, of the great need you have for that money. Give the \$100.00 from the College (*school*) as you were telling me. Lupe Escoto (*a friend from Atotonilco who helped the Congregation very much*) just left and she's taking a letter for Damaso asking him to give you the money. Then you, in turn, can use it as a payment, also. In addition, ask Manuel Navarro for the money and the interest accumulated, and explain to him that you are in great need and insist until you receive it. It's urgent that we repay that loan, and I wish that the girls (*sisters*) could make some little things to sell or raffle--some little, practical, useful things. Now that Conchita (*Sister Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) is totally well, you won't be so overworked.

God our Lord has kept me well in spite of the winter and rainy seasons, both of which have been very intense. He's both life and health because at my age, and being ill, I couldn't endure any more. Blessed be God for everything!

With Lupe we're sending you some seashells that we picked up from the beach, a few blocks away from where we're living.

Good-bye.

Josefa

Letter 59

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Long Beach, Calif. May 4, 1929

Miss Mariana Ramirez
Guadalajara

My dear daughter,

I've received your letter. After greeting you, I'll answer you with much pleasure. May God reward you, daughter.

Be at peace. I'm a little better. The swelling continues, but I don't have the headaches that I was even getting in my sleep. They used to wake me up and after I sat up for a few minutes, they

disappeared. My left hand was feeling some numbness, but I'm better now, and the palpitations haven't recurred.

May God our Lord grant that I'll be able to see you again in this world, but if it's not His good pleasure to give us that joy, then may He grant us the joy of seeing each other in heaven. Don't you be worrying about my dying. Don't be foolish. Just pray for me and that will be enough. Pray that I may have sincere contrition and go to heaven. Love our Blessed Mother very much. Make her your confidant. Talk to her about whatever is worrying you, and live as I've taught you. See to it that your little sisters do the same, and be sure to remind them about what I taught them. *Pobrecitas!* Because you are a little older, you remember better.

It makes me very happy that you're occupying a better house. What a great advantage it will be for you to have running water and to be so much closer to downtown. How good our God is! Over here your father (*the pastor*) fixed up a house for us in Los Angeles which is a little bigger. I say big because ordinarily the houses are small. We hope to move there by the beginning of June, and I'll let you know the new address.

I'd like very much to see you. Hopefully we'll be given that grace soon. May your spouse (*Our Lord Jesus Christ*) either bring you up here or take me there.

Try to eat well and be happy so you may give me the joy of seeing you putting on a little weight and with rosy cheeks!

Give my loving regards to your spouse (*Our Lord Jesus Christ*), Carmelita, (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and all the family (*sisters*).

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Josefa

Letter 60
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

Los Angeles, California October 14, 1929

R.H. (*Reverend Sister*) Maria del Socorro

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter. Let's give thanks to Our Lord for granting us the grace of opening the school in Atotonilco. It was really an urgent matter, and I think it's necessary that you and Sister Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) come here as soon as possible. We'll have to see what convenient arrangements can be made. The departure of those traveling to Guadalajara will be next Friday. I'm sending you the coupons for the discount on your train tickets.

My affectionate regards to all my good daughters whom I esteem so much. Please tell Mother Maria de la Soledad not to be discouraged. Another sister will be accompanying one of you so the number of sisters will be complete. I've no more time to continue.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Letter 61

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Guadalajara, November 7, 1929

Los Angeles
Sister Socorro Cholico

My beloved daughter,

What a consolation your letters are to me. I'm always anxious to learn how all of you are doing. May God reward you.

My trip, this responsibility of mine of visiting my daughters, went very well. Give thanks to Our Lord because the journey was uneventful. I already went to see Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*), remaining eight days at her house and then returning on the fifth. I'm now here in

Carmelita's (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) house, at your service.

It's for the best that Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) continue with her English and music classes, and I hope that Josefina (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra*), Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and you will be taking art classes. The more you learn, the better.

I'm thinking that it will be necessary for Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) to remain there because you need her. And during the cold season try to get up at least at five, covering yourselves well.

The rules and regulations for the boarders (*postulants and novices*) are in the *ceremonial book*, but taking into consideration the different customs of the country, and also keeping in mind the weather, there will have to be changes which you should make. If you think it necessary to consult with Father Ott (*Father Francis P. Ott*), do so.

Don't forget to plant your little garden and the orchard this month. Hopefully, my father's gardener will do it for you--or whoever can do that favor for you.

Try to be happy wherever God places you and under any circumstances. Always be attentive to His will and make His will your own. Otherwise, you'll never be happy. We're always wanting what we don't have. Truly, we can become a calamity to ourselves!

Give my regards to my daughters and tell Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) that I had the pleasure of seeing her mother. She's well and so is the whole family.

I'm sorry Mariquita is so hoarse now. Tell her to take care of herself and to get well soon. Please let Teresa know that I saw Marcelina and that she is recuperating well.

On the twelfth of this month, Lucita (*Sister Maria de la Luz Valle*) and Cuca (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) will come to live with us while we consider if they'll go over there.

Everything's ready for them to leave, though.

Work cooperatively with Father Ott. That little house is very important for us to keep. In fact, it's urgent that we have it. Perhaps I'll be going back shortly despite the fact that I've been rather sickly. I think it has to do with my gallbladder. We've been relatively well, but I've become fearful of everything. Blessed be God in everything that He permits!

Don't charge for the towels (*altar linens*) of Grandma (*the church during the religious persecution*). Tell her you were very happy to do them for her and treat her as such--a Grandma.

I'll be writing to you all soon, and I'm enclosing some recommendations.

Maria Luisa

Letter 62

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

November 9, 1929

Miss Margarita Hernandez

My very dear daughter,

I'm writing these lines to greet you and answer your letter. It's good that you are writing to the friends whom you mention, for we must cultivate the friendship of such good people to whom we are so indebted. The letter for Gerarda is all right. Mail it and please give her and the other person to whom you are writing my greetings at the same time. We'll be delighted to send you the papers that you've requested.

Lucita and Cruz (*girls entering the Congregation*) will come on the twelfth to spend a few days with us. Then we'll see whether they'll remain here or go to Los Angeles where they'll have a job (*if the Novitiate will be in the United States or in Mexico*). My Uncle Lencho (*Msgr. Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalupe*) wants you sisters to reside in the schoolhouse. Tell that to your daddy (*pastor of Atotonilco el Alto, Jalisco*).

Try to be happy wherever Our Lord places you and in whatever work that He gives you to do for Him. Try to make good use of the time that He gives you to achieve your eternal salvation. It's really a blessing that Raphaelita (*one of the girls in Atotonilco*) is working in the school. Let's hope that she doesn't change her mind.

Give my greetings to Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega who was the local superior*) and tell her that she'll be able to use Mercedes and Micaela (*two girls hoping to enter the Congregation*) in the school to help as she's requested. In the meantime, we'll ask my Uncle Lorenzo to permit them to remain with us (*the approval of the Vicar of Religious for them to enter*).

I don't understand what Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is asking you about money. Please give me an explanation. Greetings to all the members of the family (*the religious community*).

Josefa

Letter 63
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Guadalajara, November 29, 1929

Miss Socorro Cholico

My dear daughter,

It's my pleasure to greet you with the hope that all is going well with you. I experienced great consolation as I read your last letter. How is Josefina (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez*) getting along now? I'm supposing that she's already been discharged from the hospital. It would be a good idea for you to give the sisters who took care of her a little present, greeting and thanking them in my name. And how's my father (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*)? I'm so happy he's gained a little weight, which indicates to me that his health's improving. Blessed be God!

Do you have any news about Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa*)

Valle) and her family (*community*)? I'm very worried about them because it's been quite some time since I wrote to them, and I still haven't received any answer yet.

There's a possibility that we're going to be moving from this house. You may send your letters to the Becerra family's address. They are Sister Josephine's aunts.

A young lady, Magdalena Chavez, wants to enter religious life in a congregation located in front of Saint Patrick's Parish. I believe they are Carmelites, also. But she has a problem--she doesn't have the dowry and won't be accepted without it. I felt very sorry to see her crying so I offered to let you know, hoping that Teresita's godfather, who is such a good and generous man, could give her \$500.00 (pesos) which the exchange will convert to more than \$1,000.00 (dollars).

Don't forget us before Our Lord, and on the twenty-fifth especially, help me to thank Him for the grace of our Silver Jubilee and offer Him something that will be very pleasing to Him. Please ask Chole to do the same.

Good-bye, my daughter. My regards to your family (*community*) and also greet Lupe, Concha and Ramon, Manuel and Lolita (*relatives of Mother Luisita*) for me.

Your mother who blesses you,

Josefa

P.S. I've just received your last letter in which you informed me that Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) and Josefina (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez*) are at St. Mary's.

Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) is going to prepare the children to receive their first Holy Communion on the anniversary of our Silver Jubilee and I hope you can do the same.

Letter 64

Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos Gonzalez, O.C.D.

Bernardita.

My dear daughter,

My health is better, thank you very much. May God reward your concern for me.

How is the workload? Be very careful with those children, help your mother (*local superior*) very much, and try to help her with her work.

Is the Italian family all right now? Since you told me about them, I've been praying for them. May God permit that they are all right now.

Last Sunday I thought about you.

At work, try to be together with Luisa, and in that way you can help each other.

Work at being good, daughter.

May God bless you.

Your grandmother,
Maria

Letter 65

Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos Gonzalez

(no date)

Bernardita.

My beloved daughter,

May God reward you for your loving letter and spiritual bouquet for my feastday, by giving you all the graces you need to be good.

I spent my day very happily, thinking of all my daughters.

I'm very happy that you and Luisa (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) are companions. She's very competent in her work. May God bless you and help you in everything.

Maria

Approximate date: 1929.

Letter 66

To Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara

Miss Carmen Vergara

My very dear Carmela,

I received the painting you sent me. Thank you. I appreciated it very much.

When you come, bring material for the *repousse* (formed in relief) and some little boxes of pomade to clean the metal. Tell Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) that I wrote to her at the address 626 and by the letter that I received just now I can see that it's off by just one number. Nevertheless, she can pick it up at 626 Independencia Street.

I'm very excited about your coming. Perhaps it will be this week when I'll be telling you all to come.

Josefa

Letter 67

Sister Carmen of the Sacred Heart Becerra Silva

(no date)

For Carmen Becerra.

My dear daughter,

I greet you with much affection and congratulate you for your Saint's day. May you spend it very happily and gain merit for heaven.

I received your letters, which I deeply appreciate. May God our Lord reward you.

I hope to leave here very soon, and then you'll be going over to Guadalajara to spend a few days with me. Take good care of

yourself. Try to eat well, so that you will be able to recover by the time we see each other. It will make me so very happy to see you well again. See to it also that your soul is well, too. Always keep it very pure, without sin, and try to offer your suffering to God our Lord for the conversion of sinners.

Give my regards to all your sisters, and please tell them that I'll be writing to them later. Good-bye.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1929. (Mother Luisita traveled to the United States and she celebrated her Silver Jubilee that year. Sister Carmen Becerra died in 1934+)

Letter 68

**Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez
Archbishop of Guadalajara**

(no date)

Illustrious Excellency and Father of mine:

With great respect and filial affection I greet your Excellency, wishing you well. I am in great need of your advice. It pertains to a community business matter. As one of the things that has me very worried is the poor state of my health, the business matter regards the will of my inheritance which I've made in favor of two of the members of our religious community.

In view of the strength of the rights given to testaments which are made in favor of strange persons (*Mother is probably referring to persons who aren't blood relatives*) the government keeps the greatest part, if we do it that way.

I talked to Villela, the lawyer whom Your Excellency knows very well, and he is of the opinion that it would be better not to make a will, but rather to draw up a document and have it notarized by a notary public, specifying that I recommended those sisters to take over the inheritance which evidences the mortgage of the property "*La Labor*."

(No signature)

Note: This letter was found among Mother Luisita's correspondence. It is a handwritten copy of the original letter which was sent to the Archbishop.

Letter 69

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

May the peace of God be in our souls, my beloved daughter, Sor Josefina.

I greet you, uniting myself with you in your pain because of the departure from this world of Victorita (*the first Director of the school in Atotonilco*) with whom the bond of friendship was so strong. Let's bless Our Lord! He disposes everything for our own good. Victoria is safe now, and she is already happy. Let's pray for her soul; it's our duty, but I'm hoping that Our Blessed Mother has already taken her out of Purgatory by this time. Let's ask Victoria to intercede for us. Now, she can do more for us. Let's not doubt that she will obtain great graces from God our Lord, and that she will love us even more. In heaven our love for one another becomes perfect.

Don't cry anymore and be careful not to sew so much because your eyes are delicate now, and it would be harmful to you. It's a duty to take care of our sight.

I think about all of you and wish you lived closer so that I could see you often and give you a mother's reprimand. May God our Lord grant me that grace, and you [sisters] help me to obtain it.

Don't forget the contract you have signed with a great God. Your vows are written in the book of your life, and it's better for you not to make your vows than not to keep them.

Pray for me very much. The day will come when I, too, will have to present an account of my life before God, and I think

that it will probably happen in the near future. Pray that He will greet this poor soul with a smile, and that after I die, He'll not leave me in Purgatory.

Loving regards to all the sisters.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Date: 1929. (Testimony of Sister Josephine--Victorita died in 1929.)

Letter 70

Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be the consolation of my dear daughter, Jesus Teresa.

Oh, how much our good God loves you! He has kept your soul for Himself alone. Be grateful to Him and do not, absolutely do not deny Him anything that He might ask of you, and understand that God never allows Himself to be outdone in generosity.

Help them [the sisters in the United States] with the catechism and the hymns. Study piano and the other classes that Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) can teach you, but above all, help them by prayer.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Approximate date: 1929. (Mother Jesus Teresa was in the United States and then returned to Mexico. Chronicle, p.82)

Letter 71

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Marianita.

My very dear daughter,

With much joy I greet and congratulate you for passing all of your exams so successfully! Blessed be God! Now you should try to sleep later-- until 5:30 or 6:00 a.m. or so-- so that your mind will be able to rest.

I'm longing to see you. My will is rebelling somewhat at the thought of dying so far away from you. Now I'm feeling a little better and the warmer weather is better for me, but I don't trust myself because now my problem is the heart and the doctor wants me to be resting and staying in bed most of the day. Whenever I am sitting down, he wants me to have my legs extended to help the circulation. Let's do with joy whatever God our Lord wants, for He loves us very much, and He knows what is best for us. If I don't die, and God allows me to, I'll go see you soon.

Give my regards to Dona Refugito and tell her I'm sorry she is sick, and to take good care of herself.

Where are you now? Are you living with Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*)? Take the advantage of your vacation to recover your strength.

Over here, the girls (*sisters*) are very earnestly studying their English. I want them to receive their diplomas so they will be able to be able to teach over there. Carmen (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*), Margie (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*), and Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Alonzo Heredia*) are very much ahead already. An American gentleman who heard Margarita speaking English was quoted in an English newspaper as saying that she speaks it very well.

Good-bye, daughter. Pray for me.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1929.

Letter 72

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Maria Ana.

My very dear daughter,

It's only natural that you feel like your brain is all tired-out. At the end of the year you are going to feel more settled. Be sure to eat well. Take eggs, menudo, liver, bean soup (but not refried beans)--whatever has a lot of sustenance--and buy a bottle of "Composed Bifosfatos" (a *vitamin-mineral supplement*) like Elena (*Mother Elena of the Holy Spirit and the Cross Heredia Alonzo*) took that was so good for her. About your leg, consult with the doctor. Don't neglect taking care of yourself.

Our Lord Himself will be your recompense. And you'll see what a prize He has prepared for you in exchange for your efforts in your work and for so many things that one suffers in this world. Wherever we are we find Calvary and we learn how hard it is to go up that hill, but after we reach the summit, we possess heaven. Forward, my daughter! Suffer with joy whatever Our Lord sends you. That's very good thing to do, but don't suffer and complain. No. Not that.

Give my regards to Dona Refugito and tell her that it will be my pleasure to pray for the resolution of her needs. And now for you--I'll pray for you that it will be easier to teach those classes and finish up the school year. Good-bye, daughter. May God bless you.

Josefa

Approximate Date: 1929.

Letter 73

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

(no date)

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

I received your kind little letter, which I'm hurrying to answer.

I understand your situation, and now more than ever you need to act naturally with tranquillity and much patience. Without letting Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) know that it's about her, go and speak confidentially to Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*). Tell him that I'm very happy with those two little houses, and that I'm deeply grateful for their help. Let him know, also, that we are always ready to make any sacrifice so that the houses will be able to run smoothly. Tell him this in a way that Father will not realize you've been telling me anything and lead him to think that it's I who am thinking of these things. If he refers to Margarita's coming over here, tell him that you think that I won't be taking her now, not until there's someone to replace her. Tell him that Mother understands very well that right now, Margarita should remain where she is, but to keep her humble, she doesn't tell her that. So, even if she (Margarita) says she is leaving, it isn't so. Be sure of that.

Because I'm feeling so ill, I can't continue this but I wanted to write to you even if it was only a few lines. **Pray for me and don't worry for these experiences are only little winds that come and go. They are good for us because of the lessons they leave us and the opportunity they offer for us to practice virtue.**

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Good-bye. Regards to my daughters.

Maria Luisa

Approximate year: 1929. (This year Mother Margarita came to the United States with Mother Luisita, although they returned at the beginning of 1930: Chronicle: Silver Jubilee, 82-83.)

Letter 74

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

(no date)

May the grace of the Holy Spirit always be in our souls, Sister Margarita!

Ay, my daughter! It's only natural for me to miss you, since we've been companions for such a long time. Nevertheless, at least let's obey joyfully so that we'll be able to give glory to God! This is already a great consolation for me, and I think that our separation will be most profitable. **Be good, my daughter. God our Lord loves you very much and awaits your little victories with affection. Don't expect to acquire sanctity in any other way than by conquering yourself and by doing little things which will enable your soul to attain the necessary strength to endure greater troubles.**

Do not lose your presence of God, but contemplate it with gentleness within your own self.

Good-bye, my daughter. I give you my blessing.

 Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Date: October, 1929. This letter was written from Guadalajara to Atotonilco, a few days after our return from the United States toward the end of October, 1929. (as explained by Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez in her introductory notes to this letter)

Letter 75

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

November, 1929

For Margarita, my beloved daughter.

What a great happiness it is for me to greet you! How is your health? Magdalen (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) told me that you have tonsillitis. Take care of yourself, take your medicine and do everything beneficial for that kind of trouble. How anxious I am to see you all!

It seems to me that you did the right thing with that young student of

ours, Mercedes. **Avail yourselves of the opportunities that are presented to you regarding the young girls there. Try to help them, to attract them, to invite them, and after praying with them, speak to them with prudence and gentleness trying to win their hearts so that you'll be able to present those hearts to God. Tell them to go to the Sacraments frequently and see that they read some good books. Maybe you'll find some short articles which would be beneficial to them in "La Cruz" ("The Cross"--a periodical). Try to be an apostle. A word said in the name of God may bring about the salvation of a soul.**

Address my letters to your mother, Conchita, at her house and with the name of Maria Navarro, which will be my name from now on.
(no signature)

Letter 76

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

(no date)

Margarita,

I greet you with much love, hoping that you are well. Conchita (*the mother of Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) came over yesterday and she was well. Luis (*her brother*) and Lucita (*her sister*) are well also.

It gives me great pleasure to learn that you are able to teach the classes. It helps you to remember the material so that when you open the school, it will be familiar to you. In the meantime, be sure you practice the piano at least two hours a day.

Lucita is studying piano so that she will be able to accompany "*los misterios en la Asociacion*." Don't let her surpass you.

We have already sent you the things you wanted for the school. If you still haven't received it, you'll be receiving it one of these days. Either Manuel Navarro or some other special messenger will bring it.

Try to be happy, to eat and sleep well so that you will be in

good shape in every sense and you'll be finding out how happy you will be. To be in the United States or in Atotonilco makes no difference. Please your Divine Spouse and leave the world alone! Have you written to our friends in the United States yet?

Josefa

Approximate date: November, 1929.

Letter 77

Mother Maria of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia

(no date)

For Maria de Jesus S (*Mother Maria of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia*).

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with affection in Our Lord. May His holy peace be with you.

How are you feeling? What can you tell me about the *cornetes* (*the little bones we have in the nose*) and the stings? Take care of yourself. Eat and sleep well and spend some time out in the orchard, taking advantage of the sun and fresh air.

Tell me about the children [you are teaching]. Do you have many of them? Place upon each of them the wings of love and fear of God. *Porbecitas!* They are surrounded by so many dangers, and we have to help them. Fortunately at their age they retain everything and they will never forget.

It seems to be we're playing hide and seek, with you leaving from here just as I was arriving. Eventually, we'll see each other and spend some days together over there. Let's both pray to Our Lord to grant me the grace of going there, again. Good-bye, daughter. May you remain well and holy.

Maria

Approximate year: 1929. (This year Mother Luisita left the United States)

Letter 78

Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez

(no date)

For Paz of the Flagellation.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul, my dear daughter.

Thanks be to God our Lord for allowing me to write to you. How are you? I know that your headaches have subsided, which makes me very happy. Continue taking care of yourself, and let me know of your progress.

I really would have liked to go and spend a few days in that house so dear to me and which brings me so many memories. Pray to God that He will give me the means of going there.

Do you know yet how to give anesthesia and injections and how to take care of the pharmacy? It would be very good for you to learn how to take care of the sick because I can see that Our Lord wants you to dedicate yourself to the poor patients, and with training you'll be able to do that very conscientiously. What a beautiful mission He has given you! It's the means He placed in your path for the salvation and perhaps even for your sanctification.

Do not neglect your prayer, that is

P.S. This letter wasn't completed.

Approximate date: 1929. Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez professed in August of 1927. Book of Admissions and Professions., p. 5. Mother Luisita returned to Mexico from the United States in 1929 in order to celebrate her Silver Jubilee in her native land.)

Letter 79

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

The peace of God be with my beloved daughter, Sister Maria del

Refugio.

After greeting you with true affection in Our Lord, I beg you to take Flora to Father Tornero so that she will be able to speak with him regarding some urgent business. Teresa has encouraged her to talk to him. Leave them alone so the two of them may talk about it. All you have to do is to introduce her to Father. May this take place at your earliest convenience.

How is everyone? I, myself, am longing to go and spend a few days with all of you. It would be such a great consolation as well as a time of rest for me, but it seems that Our Lord wants me here at the moment. Let it be all for Him! However, as soon as it's possible for me, I'll go and in the meantime M. Teresa will go. Wait for her one of these days and gladly receive her.

We just finished a splendid celebration--the dedication of the Brothers' Chapel (*at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*). The Archbishop was here and there was a sixty-voice choir. Everything went very well.

Sister Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) is convalescing from some kind of stomach ailment and it also seemed as if something was wrong with her brain but, fortunately, she is much better.

The sisters arrived safely. Now they have a cold.

Give infinite thanks to God our Lord for granting you so many graces through Pastor Huerta (*Father Edward Huerta, S.J., pastor in Atotonilco*), and be sure to make use of those graces, lest the fountain of graces dry up because they were rejected. Obey, my daughter, obey. That's the remedy for your troubles. Nourish a great devotion to our Father St. Joseph and your soul will profit by it. Pray, also, for me because I am in great need of his help.

We have to bless God our Lord in everything. Let every day that passes be a day of [spiritual] gain as we pass through this world. Good-bye.

Maria Luisa J. del S.

Approximate date: 1929. (In 1929 the sisters worked in Moraga, California at St. Mary's College which was operated by the Christian Brothers.)

Letter 80

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

For Socorrito.

I received your note. May God reward you. You must have already received mine.

How are you? All right now? You didn't mention anything about your illnesses. **Try to eat well and be at peace. Our Lord wants all of you to be happy, enthusiastically working in His vineyard.** I've tried to get the manual from the Christian Mothers in order to send to you, but it hasn't been possible. As soon as I receive it, I'll mail it, in the hope that our Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) will like it and be able to use it. Greet the mothers in that parish for me, and make sure that in everything you do the pastor is in agreement. Invite him to the meetings and encourage the ladies to be very loyal, submissive, and helpful toward him in words and actions, for that will be a great consolation for him. You on your part should do the same and you should also be taking your little trips to the confessional. Both he and the sisters will be very happy. Seeing your good will toward him will result in his trust in you and his interest in what we do. You may also show him our book of ceremonies and our Constitutions, so that he will be able to help you more. I assure you that he is an exemplary priest, very good and very spiritual.

In case the Bishop is back, discuss with our Father Ott if it would be in order to welcome him in writing. Ask Father Callahan, also. Then he, in turn, can tell you how to go about it. Please show him the rough draft, so he will be able to correct it.

Put the money that Rafael sent (*Brother Raphael, a Christian brother from St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, helped the*

sisters with their business matters) into the bank as soon as possible, and as soon as we have a thousand pesos, we'll be giving it as payment for the house. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to pay for it. Pray to Saint Therese to give us the means of paying off that debt. Ask Father what are we going to do with the lot where the house is now situated. Ask him to please make the arrangements for us and inform him that we're trying to save enough money to make a payment from what the brothers give us.

Regarding the classes we're being asked to teach, it's not to our benefit to say no. We'll have to make a change allowing Carmen Josefa (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) to go there to teach art and sewing and let M. Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) go and substitute for her. You'll miss her very much, but what can we do? We have only a few months left. I don't have time for more. The Manual is in the mail. Soon I'll be sending the certificate and a medal.

Maria Luisa

Possible date: 1929. (Mother Socorro left for the United States at the end of the 1928-29 school year. Chronicle, pp. 82+; 1930, p. 85-87. Letters of Our Mother Luisita: 1928 and 1929).

Letter 81

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

J.M. + J.T.

Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus
My beloved daughter,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

Pobrecita! I didn't have the pleasure of writing to you personally on your day. Now I do it as if it had an octave (*a continuing celebration of eight days*)!

**Were you happy on the day of your little Saint [Saint Therese]?
How many petals did you feel falling upon your soul on that**

beautiful day? I hope you received the grace of having the gracious and likeable spirit of your patron, and with it, the graces of following her “Little Way” on this earth and of ultimately being her companion in heaven.

Daughter, did you ask for a confessor already? Write the letter to the Archbishop (*Archbishop Edward Joseph Hanna of San Francisco*), and inform him that Father Turco is at that school and that he understands Spanish, but let the Archbishop decide. Indicate only one thing--the difficulty for someone to come in from the outside to hear your confessions. Brother Rafael can explain how. Father has already agreed.

I've been receiving your letters, and with them, great consolation. May God our Lord reward you, daughter.

I was very happy to learn that Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) visited you. He really has great charity toward us. God our Lord has given him to us as our support. Blessed be God!

Right now I just received a letter from Mother Carmen (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*). She tells me they have 250 girls in the school, and they could have more if they had the space. This means that you'll need to take care of your health so you'll be able to work with the sisters and get them ready so that next year they'll go to establish schools in Mexico. Sister Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) began to work in the kindergarten in Atotonilco on the first of this month. Blessed be God! She is all excited and I'm very happy that something is being done in the little town (*Atotonilco*).

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Date: 1929. (*Chronicle*, pp. 71 and 84)

Letter 82
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter, Sor Teresita.

It's been a great consolation for me to learn that you are eating and sleeping well. **Regarding the sisters, I know you understand that there is a great need for them to be educated. This will give great glory to Our Lord and they will be able to do whatever is asked of them. We have to, therefore, go forward.** I hope they finish their arithmetic and grammar, improve their penmanship, and enrich their vocabulary.

Regarding silence, it will be to their advantage to keep their silence and, besides, that's the way it should be. See to it, therefore, that they keep their silence. To do the contrary, would be a disaster! How dreadful it would be to have chattering nuns, discrediting the holy habit they are wearing and even more so because they are Carmelites. Help them to form their souls, which are very fertile fields, but prone to acquiring bad weeds. You have authority over them. You can help them with your example and your advice, guiding them to be women of solid virtues who obey God in His creature, and not just because they like the superior, for that wouldn't be obedience because in that case the creature would serve as an idol and Our Lord wouldn't be served. Besides, there should never be any murmuring about anybody, and above all, about the superior. These faults are serious and of great importance and should be avoided at any cost in a community.

Our Lord says this about superiors: "He Who hears you, hears Me, and he who despises you, despises Me." I'm telling you this, my daughter, so you'll be able to instill this in the souls of those sisters somehow, some way during conversation. You can see that some of them are still very young, and so we need to help them. These observations will be well received if they are given by someone they trust. I'll pray to our good God so that the brain of my Teresita will become strong, and He will grant it to me. Belong completely to God and pray for me.

Maria Luisa Josefa

Approximate date: 1929. (Mother Teresita was in California.)

Letter 83
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Guadalajara, January 14, 1930

Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My beloved daughter,

Even though I just wrote to you a few days ago, I'm writing again to say that if you are delaying your trip to St. Mary's because you lack a companion, then take Josefina (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez*) with you and go the day after you receive this letter. It's urgent that you go. Leave Maria (*Mother Mary of the Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) in charge of the house.

It will be good for Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) to go to the hospital to help Magdalena (*Sister Magdalene of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*). Magdalena isn't well and now she needs someone to help her care for the sick, so Chole will be welcomed with open arms. Send her back to Los Angeles as long as there's a family who can accompany her, and if you see that Teresa's (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) presence is necessary there, then send her with Chole. If not, let Josephine return with Chole, but Teresa knows Father Ott's ways very well and she can also help you there. I leave it up to you, but Maria, by all means, should stay in charge of the house and I do prefer that Teresa remains in Los Angeles.

Be sure to tell me all of your needs. Work for the unity and happiness of the girls (*sisters*), helping them to understand the need for practicing virtue--solid virtue--so that they won't tumble over with every little wind that blows against them. God will help you.

Let Maria take care of the mothers (*teach religion either individually or in very small groups to mothers in the parish*) and Teresa and Chole should do the visitations (*go from house to house taking the parish census*). If God permits, after the twelfth of February, I shall be going over to visit you. In some way let the "*patrones*" (*patrons*)

or ecclesiastical superiors) of our houses in Los Angeles and here know how necessary it's for us to have Chole and Teresa. Ask my Uncle Raphael or Uncle Gregory (*Christian Brothers at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*) to let me know the doctor's opinions about the condition of Maria Teresa, i.e., is there a danger that she will get sick again or is there anything else that we need to worry about? It's urgent for me to know precisely.

I'm enclosing a list for Miss Rosa. Please write to me soon because I'm worried.

Josefa Navarro

Letter 84

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

Los Angeles, California. February 10, 1930

R. M. Maria del Socorro of the Holy Spirit
May the peace of God be in your soul, my beloved daughter.

I would have loved for us to spend these days together, but let's embrace whatever God arranges for us, serving Him joyfully wherever He wants us and in whatever manner He desires.

I'm glad that you changed Sister Mary of the Victories (*Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel Rodriguez*) from the refectory. If that gentleman doesn't see her anymore she'll be safe, but if there's any sign of danger, it's preferable for her to come here.

Back up Sister Soledad's (*Sister M. Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) authority, but advise her to be very indulgent with the sisters--to make them feel she has a mother's heart toward them, and the sisters will respond well to that kind of authority. Harshness will lead her nowhere, and she'll never obtain good results. With much charity you should go ahead and help the sisters understand that it's because of their own lack of virtue that they aren't able to cope with that kind of bluntness and severity, if indeed such is really the case. But it was wrong of

them to rebel, and that alone should be enough cause for them to act humbly and realize their lack of solid virtue.

The sisters still haven't found the priests that you and Sister Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) saw, which means that they still haven't gone to confession before their wedding day (*profession of vows*). They've walked all over and are unable to find the house number that you left. There must be an explanation about this, and I do hope that you can find them (*the priests*) very soon.

Send us the pictures of Blessed Maria de Jesus Crucificado (*Mary of Jesus Crucified*) and the letter of the priest who sent it. I've been somewhat ill, more swollen and with such bad chills that the sisters could hardly warm me up. Today, however, I'm feeling better, blessed be God!

My best regards to my daughters whom I hope will give me the consolation of being more united and submissive to their superiors, since this behavior constitutes grave matter. The sisters don't realize how serious this type of conduct really is.

Maria Luisa Josefa del Santisimo

Letter 85

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J. T.

Los Angeles, California. March 21, 1930

St. Mary's
R.M. Maria del Socorro of the Holy Spirit

The grace of the Holy Spirit be with us, my dear daughter.

With great joy I greet you and my other daughters, praying with all my heart that they may be well in soul and body. I've received the sisters' letters. May God our Lord reward you for the consolation they bring me.

My daughter, I've just received a letter from Mother Carmen of Jesus. She's as good as ever and still directing her little school in

Atotonilco, "*Colegio Colon*" (*Columbus School*). It was very difficult to get the permission from the government for both it and the house but in the end Mother was successful due to her prayers. Blessed be God! **Please pray that the true success of that school will be to win many souls for God in that little and dear town (Atotonilco).**

Those souls entrusted to you now are really good and worthy of receiving the best religious formation, for they are going to be the columns upholding our Institute. It's important that you continue guiding them in everything that will improve their actions. Observe them prudently and don't let them neglect anything, for that's the duty of the superior at all times in all places. Adhere to the Constitutions and customs we've always followed so they may be well-formed in spirit, with solid virtues, choosing practicality over that sentimentality to which we women can be prone. At their age they can be formed, inculcating integrity of character and strength of will regarding the things of God, but not a harsh character which is harmful to themselves and repugnant to others. Therefore, intense prayer and watchfulness are needed. The Archbishop of Guadalajara sends his regards to everyone in that house.

It's now obvious that the devil found out about us in the U.S. Let's take up the arms of prayer. Everyone should ask Our Lord for His help and for His grace so they will not be overcome and the attacks we'll have to endure will be exactly what gives greater glory to His Divine Majesty.

Archbishop Orozco wants our Sisters to go to Ocotlan to take care of a hospital. Pray to God about this matter, also. It would be helpful if the nurse already there could give some practical nursing classes while the sisters are still there because some of them will have to go to Ocotlan and others to the school. The sisters in Guadalajara have their hands full already, and the same thing is happening in Atotonilco. Other ill sisters are patients in a hospital run by another congregation.

As for myself, I seem to be less swollen, blessed be God! I'm eating very lightly and am taking daily laxatives. Please pray to Our Lord for me.

Good-bye, my daughter. May God our Lord bless you.
Maria Luisa Josefa del Santisimo Sacramento, C.D.T.

Letter 86
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Los Angeles, California, March 22, 1930

Miss Carmen Chavez
Atotonilco

My dear daughter,

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of receiving your kind letter. May God reward you.

I'm really happy that you are already tending to your little bee-hives. I've always liked bees and used to have a lot of fun watching them at work. Their number, of course, will increase.

It's fine with me for you to do the same as Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*), and for her to send you the books you need. It's also all right to send Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) her music book. She's already asked Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) for it.

Regarding the invitation you received from Clotilde to go to Ocotlan (*for the sisters to work in the city of Ocotlan*), that would also be fine with me, taking into consideration of course, that my father (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) consents. At the same time, however, it isn't enough that Clotilde invite you. Her father (*the local pastor*) should do the inviting. How can you go to someone else's house if the owner of the house isn't inviting you? That's not possible. Therefore, it's necessary for Mr. Solorzano to get in touch with me. Write to Clotilde telling her that.

I'm recommending a girl named Carmela to you. I think her last name is Garcia. She's such a good girl. I hope she arranges everything very soon to go to the boarding house (*novitiate*) to be

with Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). Call her and tell her she needs to go to see my Uncle Lorenzo (*Monsignor Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) and tell Manuelita to get everything ready.

I'm a little less swollen and following a very simple diet, practically all liquids and much rest. I take daily laxatives, but it seems that my nature has gotten used to them because I'm not getting the desired results. **Blessed be God for everything!**
May you be very happy in all circumstances of life, for God our Lord disposes everything for our own good.

Teresa Navarro (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) is still very sick. Today she went to see the doctor and his diagnosis was that perhaps she has a malignant tumor. How I hope that it isn't so. It usually isn't possible that a doctor can diagnose like that the very first time he sees a patient.

Thanks be to God, we spent the nineteenth very happily. Our beloved father was with us from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. How good God is!

We have a visor for Carmelita (*Mother Carmen herself*) to cover her eyes and rest. I'll be taking it to her if God our Lord grants me life.

See to it that Nena takes care of that problem with her throat. Perhaps Mercado (*Dr. Mercado*) could see her. He prescribed something for her before and it helped her.

Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is well. She is living in Santa Maria (*St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*) eating and sleeping very well and taking walks to the hills and to the forest. They have a very active life, and she gives some classes to the girls (*sisters*) who are very enthusiastic about learning. They already sent me some maps which they made and it seems to me they are very happy.

How useful it would be and what a joy for me, if you, Nena and Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) could start fixing the books which will be needed by the first days of July.

Good-bye, daughter. Pray for us and give my loving regards to all

the family (*sisters*).

Josefa Navarro

Letter 87

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

Los Angeles, California. April 5, 1930

R.M. Maria del Socorro of the Holy Spirit

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

I'm thankful for your letters. May Our Lord reward you.

It's necessary that you go to San Francisco to visit the Archbishop (*Archbishop Edward Joseph Hanna of San Francisco*) and, in my name, reiterate our respect and loyalty and inform him that we'll be leaving St. Mary's College next June. Nevertheless, we remain at his disposal, and it would be a great joy for us to stay in his diocese and help him in whatever manner he wishes. Tell him that we're very grateful toward him for his kind support and that we have been very happy serving him.

It's understood that you announce yourself by asking for an appointment and his kindness to receive you for a few moments. Have little notes reminding you of what you are going to tell him. Then, after greeting him, go right into business and don't take too much of his time. Afterwards, go and visit our Mothers (*cloistered Carmelite nuns*) and thank them, also, for their charity toward our sisters who have passed by their convent and, in conversation, tell them that to date we don't have a place for the Sisters and that our hope is that they'll remain in San Francisco. Encourage the Archbishop to become interested in our behalf. I know he wants to help us and perhaps some, if not all of you, could remain in that city and be under his protection. That would really be my joy.

Ask Our Lord to place us wherever is most pleasing to Him.
Over here we haven't been able to put into effect what was offered

to us; nevertheless, we trust in Father Callahan's (*Father Leroy Callahan*) good will. Thanks be to God, that he knows what he is doing and why he is doing it. That's enough for us. **Let's rest in God, pray--yes, pray much, for this is the key to obtaining all the graces we need.**

Whenever I pray, I ask Our Lord to grant you many graces. May your Holy Week be a truly holy one and may you enjoy a happy Easter. Try to attend all the Church ceremonies and whenever possible follow the rubrics of our ceremonial booklet.

My old heart is craving rest, like an old machine that doesn't want to give any more service. Pray for me that I'll have a happy death, and don't leave me in Purgatory.

I bless God our Lord for the shower He sent to your souls through Father Pedrito (*probably Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D. who had visited and helped the sisters*). May you profit greatly from the graces received. God loves us so much!

I think it's a splendid idea for you to study English because it's so very necessary here. Give my regards to the teacher and tell her we pray for her daily, as well as for her husband.

Regards to my daughters, and see to it that Soledad (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle Ibarra*) gets her eyeglasses. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament C.D.T.

Letter 88

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

J.M. + J.T.

April, 28, 1930

R.M. (*Reverend Mother*) Mary of the Divine Eucharist

My daughter,

We just arrived in El Paso. Here's what happened. Yesterday I

asked Father Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) if it would be a good idea to establish a little house here. His answer was yes. And now, without our expecting it, *nuestro padre (our Father Pedrito)* arrives at the very hour we're supposed to be leaving to take the train for Nogales. Then, without any explanation, he gives me a letter for the Vicar General telling him about us. After that he suddenly takes us to the station, and when we produced the tickets given to us for our luggage, the answer we received was that it never left Los Angeles! It seems that upon arriving at the station, we should have sent a telegram to the Los Angeles depot, asking them to send our luggage. So, that's what we did, and now we have to wait. The tickets I'm sending you, are for Sor Margarita (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) to go and pay whatever amount is needed to send our luggage from Tucson on to Nogales. The person at the depot signed the papers already.

Continue praying to God our Lord that everything will be arranged in whatever manner He wants.

We're staying in a little house belonging to some very good people. "*Nuestras madres*" (*our mothers, the cloistered Carmelite nuns*) recommended us to them. I'm astounded at all Our Lord has done for us. He's leading me by the hand, as if I were a little baby. I don't know what He is going to do with us. Our address is 3526 Madera Street, El Paso, Texas.

If the bracelet has been sold, please send us the money right away, in case we need it. Write to us soon, and if we have already left, they'll forward the letter to Guadalajara.

Greetings to my daughters. Good-bye.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Letter 89
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

Tucson, April 27, 1930

R.M. Maria del Socorro,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

Yesterday I arrived in this city on my way to Guadalajara. Tomorrow, God willing, I'll be leaving for Nogales or El Paso, hoping that in El Paso we can open a little house. I'm told that it's a good town and that the Jesuits have a house there. Establishing ourselves at the border, nearer to our country, will be less expensive than going all the way to California. I'd like for our novitiate to be located in El Paso. The advantages that we'd have there make me want to study the possibilities very closely. Ask our good Lord to help us, and He will be the One to do everything.

We're losing, if we haven't already lost, the money I inherited from my mother. It was the money I had given to your reverences for the upkeep of the house in Guadalajara. This is a matter of life and death, at least for us here in Los Angeles, because we'll only be accepted if we can construct a \$15,000.00 (dollars) building to be used for the care of young girls convalescing from tuberculosis. According to Father Ott, if we ever lost that capital, we couldn't remain here. **What a great need we have for that money and only God can manage things so that it will not be lost. Blessed be God for sending us so many trials. His Divine Majesty will provide. We have to pray, pray much.**

Your Reverence should make every effort to inculcate in yourself and in the sisters a spirit of interior recollection, of humility and obedience, detachment and true charity, and a great love for the Blessed Sacrament and for our Blessed Mother--a simple and straightforward spirit. It seems to me that Our Lord is always more pleased with simplicity, never pretending to be something you aren't. More actions, then, than words. Let's all belong to God alone. May we all acquire solid virtue through the ordinary duties of daily life. Without being puffed-up in any way, let's be humble and observant.

My regards to my daughters, take care of your health, and continue studying your English well. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa del Santisimo Sacramento, C.D.T.

Letter 90

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

J.M. + J.T.

Tucson, April 28, 1930

R.M. (*Reverend Mother*) Maria de la D.E.

My very dear daughter,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls. We happily arrived in Tucson yesterday only to find out that there was no connecting train to Nogales until tomorrow when, God willing, we'll finally be on our way. Needless to say, we need your prayers and I'm sure you will earnestly ask God to help us. May God reward you!

Naturally, it was hard for me to leave you, my sisters. Only God knows how much it cost me! Blessed be God in everything! Our Father Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) was waiting for us at the station, and took us directly to the convent of "*nuestras madres*" (*our mothers, the Carmelite cloistered nuns*) who received us with great charity. God will repay them. We were very impressed right away when the "turn" revolved with the statue of baby Jesus on it, His arms opened wide in the form of the cross and carrying the key, as if He were the porter of the house. He came from the other room--the one with the iron gate. Above the gate a wooden sign, white letters against a brown background, was written: "Do not speak here. In case you do, let it be only about God."

That night "*nuestras madres*" played and sang lullabies, serenading Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. They were composed by the nuns themselves and seemed as sighs from their souls. Some were instrumentals-- violin and piano pieces. How well they all play! It was a little moment in heaven-- almost every sister knows how to play an instrument and sing. We were told that one of the nuns who died not too long ago knew how to play the harp. The sisters seem to have a very recollected spirit--they are very happy, yet without losing their recollection.

We were served wonderful meals, supper the first evening and breakfast the following morning. We slept across the street in a house belonging to the Prioress's family, very simple and excellent people.

My regards to my daughters, and ask them to apply themselves earnestly to the learning of English and music.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Letter 91

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Guadalajara, May 9, 1930

Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My dear daughter,

After affectionately greeting you, it's my pleasure to tell you that my family (*the General Council*) as well as my father, Lencho, (*Msg. Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) are in agreement for Crucita (*Sister Mary of the Cross Gutierrez*) to get married (*perpetual profession of vows*) on the nineteenth. Try to arrange everything as soon as possible because it's already late notice. Make her wedding (*profession ceremony*) as best you can with our meager finances. May our Lord help us so that, in all justice, she will be able to at least have her "vestidito" (*"little dress" i.e. her religious habit*). *Pobrecita!* I grant the permissions that the girls (*sisters*) are asking.

My father (*either the Bishop or Vicar General*) has been very busy and I haven't been able to discuss the matter regarding Gregory and Raphael (*Christian Brothers at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*). If it's possible, I'll do it tomorrow and then I'll let you know about it. My trip back to Guadalajara had its hazards, which is probably the reason why I arrived here seriously ill, but I'm better now. I have moments in which I really think seriously about death. Please pray for me that I may obtain perfect contrition and the satisfactory arrangement of all my business matters. But I don't want you to worry yourself sick over all this. On the contrary, be very happy that I'm returning to my God. What greater thing can you

desire for me? Just pray.

Sister Maria Amada's (*Sister Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) lung disease is already progressing. She's already in Atotonilco (*transferred to Atotonilco because of her sickness*), which makes it even harder for Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) because it adds to the problems of the school since it's almost the time for exams. Maria Amada's eyes just get teary but she is very good and prudent. I'm edified. She possesses solid virtues, and I'm happy with the first fruits that we're giving back to Our Lord. Please pray for her. I learned that Conchita (*Sister Concepcion of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) is much better now. I suppose that right now you, too, are very busy these days and looking forward to some rest during vacation. I'll write to you again tomorrow.

Good-bye now, and give my regards to my daughters. May all be well with them.

Josefa Navarro

P.S. All of the sisters send you all their regards.

Letter 92

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, May 10, 1930

Miss Maria Nuno
Los Angeles

My beloved daughter,

After such a long trip, at last Our Lord allows me to write to you from Mexican soil. How have you all been? I fell ill quite unexpectedly, but I'm all right now. Blessed be God! We were fine in El Paso. We bought our tickets on the American side and at the same depot we boarded the train. When we crossed over to the Mexican side of the border, we were allowed to stay on the train. Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) stepped off to have her "*muncho*" (*a large, heavy piece of luggage*) inspected and nothing else. An inspector boarded the train, went through everything, took the immigration papers and

came back with the permission for us to continue. I hope that it will be as easy for you.

I'm surprised about the letter that Father Dolar sent you. It's probably a mistake because I haven't written to papa (*the Archbishop*) nor anyone else. You may ask Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) what to do with it.

I would like very much that immediately after Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) arrives there, you leave with Maria Flores (*Sister Maria of the Sacred Heart Flores*) and bring Pachita (*Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) also, so they'll be able to help Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) in the school. You may buy tourist tickets which will be more economical. I'll be so happy to see you here.

Today, I talked to Father Panchito (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) about the sanatorium for T.B. patients, but he didn't remember what he was told. Furthermore, we still haven't done anything about this business of the mortgage. Therefore, we're placed in the position of losing that money. God will provide. Mr. Ott is astutely deliberating this point. We'll do what he says and not do anything with regards to the sanatorium for the time being. I hope we can support ourselves here.

What do the girls (*sisters*) have to say? Are they missing Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*)? Are they happy? May they remain that way, thus attracting greater numbers of girls (*vocations*) so that you'll be able to support yourselves there. Really and truly, there is a great need. I imagine the little garden is beautiful, and the house very clean.

I remember our good neighbors, *abuelita* (*little grandmother*) and Elvira (*a Spanish family who lived next door to the Community*). Give them my best regards.

How are Josephine's (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez*) eyes? I saw her aunts today and they are well. The person who almost died was my godfather Macario (*Msgr. Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*). He was really sick with

peritonitis. Although he is now recovering, nonetheless, he still remains very weak.

When you come, please bring the book that Father Santos (*Father Diego Santos, who helped the sisters at St. Mary's College, Moraga, California*) wrote. We're in need of it.

My regards to all the family. Good-bye, daughter. May God bless you.

Josefa Navarro

The marriage (*perpetual profession of vows*) of Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) is already arranged (*approved*). You do whatever else is needed.

Josefa

Letter 93

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

May 15, 1930

My beloved daughter, Margie,

Your letter is here before me. May God reward you, daughter. With all eagerness you and Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez, who was local superior*) must make arrangements for the house (*to purchase a house for the future novitiate in the United States*) with the help of Mr. Ott (*Msgr. Francis C. Ott of the San Diego Diocese, then Father Francis C. Ott of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles*).

Regarding the sanatorium for the girls with tuberculosis, wait until the superiors bring up the matter. In the meantime don't touch that business. God will provide. You sisters simply try through your behavior to please the ecclesiastical superiors always and to avail yourselves of every opportunity to establish that house on a permanent basis by expressing our desire to remain in Los Angeles (*to arrange for the canonical establishment of our house in the U.S. - until 1938 the sisters were still in the U. S. as refugees*).

After Mr. Ott leaves, perhaps it would be a good idea to pay a little visit to Grandpa (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*). By speaking to him with all simplicity try to show him that you have confidence in him and trust in his help and assistance. This same conduct should also be observed with Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan, who was in charge of the Archdiocesan program of helping the many refugees coming into the Archdiocese of Los Angeles*).

When I was in El Paso, a son of Ignatius (*a Jesuit priest*) invited me to bring you sisters to work over there and I communicated this to grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) and immediately he answered, "No." He said that we went to Los Angeles out of necessity and that our Congregation is just starting. He sent me to see the sons of Ignatius (*the Jesuits*) so that they could take care of us as they would their own. I'm awaiting Toribio (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*), who is out of the city, and upon his return I'll do what grandfather ordered. Imagine, daughter, immediately when grandfather saw me he told me, "Positively, the Boarding Home (*the novitiate*) should be here." I answered, "Fine, with much pleasure."

If Rosita and Elisa (*young ladies wishing to enter the community in Los Angeles*) want to come here they would be welcome, but let's not say a word to Grandpa Johnny (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell*) because if we can't succeed here, the door will be open up there.

I want to bring the girls (*sisters*) from Saint Mary's (*St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*) and even more girls if we are allowed Toribio's (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) protection, so they'll be able to start school here (*Guadalajara*). Socorro's older daughters (*newly-professed sisters*) will be able to stay there to help you. Send them the little books (*most probably she means coupon books of train tickets*) so they'll be able to start making their preparations for the trip. They can start taking out "*boletas de recreo*" (*tourist tickets*), although because of their books that may not be possible. Find out which way would be less expensive and if you have to use "*boletas de recreo*" (*tourist tickets*). Begin today. Find out what it will cost and I hope that you can acquire passes for six persons from Los Angeles to either Nogales or El Paso and there, using the tickets from the American side, go by train to the Mexican side where the baggage will be examined. You don't have to be

vaccinated nor do you have to go to the Immigration Office. They'll ask you to show your passport to the train personnel who will then check your baggage, take one of the papers and then return it to you so that you may continue on, but there will still remain the difficulty of spending the night in El Paso. You might even have to stay in El Paso until it's time to board the train for Mexico approximately noon the following day.

When Socorro's family leaves here to travel up there (to Los Angeles), start preparing Luisa (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) and Carmen Teresa (*Mother Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) to take over so that you'll be able to come down here to give classes.

My papa doesn't forget Ocotlan. He saw the Navarro family and right away recognized them; but if it's necessary or, better still, with two or three of the family who would be able to do the work that you do, arrange the English class and may they study with all earnestness. Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) is very advanced, thanks to you. How are the piano lessons going?

Good-bye, my daughter. What a long chat with you this has been!

Josefa

This letter had the following notation made by Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez: "On January 20, 1930 I came back with Mother Luisita to Los Angeles." This letter was written a few weeks after she returned to Guadalajara and was dated May 15, 1930.

Letter 94

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, May 17, 1930

My dear daughter Maria,

What a joy it is to receive your letters! May God reward you, my daughter. It's only natural to feel sadness because of the pending departure of "nuestro padre" ("our father"--Father Francis Ott who was being transferred from St. Patrick's in Los Angeles to San

Diego, California), but we shouldn't lose our peace of mind because of it. **God our Lord will watch over us. He knows why He allows things to happen and no doubt he knows what is best for us. May He be blessed!** You may give father a going away present, such as a surplice made out of fine lace with a wide hem, and you may also embroider his initials on it. It's better this way--simple and without numerous adornments.

Make sure that you treat your new employers well (*the Salesian Fathers were taking over St. Patrick's Parish in Los Angeles*) and help them. Always be willing to do anything for them in any manner you can, without losing your freedom. Any problems or advice you need should be directed over here. Be polite from the very beginning and keep your distance, but be very natural about it. Pray three Our Fathers every day in honor of the Blessed Trinity to the Guardian Angel of the priest who is going to be the Pastor, and place all your confidence in God because it's very necessary for you to remain there.

Today I was with papa (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) and he's already given his approval for you to work in the sanatorium for young girls convalescing from tuberculosis. Therefore, continue striving toward this goal so it may soon become a reality. I'm told not to be so afraid of losing the money. I only hope that the sanatorium will, indeed, be a reality.

Perhaps Josefina (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez*) will be coming over; she will be taking piano lessons.

I have many things to tell you, but I'll do so at another time.

Papa grande (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) is sorry about the departure of Mr. Ott. He fears that you'll be having difficulties after he leaves. He had nothing but praises for him and considers him as your protector.

My regards to my daughters. Good-bye.

Josefa

Letter 95
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

May 24, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

I'm surprised you haven't received my letters as I've been writing to you regularly. I wonder what's happened? Let it be for God!

In the United States people respect the laws and customs. So, let them also respect our custom of not going out at night. Celebrate in the afternoon beginning at 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. It seems to me that, in all justice, you should have a little party for Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*). We owe him very much and, of course, there has to be some expense involved.

Turn on the radio so that Father will be able to see that you are accepting it with pleasure. Then tell him that you'll now turn the radio off and not play it for a period time because the orphans are now in mourning for their father and playing it will remind them of him.

I was just thinking that an incomplete or wrong address might be the reason why you haven't received the letters, and perhaps they are still at the post office. Call them and find out. Take immediate action and then let me know right away because I've asked for some things which we need urgently. So, if you still don't acquire those letters, then let me know and I'll write them again.

I'm greatly longing to see you, but it isn't possible at this time. May our good Lord help me to be resigned to His will and give me the strength to accept everything.

Take good care of yourselves. Eat well, sleep well, and be happy.

I'm truly pleased that you've found such an excellent piano teacher. How advanced is Mary of the Angels (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) in her lessons? May she profit by them so that when she comes back in a year, she will be able to play very well! It may well be that she'll remain there for this very

reason, but let her dedicate herself to practicing faithfully, at least two hours daily.

Is it true that Toni didn't go back to you? Are you hopeful of receiving more girls (*postulants*)? Persevere in asking for them.

I don't see any problem with letting them (*the sisters*) use the room, if it's all right with father. It's a good idea. But let there be an understanding with Mr. Rossi (*Father Sossi, a Salesian priest-- misspelled by Mother Luisita or perhaps changed because of the persecution*) and you try to serve them in whatever way he wishes, lest he might think that because Father Ott is gone, you don't want to work anymore. May God deliver us!

Although it looks as if the numbers in our boarding house (*novitiate*) here will grow, it still doesn't have good accommodations. Ask Our Lord to give us an appropriate location for this purpose.

As I was telling you in one of my letters, Margarita Maria's (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) wedding (*perpetual profession of vows*) is all arranged (*approved*). Lencho (*Monsignor Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) and all the family are in perfect agreement. The same goes for Crucita (*Sister Mary of the Cross Gutierrez*). I hope that Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) received my letters.

Affectionate greetings to my daughters and all of the people I know. Good-bye, my daughter, and God bless you.

Josefa

Are there many flowers in the little garden? Take good care of them. I walk through the garden in my imagination and I even go through the house.

Letter 96

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez

May 26, 1930

Miss Margarita Maria, my beloved daughter,

Oh, dear little one, please don't be foolish and worry because you want your wedding (*Mother Margarita Maria's perpetual profession of vows*) to be here. Reflect a little, and you will see how very good it would be for it to take place up there. You still have to come down, without fail, but your poor sisters would return from St. Mary's (*St. Mary's College in Moraga, near Oakland, California*) without knowing how to do the work, without knowing your employers (*the ecclesiastical superiors*) nor anyone else with such a responsibility over them. Don't you think it would be prudent and charitable to wait for them and to train them for at least a month and a half so that they can adjust and become acquainted with their change of work? Then you could leave during the first days of September. To be exact, it seems to me that the first is a Monday, which will permit you to make preparations for your work because the factory (*the school*) will be open by the middle of September.

In the meantime, be very persistent in practicing the piano. Make good use of such a good teacher, so that when you come down here, you'll be able to teach others. I know that this explanation will convince you of the great joy you will receive in making the sacrifice that God our Lord asks from you, and you will do much good for your sisters as well as for yourself.

Don't mention anything about your coming because the other girls (*sisters*) might become discouraged. Let's hope that by then the number of boarding girls will have increased. This school year will have already started and perhaps the purchase of the other house, as well as the sanatorium, will be coming to a head.

In the meantime because English is easier for you than it's for the others, let's hope that you'll be able to find a good English teacher and that soon you'll perfect yourself in speaking English and in playing the piano. As soon as you finish the work you are doing for Mr. Ott (*Father Francis Ott*), concentrate on your classes and give up going out so much so that you can take care of your wedding gown which should be one of the best. Mariquita Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez, local superior*) should take my place as mother in your marriage ceremony (*final profession of vows ceremony*). What a great joy it would be for me to be with you on that day, but we shouldn't even think about it

because it's impossible. One more sacrifice and one less consolation. Blessed be God!

In my letter to Mariquita, I said for her to come down to Mexico, but she's explained to me in her letter the necessity of remaining a little longer because of the boarding girls and the new employers (*the Salesian Fathers were replacing Father Ott in St. Patrick's Church, in Los Angeles*). Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) will be disappointed with such frequent changes of Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) and Mary. Therefore, we must wait a little more. Doctor Fregoso, a dentist, came yesterday asking for my daughters to take over a small school in the city. This makes me think that perhaps Socorrito should come down here. We have to think it over. Did you receive my letter in which I asked you to please send the books and the other papers to Socorro?

May the month of the Sacred Heart truly be one of recollection for you, as you ponder what you are about to do, what responsibility you are imposing upon yourself, and study and learn about the duties which you are about to contract, asking Our Lord for His help.

I hope that Papa Juanito (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell*) will attend the ceremony and give you the blessing at your wedding and that Father Ott would say the Mass. Invite Father Callahan as your honored guest. I've seen Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*). She had a lovely lunch here the other day, and she is fine. Greetings to the family (*the community*), our friends, and to Mr. Patrick, the gardener.

May God bless you.

Josefa

Letter 97
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

May 26, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

What joy it gives me to receive your letters. May God reward you, my daughter, for the consolation they give me.

Even though I wish you could come over, as I've mentioned to you before, I understand that now isn't the right time for you to leave. You know the people already and the new employers (*Salesians*) know you, and the same goes with the boarding girls (*the sisters took care of orphan girls in the house across the street from St. Patrick's Church in Los Angeles*). Mr. Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) also seems to be happy and because you've been involved in the census-taking, the neighbors know you also. I think it would be beneficial to wait a little.

Bracho (*Father Torribo Bracho, S.J.*) doesn't like the kind of work you are doing (*home visitations*). He thinks it would be better for you to work in the sanatorium with the in-patients, and my papa Panchito (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) says to cover your ears so you won't be hearing anything that would be harmful for you and to prepare yourselves with prayer and penance before you go out! Let's listen, then, to both of them. Before you go out, prepare yourself spiritually as papa (*the Archbishop*) wants that we may obey him, but at the same time take care of whomever they (*the priests*) choose but only select those [sisters] who will not be affected negatively by these types of visits. Perhaps Rosario (*Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) should come and dedicate herself to teaching, and the little ones (*younger sisters*) must come, also, but Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) should continue studying piano, taking advantage of such an excellent teacher. The cousins (*other sisters*) may remain there: Esperanza (*Sister Maria Esperanza of St. Joseph Gomez*), Luisa (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*), Carmen T. (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*), Eufrosina (*a religious belonging to another community of Tertiary Carmelites whom Mother Luisita admitted into the Congregation "for a time" at the request of Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*), Carmen J. (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*), Crucita (*Sister Mary of the Cross Gutierrez*), and Pillared (*Sister Maria de Pilar Padilla*). In case the sanatorium becomes a reality, it would be good for Chole (*Mother*

Soledad of St. Teresa Valle), *Lourditas (Sister Mary Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Aldaba)*, *Jesus T. (Sister Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega)* to stay and for *Josefina (Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez)* also to remain there until her mother gets well. The mothers of the girls (*sisters*) recommend for them to look for a way to travel economically. Perhaps they can acquire tourist tickets.

Good-bye, daughter. Take good care of your health and your soul. Prepare *Margarita's (Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez)* wedding (*perpetual profession*) the best that you can. *Pobrecita!* She must be very self-sacrificing.

May Jesus bless you all.

Josefa

Letter 98

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

May 27, 1930

My beloved daughter, Margarita,

I've received your letter and am now answering *Maria (Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez)* regarding some of the items you mentioned, and others I'm addressing to you. The letter that I wrote to my uncle in San Francisco (*Archbishop Joseph Hanna of San Francisco*) was the very one that you typed for me. With the approval of *Francisco (Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara)* that letter informed my uncle that the family was going to leave the work at St. Mary's (*the community from St. Mary's was recalled to Mexico*) and that I would be very pleased if some part of my family could remain in his house (*to leave part of the Congregation in the Archdiocese of San Francisco*). Do you remember?

Don't worry for you did exactly the right thing in answering that. I'd like to have the precise information before deciding whether or not we will accept the sanatorium. Can they assure us that we'll have patients all of the time because as *Francisco* says, if we don't have enough patients, how in the world can we pay such a huge debt

which we are about to contract? **At the same time, if we say no out of fear, it would be like clipping our own wings now that we have the opportunity to take over some kind of work (offered some type of work that we could do).** Therefore, in the name of God, *adelante! (Onward!)* Let's go ahead. God will provide.

Let Francisco (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara who was in exile in the United States*) continue counseling us. You may contact him by telephone to ask him questions. In case it's difficult for you to consult with him, go to see Papa Juanito (*Archbishop Cantwell*).

I picture in my imagination a very beautiful setting for the house--very picturesque. Be sure to send me some pictures. I'd like you to learn how to take pictures and how to drive the automobile. Then, later on, you'll be able to teach your sisters. **Let's hope that someone will give us a car and some furniture for the patients. Let's place all our confidence in God, always and for everything.** I wrote this letter after I wrote the letter to Mary. Go ahead and learn how to drive.

As many as possible may go ahead and help Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) with his summer school. The only ones who can't help are those who have to return now. Express our gratitude to Ott (*Father Francis C. Ott*) and Callahan, in my name, and thank them.

Good-bye, my daughter. Be good and have a great horror of sin.
Maria Luisa

Letter 99
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

May 27, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My dear daughter,

After I mailed my letter to you today, I received yours. I'm writing you again right away. It's a good idea to have the house repaired, and you'll have to secure it, which makes things even more complicated because you'll be going even deeper into debt. But

what can we do? We can't send you any money from here because we're just living day-to-day ourselves, and besides, the amount significantly decreases in value at the exchange. It would be good to tell Pancho (*Archbishop John Cantwell*) and Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) that I'm totally in agreement with seeing the sanatorium project through to its completion. I even wish it could be done immediately. I'm prepared to make any sacrifice toward that end. But since we have already started to pay for our little house (*located across the street from St. Patrick's Church in Los Angeles*), I'd like to finish off this obligation before continuing with the sanatorium. What do they think? Regarding this business of the house (*the same house already mentioned*), we could use what the girls (*sisters*) have earned (*at St. Mary's College in Moraga*) to pay for the property (*for the sanatorium*) or at least part of it or as much as possible. We could also begin by receiving sick people in a rented house so we'll be able to receive money to pay for the sanatorium property, but not the boarding house (*use the money to pay for the property not for the actual building*). That would be too much. We'll ask St. Therese to provide the necessary money to start the sanatorium. Make a daily novena to her and have "*nuestros padres*" (*Fathers Ott and Callahan*) offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for that intention. There are so many good-hearted people of financial means in that country. If they only knew what we are doing, I'm sure they would help us! Do you think they'll allow you to send them a little card? You suggest it.

If Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholino Rodriguez*) is elected to come to our family feast (*General Chapter*), since she is one of the seniors, I'd like her to bring the little ones, Panchita (*Sr. Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*), Maria del Carmen (*Sister Carmen of the Sacred Heart Becerra who died in 1934*) and Inesita (*Mother Ines of Jesus Gonzalez*). In September, Margie (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and Teresita (*Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) will be coming with Maria Flores (*Sister Maria of the Sacred Heart Flores*). It's already late, and the family is already asleep. I'm the only one up because I want to send this letter out the first thing in the morning.

Your letters don't tire me. I like them long like that.

Give my regards to Father Esparza (*Monsignor Fidencio Esparza*). *Pobrecito!* He's been working too hard to take care of the family (*community*). It seems to me housing the girls (*sisters*) in an apartment would be difficult. Nor do I know the environment in that neighborhood. In case they need to attend a meeting, it would be better to go in the car. Pancho (*Archbishop John Cantwell*), who knows the area well, could give his opinion on the subject.

Good-bye, daughter. May God bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 100
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, May 27, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My very dear daughter,

Last night I received a letter from Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). I'm answering it immediately, and at the same time send my affectionate greetings to all of you.

After greeting, or rather, presenting my respects to Mr. Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) and Mr. Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan, Director of the C.C.D. programs in the Los Angeles Archdiocese and responsible for helping our Sisters find a place to live which he carried out with the help of Father Francis Ott*), tell them that I'm in perfect agreement regarding the sanatorium (*Santa Teresita Sanatorium, Duarte, California*) proposed by Callahan and under the conditions he mentioned to you. I hope that, in his kindness, he will help you to achieve this goal--that our work in the sanatorium, under his valuable guidance and assistance, may become a reality as possible. His help is very valuable to us. It seems to me that (with Ott's approval) you and Margarita should go see papa Juanito (*Archbishop John Cantwell*), in my name, to tell him about the sanatorium, to place ourselves in his hands, and to ask him for his blessing upon that apostolate. Ask Father Ott as many questions as you can because he is a real father to our religious family. The

same with Father Callahan and "big papa" (*Archbishop Cantwell*). Work cooperatively with them and God will help you. Is the little house (*across from St. Patrick's Church in Los Angeles*) you are now using going to close? I wish that the number of girls (*Los Angeles County had contracted with the sisters to take care of pre-school orphan girls who lived with the sisters in the same house located across from St. Patrick's Church in Los Angeles*) would increase and the house could remain open. Let me know promptly so we will be able to determine what should be done. Don't do anything without my knowledge, until I learn for sure if you'll continue living in that house.

Regarding the property (*property for Santa Teresita Sanatorium in Duarte, California*): Buy it. I think it's as big as we thought, and even though the children (*novices and postulants in Guadalajara*) can't be transferred there (*can't move the novitiate from Guadalajara to Duarte*) for the time being, it could happen that my father (*Archbishop Orozco y Jimenez*) might have some difficulties in his business (*the religious persecution*) and then we would have to bring them over in a hurry. Even if you do build only what is necessary, leaving it prepared as the boarding house (*novitiate*), it must be said that for the time being, the girls (*novices and postulants*) will not go. In that way the money we would have spent for their traveling expenses can be used for the purchase of the property. To try to pay for both the traveling and the property will be impossible for us. So, after all is said and done, the girls (*novices and postulants*) will remain here (*in Guadalajara, Mexico*) even if it's difficult to keep them.

Of the twelve sisters that were mentioned as remaining, will they be working with the children or the patients? Or are all twelve just for the patients? Six of them will have to come to work in the school.

The sisters may go to learn nursing as soon as the girls (*the other sisters*) get there and the same goes for learning how to drive the car.

On June 22 our obligation of staffing St. Mary's (*St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*) will terminate. On the nineteenth, Crucita (*Sister Mary of the Cross Gonzalez*) will get married (*make her perpetual profession*). If you can acquire passes (which is better) it

will be beneficial for the family to separate. Send part of the family on the twentieth, another on the twenty-first, again on the twenty-second, and the last one on the twenty-third.

Obtaining the passes, we'll leave what was earned at St. Mary's as down payment for the property.

My regards to each of my daughters and I beg you to pray for me.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Josefa

Letter 101
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Guadalajara, June 1, 1930

Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My beloved daughter,

Last night I received your letter and in return I'm telling you not to worry. The doctors took good care of Bernardita (*Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos Gonzalez*). What I'd like for Teresita (*Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*), though, is to stop working in the hospital. Her physical condition is such that she needs fresh air and to be distracted. It seems to me that Teresita is the least inclined for this type of work. (*Sister Teresita had been caring for Sister Bernardita.*) Now that the doctors and nurses know that Bernardita doesn't have that sickness we thought, and now that Teresita's presence is no longer needed, I am hoping that both of them can leave that place or Teresita could be transferred and Luisa (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) or Esperanza (*Sister Maria Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*) could take her place.

I'd like you to ask His Excellency, the Archbishop of San Francisco, if he would be so kind as to provide passes for the family (*community members*) to go to Los Angeles; and other passes for Chole (*Sister Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*), Pachita (*Sister Francisca Teresa who changed her name to Sister Margarita of*

Christ and St. Martin de Porres), Maria del Carmen (*Sister Maria del Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*) and Rosarito (*Mother M. Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) to go to El Paso. Those who are coming back, should return immediately so they will be able to be able to travel with Lupe Escoto (*a life-long friend of Mother Luisita and the community, who lived in Atotonilco*) who is in Los Angeles but will be coming back, as she said, at the beginning of the week, i.e., between the ninth and eleventh. You send a telegram to Mariquita Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) so she will be able to receive them at the station in Los Angeles and then let Lupe know. I hope that there's still time to get to Lupe. She's very clever and will be able to help the sisters at the border.

In El Paso I know of a good hotel, Hotel Jalisco, where Father Sigala used to stay, but I'm hoping you can find hospitality at the same home where I stayed located at 3526 Madera Street. Catalina, the lady of the house (*the superior*), could perhaps contact the same young ladies who took us to the station and then brought us to the gentleman who arranged our trip for us. He might be able to do the same for the sisters. They may travel first class, but tell them not to go to the dining room because it's extremely expensive. They can come prepared with something to eat on the way.

It would also be wise to ask in the telegram if Lupe is still there, and if she is, she could wait for the girls (*sisters*). If she's already left or can't wait for them, don't send them, just write and let me know. Lupe will come on another train, but she offered to do a little sightseeing with the girls (*sisters*). From El Paso to here, kindly ask the sisters to wear the shawls (*not to wear the habit*).

Just think, daughter, we'll begin our annual retreat at the beginning of July. I'd be so happy if it were also time for your retreat. I have such longing for you to come. May God our Lord grant us this grace.

My daughter, I hesitate about the coming of Rosarito. Do you think it would be all right for the girls to come with Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*)? In that case, Chayo (*Sister Rosario*) will help you fix the house. She could come via Nogales which is shorter and the expense won't be as great. She'd be a good companion for the

young ones.

Give my regards to everyone and tell them I'll write to them soon. Please offer my condolences to your English teacher on the death of her father. Tell her we're praying for him, and you should offer a novena of prayers for the eternal repose of his soul. Good-bye, my daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Josefa

Letter 102

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

June 1, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

Perhaps you already saw Lupe Escoto (*a friend of Mother Luisita from Atotonilco who helped the community very much*). She is currently in your area, and according to what she told me, she will be coming back soon. I think you should take advantage of this opportunity for the children, Pachita (*Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) and Maria del Carmen (*Sister Carmen Becerra of the Sacred Heart*), to come with her. Chole Valle (*Sister Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) could also come as their companion. Lupe is taking a special train and the children would travel in first class. She offered to watch out for them and the assistance she could give them at the border would be invaluable. As soon as you receive this, call Lupe to find out the exact date of her departure. Ramon Ugarte (*Mr. Ramon Ugarte, the husband of Mother Luisita's sister, Lupita*) must know her address and once you acquire it, immediately send a telegram to Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) notifying her of the exact day and telling her that if there's still time, to send the children, but if there's no time tell her anyway so she will know not to send them after all. You give her the money for the trip. I'll tell Socorro to get passes up to El Paso which is the way Lupe is coming. Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus*) will also come, but she will travel with Socorro.

As you've been working so hard, I'd like you to rest for a while. Go to work only once a week (*home visitations*), but don't go very far. Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) is sick at home and she says that it's because she walked so much in the United States and I'm afraid the same thing will happen to you. Therefore, bathe every day and rest.

Make arrangements with the priests across the street so that you'll be able to make your retreat. The Superior could assign the one to give it, of course with the proper permission, and it has to be before summer school. I wish the girls (*sisters*) coming from St. Mary's could make theirs with you. The last ones from St. Mary's will arrive on the twenty-third of this current month. Over here, we'll be on our retreat during the first two weeks of July.

I think that right now I'm leaving for Atotonilco, so I'll write you from there.

My regards to all the family and the people I know. May God our Lord bless you.

Josefa

Letter 103

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez
(no date)

Miss Margarita Hernandez

My beloved daughter,

With all pleasure I grant you permission to come here for your wedding and I want Mary of the Angels (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) to come also. You sisters figure out who should accompany that little girl (*because she was very young at the time*). If she comes with you, let Inesita (*Mother Ines of Jesus Gonzalez*) accompany you. In that way, you'll be able to make the immigration arrangements at the border while they remain on the train. Or else, you could use the letter from Mr. Navarette (*Archbishop Navarette from Sonora, Mexico*) and someone else could take care of all of this for you. Think it over. Or else, you may come through El Paso with Lupe (*Maria Guadalupe Escoto, a good friend of the Congregation.*) I leave you completely free to do things

as you think most convenient.

Leave the girls very well instructed so as to avoid troubles later on. I can't write anymore. Greetings. Looking forward to seeing you.

Josefa

P.S. I'm hoping that you'll be able to get free passes on the train.

Letter 104

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Atotonilco el Alto, June 9, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

How happy I am to greet you and to have received your letters this morning. Blessed be God! I was already worried, but I now I know that all of you are well.

I returned last Wednesday and will remain here for a few days. Then I'll go back to Guadalajara at the end of this week or by the twenty-second at the very latest. With each passing day I'm becoming more swollen and exhausted. That's only natural because of my illness, age, preoccupations with such a large family and other worries which, thanks be to God, aren't scarce. At least I'm alive and God our Lord consoles me greatly because He knows I am so weak. As St. Augustine says: "I am His little chicken."

You did right in maintaining unflinching obedience to me, but in view of the circumstances it was all right to agree for that particular time. I hope this case will not be repeated. Let it be very clear with those persons and with the family (*the community*) that after 6 p.m. you won't be opening the door and you will not be going out at night.

Regarding the sanatorium, I give thanks to Our Lord. He has helped us so much and, in my opinion, we have to avail ourselves of this opportunity and accept the offer that good Father Callahan is making. Give him my regards and tell him that from this moment I and the entire family consider him as the founder of that house and that things will be done as he says. It will be difficult to pay the

\$4,000.00 (dollars), but if there's no hurry to pay for the little house where you live (*located across from St. Patrick's Church in Los Angeles*), we'll give the greater part of our earnings from St. Mary's (*St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*). It would be ideal if we could get a bank loan to complete the amount, but make sure you are keeping an account of every entry in the sanatorium books so that we'll be able to be able to draw from there and keep the account of the boarding house (*the money the sisters received from the government for the care of orphans in the house across from St. Patrick's Church in Los Angeles*) separate. We must show our gratitude and thank papa Juanito (*Archbishop John Cantwell*) for the property that he is giving us, which if I am understanding you rightly, is being given to us as a gift. Is that correct? Thank him in my name and in the name of all our family and tell him that all of us will make a novena to our little St. Therese, entrusting the sanatorium to her, according to Father Callahan's wishes. Insist until Father Callahan gives us his picture so it may be displayed not only in the sanatorium but here, too, just as I've always wanted. Have it enlarged so that it will match Father Ott's picture This way both houses will have it, and make sure there is a caption testifying that they are founders. Make the caption in the form of a little card or in any other manner that will look nice. Papa Juanito's (*Archbishop John Cantwell's*) written permission to have those two houses should be obtained. After you obtain the written permission, please send me a copy. God willing, I hope it will be soon and that the original will be placed in a glass frame so it will be well-preserved.

Send to summer school as many of the serious-minded girls as you can. The little ones (*postulants and novices*) shouldn't go out to the visits (*going from house to house taking the parish census*). May God deliver me! After the wedding of Crucita (*Sister Mary of the Cross Gutierrez*) which will be on the nineteenth, part of the family will go there, while the rest will have to remain in St Mary's until July 20 at the employer's (*the Christian Brothers at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*) request. It seems to me that we should honor that request because they have been so good to us and we are leaving on good terms. I hope that we'll always keep their friendship. You see who can go. Just let Father Callahan know.

Many of us would like for both you and Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of*

the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez) to come, leaving there for sure on July 17. I need you here very much. You can come when Socorro arrives there and Josephine (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez*) could serve as your companion. I just read your letter and I experience different emotions at every item you mention.

On second thought, let Josephine stay and for the time being, you and Socorrito come, and Sor Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*), and Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) will stay there. Carmen Josefa (*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) could go to Moraga (*St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*) with a suitable companion. She will take good care of the sisters that are remaining and will arrange everything that needs to be done. Regarding the four sisters that have to go from Moraga to Santa Paula, please tell Socorro not to let them go until the day before classes begin. That would mean they can go directly to Santa Paula and we'll avoid having to take money out of the bank; nevertheless, if it's necessary to withdraw money, do it. Explain when you converse with Father Callahan how our August weather makes any traveling unsafe, and how beautiful September is when our meadows are in full bloom.

Leave on whatever day you deem prudent. The retreat will be the first two weeks of the month.

(no signature)

Letter 105
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

June 18, 1930

Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My dear daughter,

After greeting you, I want to put you at ease. It was all right for you to wait for the passes, and I hope that now it will be easier for you to obey. If Carmen Josefa (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) is in that city, leave her in charge of the family and you come with Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the*

Holy Face Chavez) and *Inesita (Mother Ines of Jesus Gonzalez)*. Leave *Teresita* in Los Angeles so that she will be able to start preparing for *Margarita's (Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez)* celebration. You come with *Ines* all the way to Guadalajara and when you pass through *Nogales*, you may stay with the Mexican religious who live nearby. They can help you cross the border. Kindly tell them about the other sisters, also, so that in their charity, they'll help them, too. God will reward them.

Try to come as soon as you can so you will be able to use this opportunity to make your annual retreat which will take place the first part of July. I don't know exactly what day it will begin.

Regarding Father's offer, I'm very grateful to him and to God. Upon arriving in Guadalajara, I'll write to him.

Give my best to the sisters whom I wish so much to see. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you.

I'll be arriving in Guadalajara on the twenty-third.

Josefa

Letter 106
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara. June 25, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

I've received your little letters. May God reward you.

I am in Guadalajara. I arrived here on the twenty-third to make arrangements for the celebration. I'd already happily celebrated my feastday by staying with my loving daughters in the little town (*Atotonilco*) for a few days. They are so good to me! *Conchita (Mother Mary's mother)* and *Narcism (Mother Mary's sister)* visited me and brought me presents. *Aurelio (Mother Mary's father)* was kind enough to offer two Masses for me.

The retreat will be on the second week of July followed by a family

fiesta (General Chapter). I am hoping that Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) can be here for the retreat. We've planned that she and her family (*community*) will be arriving here on the first or second of July in time for the girls' summer school. Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) has been involved with these arrangements, and that makes me very happy.

My daughter, we have an employment opportunity for my daughters here in Guadalajara. For some years now, Mr. Fregoso has been asking us to take over a school. Chayo (*Sister Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) and Maria Flores (*Sister Maria of the Sacred Heart Flores*) will need to come after summer school for that purpose. All three little ones will be coming to study, but let them come with you and Socorro. Separate into groups to watch over them on the way. Lupe Escoto (*good friend from Atotonilco*) wrote to me and recommended a young girl, (I think her name is Lupe), who is staying at Mr. Gutierrez Perez's home and she could bring my little ones. She was very willing to do it and is, as I am supposing, an experienced traveler. Ask over the telephone what day she will be coming. Papa Panchito (*Archbishop John Cantwell*) wants them to acquire passes through a manager he knows over there. You should see what a good papa (*bishop*) he is. He's presented us with a magnificent machine to bake bread (*hosts*) just like Margarita's (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and Maria de los Angeles's (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Villarruel*). We're lacking a cutter, though. Could the girls bring one? We're already selling bread and have monthly orders which amount to about \$30.00 (dollars). Blessed be God, for it's a little help toward meeting our expenses. About the sanatorium, God will provide. He will not abandon us.

May God bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 107

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, June 27, 1930

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you and the rest of my daughters with great affection. **May the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus inflame your souls with His divine love and bestow upon you abundant graces on this special day (feast of the Sacred Heart).**

My father, Panchito, (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) insists that Concha (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) and Amadita (*Mother Mary Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) go to Los Altos instead of going to the doctor. He hopes that they'll be all right with the change of climate and he's in agreement for them to stay at D. Perfecto's home. Let them go, then, in the name of God, but tell them to continue following their regime, to take care of themselves and to continue doing as the doctor says. In addition, the doctor has asked us for twelve grafts of navel oranges for his trees. Please send them over on Monday or Tuesday, if possible. I'm hoping that Pedro Valle would be able to do me the favor of donating them. Or maybe someone else could do us the favor, but it would have to be someone who knows about grafting so that the grafts will be good ones. Perhaps Manuel Navarro could send us good ones. Please send him a little note.

Send Lucita (*Sister Luz of St. Luis Gonzaga*) as soon as possible. May God help us to find someone trustworthy to be her companion. You may buy a second class ticket.

Dr. Mercado was very kind to us when I returned. May I ask you to kindly give him a little present in my name? He has a beautiful boy about two years old. Perhaps, a little gift for his son would be nice, something that the boy would like. Then, again, you might prefer to give a gift directly to the doctor.

Luisa Jfa. del Smo. (*Luisa Josefa del Santisimo*)

Letter 108
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

July 3, 1930

Miss Elena de la Cruz

My beloved daughter,

I now have all the papers we need. We still have to make the booklet about the house with descriptions of each of the assignments there. It seems to me that they should also be included in our book which we're putting together over here. Please send me whatever you've done so far, so that we'll all be following the same sequence. I wish you could come over here to work on this but the sixteenth is fast-approaching. Let it be for God! If you are making the novena and playing the hymns in the chapel, as well as preparing for Maria's celebration, then we probably won't be seeing you until the seventeenth, God willing.

Don't forget me when you are before God our Lord. I need His help for the many things that I have to do and my brain isn't strong anymore. Blessed be God!

Please send me the little novena to the Sacred Heart. It has a hardcover and is written by a Jesuit. I'd already started it with my sisters.

Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Josefa Navarro

The confessor will be appointed in September.

Letter 109

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, July 10, 1930

Miss Margarita Maria

My beloved daughter,

When Our Lord has taken a soul for His very own, He does

with it whatever pleases Him most, and He disposes of everything according to His sublime and just purposes. What happens is that we're short-sighted and can't understand it. Because God has a great, special purpose in ordering your matrimony to take place up there, that's where it will be best and where you will please Him most. How beautiful it is--the complete submission to the Divine Will. What a great joy one experiences in saying "the Will of God!" Don't give a thought to anything except making the preparations for your wedding. The other considerations which you are making within yourself and the tears that you are shedding, are all useless to your soul and may even be harmful. Let's cease looking at earth and let's raise our eyes to heaven. We have rational souls and shouldn't establish our happiness in the things of earth, but in things divine.

How clearly we can see the Hand of God in wanting to keep us in that country where He's given good will to the people to help us. God is the One Who does everything! Let's bless Him and accept what He is offering us through my father, Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*), who has been so charitable toward us. God reward him by making him a saint--this I pray.

I think it will be necessary for Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) and Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) to come to the family party (*community meeting*) that we're going to have. Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) should remain responsible for that house until the celebration down here is over. God our Lord will help you both and bless whatever you do during those days. I'm going to tell Socorrito to get passes for the train for the two who are coming. **We have to make the trip as economically as possible. Not only because we're poor, but because of the heavy debt which we have. We must be very careful not to spend even one penny more than is absolutely necessary. I hope that this is agreeable with you sisters--for those two to attend the party. Am I right?**

Try to prepare each little thing for your wedding. You're the very one who has to prepare them. Don't depend on anyone else. Try to please your Spouse. Pay very much attention and be serious in

your preparations. Now is the time so that when there's no time later on, your Lord will not be disappointed. It seems to me that when your friends see the ceremony, they'll want to imitate you.

Good-bye, daughter.

Be happy and joyful, receiving the graces that God our Lord is preparing for you. Pray for your Mother who is with you from here and gives you her blessing.

Maria Luisa

Letter 110

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

July 13, 1930

Miss Margarita Hernandez

My beloved daughter,

May Jesus be all yours and you be all His! New and stronger bonds unite us. Let's bless our good Lord for that, my very dear daughter. Physically we're far from one another yet our souls are united. I'm accompanying you on your retreat and I'll be with you on your marriage day. (*perpetual profession of vows*). I've been praying for you and I'll continue to do so with all of my heart. Pray for me that we'll be reunited up in heaven. Tell me in detail how your feast was, and whatever was done for it. Lupe, my sister, wrote to me and said that she will take care of the celebration for you. To me, she seems well-disposed to do that. How good God is and how infinite His mercy! You do very well in helping your sisters in the new and difficult work they are undertaking under obedience, and you can help them to fulfill it well. It will be a sort of miracle if they come out all right (*teaching catechism in summer school*). Blessed be God!

I hear that the sisters are well-liked in Santa Paula. Blessed be God! You would do very well to send the catalogs to the little town (*Atotonilco*) as you mentioned. Whatever you find will be a great help to them. God will reward you, daughter. Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) will be able to remain up

there as you request. I already had told her to postpone her trip even before I read your letter. In August, God willing, Maria Flores (*Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart Flores*), Chayito (*Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*), Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa who later changed her name to Sister Mary of Christ and of St. Martin de Porres*), and Carmen chiquita ("*little Carmen*," i.e. *Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*) will come. I'm mentioning this because I don't want you to appoint them to the sanatorium.

I asked permission of Papa Panchito (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) to take the \$4,000.00 (dollars) of the girls (*sisters*) for the sanatorium as Father Callahan wanted, but the permission was denied. We must respect that money then. (*The \$4000.00 (dollars) was from the sisters' dowries which were deposited in a bank in Los Angeles and which, according to canon law, could not be used for any other purpose.*) Show your good will to Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*). I tried again, but at the present time, it's impossible to get money in this country. They say that now's the time when the greatest misery is being felt, and in this respect, the situation here is terrible. Give my best to Father Callahan and Father Ott (*Father Francis C. Ott*). Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) and Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) came to visit me and told me that Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) is well. It's late at night, already. The house is in profound silence, the whole family (*community*) is sleeping, and I need to go to bed. Give my greetings to my daughters.

Maria Luisa

P.S. I'll answer you later regarding the matter of whether or not the girls (*sisters*) should go to the hospital for two years to get their R.N. degree or not. We have to think it over.

Letter 111

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, July 28, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

May Jesus be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

Thanks be to God, about thirty of us have just happily finished our retreat. Blessed be God! We were pleased with Father Bracho (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) as our Retreat Director. Pray that we don't lose the fruit we've derived from it. Now I'm occupied with the big worry of the appointments. God will help us.

I'm glad you were happy and that Margarita's fiesta (*perpetual profession of vows of Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) went so nicely. Of course we were with all of you in spirit. The celebration for Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) was held in Atotonilco. I'm told it went very well, also. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) came back a few hours before the beginning of the retreat. They started their retreat on that day and ended the following Saturday. The rest of the sisters had already arrived.

It would be best for the sanatorium to open as soon as possible. The interest is high, but God will help you. For the love of God, please use all the necessary precautions in taking care of the sick girls. You, yourself, are forbidden to do actual patient care. Watch over the house in general, but don't take care of them personally. Josephine (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez*) can play the organ and organize a little choir. I don't think she can take care of the patients because of her excessive weakness. Those who are stronger and willing to do it, let them, but it has to be spontaneous.

We're in need of the girls (*sisters*) and for that reason send me Pachita (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was later changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and of St. Martin de Porres*), Rosarito (*Sister Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*), Maria Flores (*Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart Flores*) and Maria del Carmen (*Sister Carmen Becerra of the Sacred Heart*). Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) will come by mid-September because she has to work in the school. She already has her assignment.

Let someone continue having the piano lessons Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus*)

Villarruel) was taking. It will have to be someone with natural talent. Perhaps it could be Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) or Maria del Pilar (*Sister Maria del Pilar Padilla*).

Papa Panchito (*Archbishop Cantwell*) didn't allow us to use the money from the dowry account for the sanatorium. He also feels that you sisters should continue helping us financially. Don't mention this to Father Callahan; but we need to obey and say that the main business that brought me here is still being processed and is in the hands of two capable lawyers. Don't accept any more commitments. It's too much already. Make payments with your earnings from the care the little girls in the boarding house (*the government paid the sisters for caring for pre-school orphan girls in the house across from St. Patrick's Church*) and the sick in the sanatorium. It would be ideal, of course, if you could acquire passes to bring the girls (*sisters*) all the way over here or use the money received from St. Mary's (*earnings from working at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*). But if you can't, you may withdraw from the bank whatever you need to bring the girls. Eighty Mexican pesos should be sufficient for each one. And it's not necessary to give Father Callahan an exact account of our financial matters. It's already very late, but it was impossible to write during the day. Later on, I'll write to the others and also give my answer regarding the little business you wrote to me about. I just received your two letters-- the first by regular mail and the other by certified mail. The answer to what you've asked is yes.

May God bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 112
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, August 5, 1930

My beloved daughter, Carmelita,

I like the idea of establishing a kindergarten. Our father (*the local pastor*) wants it very much. Therefore, it must be God's will for you to have it. But let it be with small children five or six years old. As

you know, you'll need to be very careful with them. They must have a separate recess and you'll have to accompany them to the restroom, apart from the others, so that they'll be able to be at peace.

Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) is telling me that they want the girls (*sisters*) to teach flower-making. Perhaps, if it's possible, I'll be sending Trinita Barbosa (*Sister Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) who is really very adept at making flowers, ceramics, painting, embroidery, and wood-burning. She could also take care of the kindergarten children. I like the thought of Trinidad giving private classes to the girls (*sisters*) and Maria Amada (*Sister Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco*) could help her with the arts and crafts and that would leave Trinidad free to take care of the children.

You'll need to determine right away how many children there will be and how many girls will be attending the classes. Let me know, and if the total is more or less acceptable, then Trini will leave right away. I'm hoping that you might know of someone who is going over and who could be a companion for her. If not, I'll send her anyway.

My regards to everyone. I can't write anymore.

Josefa

P.S. I'll be sending you the book you left behind.

Letter 113

Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos Gonzalez

September 11, 1930

Rev. Sister Bernardita

My very beloved daughter:

I greet you with great pleasure and am very grateful for your loving letters. May God reward you, daughter.

I'd like very much for you to be truly good and full of virtues.

You've received many graces from God our Lord and the one that's the greatest, in my opinion, is your vocation. Yet, it requires one to practice a very special obedience, that of entirely turning over one's own will, never judging if the Superior's decisions are either right or wrong; that would be to think oneself better than the Superior and would reveal that one doesn't see God our Lord in the Superiors but only the creature and therefore, still desiring to do one's own will. No, that's not obedience, but, yes, it's a manifestation of much pride. So, what has happened to the fulfillment of the vow of obedience? Take care that no such disgrace will happen to you, and always obey with promptitude and joy, seeing in obedience the holy will of God, and your greatest duty in keeping as the religious that you are.

How is your health? Take care of it so that you may be able to do whatever obedience asks of you. To take care of our health is a duty for each of us. Don't omit prayer for any reason. A humble and trusting prayer gives life to our souls.

Please pray for me because my shoulders are carrying very serious responsibilities and death is very near because of my age and poor health.

Prepare yourself with humility, prayer and observance for the great feast you so much desire, and which will be yours when the time comes.

Live happily wherever God our Lord places you, without thinking you would better off somewhere else.

I'm greatly desiring to see all of you. May God grant me the grace if is His Divine pleasure.

May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye, my daughter.

Maria Luisa

Letter 114

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

September 15, 1930

Rev. Sister Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart, C.D.T.

My beloved daughter:

May the peace of God be in our souls.

Alas, daughter of mine! You know why I haven't communicated with you.

God our Lord has allowed me to drink from a bitter chalice during this time, and do you know why? Nothing bothers me more than to see the guidelines of the superior ignored and thrown to the ground or to see obedience impeded by this kind of obstacle. When a superior asks that something be done, she has weighty reasons to give that directive.

Besides, what would happen to a family, and what would become of it, if it had several heads governing it? What would happen to it? Destruction! That's what would happen; and in the saddest and most shameful manner, obedience would be no more. The fact that obedience wasn't exercised in order not to displease this person, or because it was thought a better thing to do by acting in a different manner, is no excuse. Once we deviate from obedience, it's very easy to get attached to our own way of thinking. What a disgrace, my Lord! What a disgrace! I don't think there is any greater disgrace than this! This incident has caused a very deep wound in my soul! Don't let this happen again, my daughter. When you are called, go immediately wherever obedience is calling you, and whoever begs you to wait, you, in turn, beg them not to cause you to deviate from obedience, and then, simply leave right away. Obedience, daughter! Obedience! Pay attention to what I'm telling you! Look at what Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) did at St. Mary's (*in Moraga, California*). Upon receiving the order to come (*back to Mexico*), Sister informed the Brother (*a Christian Brother who was responsible for the sisters while they were working there*), and when he said that it wouldn't be possible because there were no passports, she answered, "With or without [passports], we're leaving." Everything came into place. The passports were issued. She obeyed and left. In the eyes of the Brother, whose feelings were not hurt, this incident became a beautiful example of obedience and Sister Socorro, on her part, honored her religious

family.

We know the kind of formation we have been given, which brings merit to ourselves and is for the good of all. Knowing this, people understand and act accordingly. It's clear that you don't realize what you've been doing these past days. Even *papa* (*probably Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) was surprised and annoyed when we got "another telegram!" And he didn't even see all of them, nor did he learn about all the other little details that happened before it arrived. One time when I mentioned to him that Father Callahan's feelings could be hurt, *papa* was very surprised and answered me: "What difference does it make, and why does he have to be told about this?" If I want obedience, in truth I tell you, I don't want it for personal reasons, but for the good of all of you.

The separation of that house doesn't surprise me either. If someone would like to stay there, it's her business. I don't want any fickle persons--the ones that would come would be like immovable rocks, which is the kind we want. What causes me sorrow is the disobedience. You don't want me to lose my good will toward those priests? I've no reason to do so. They did what they did, authorized by all of you, not so much by your words, but your actions. Besides, I don't have anything to do with them. Where is your intelligence, Margarita? Reflect on what I am telling you, and tell me if I am not right in being so affected by what happened. It may be that I'll pay for this with my life.

Acquire solid virtue, not tinsel-like virtues. I'd like you to confide in a Jesuit priest.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Good bye, daughter. My regards to everyone.

Maria Luisa

Letter 115
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

September 19, 1930

Miss Carmen Chavez

My very beloved daughter,

Your letter made me laugh with both Martin del Campo's (*Dr. Martin del Campo was a benefactor of the hospital in Atotonilco*) creativity and Lucita's (*Sister Luz of St. Luis Gonzaga*) jokes! I bless God our Lord for granting you all such a happy day, but what I am even happier about, is that it's only right and just for you to honor our Blessed Mother as patroness of the Chapel.

Blessed be God that you were able to find out what caused the humidity. Otherwise, that most necessary apartment for us would have collapsed. Let's thank God our Lord.

Regarding the children eight to ten years old, perhaps because there are only two of them, you could give them private classes but that means that you would have to charge accordingly. But only take them on if it's not detrimental to your health. Don't take care of the sewing classes for the fifth and sixth grades, after all because it would be physically impossible for you. You could have Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) do that, and we're hoping that, in this way, you'll be able to do some good for those children.

I'd like you to come over here on some Saturdays, whenever possible, to visit Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) even if you have to return on the same day. In that way, you would be able to evaluate what her needs are and be fulfilling your duty. I already wrote to her announcing your visits. That will help her to be at peace, and Lucita's visit, naturally, will also make her happy. Poor little one!

It would be advisable for Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Velasco Martinez*) to have a tonsillectomy. Remaining in that condition isn't good for her. It would be good for you to send her with Rosarito (*Mother Maria Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) as soon as possible because Rosarito also needs to take care of her group [of sisters] and time is slipping by.

I thank God that Isabelita (*Sister Isabel of St. Pascal Fonseca*) is feeling better. Greet her for me and tell her to take good care of herself. We'll let some days go by, and then I'll bring her over for a

few days as I already suggested to her, if she can get on and off the train without putting herself into danger.

My daughter, what can you tell me of Teresa Orozco (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*)? Would it be a good idea to let her stay a few days to see if she perseveres? You observe her carefully and let me know.

What can you tell me about Mercedes Anguiano (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*)? I'm worried about her. Consult with my godfather, and let me know everyone's opinion.

Make sure that the girls (*sisters*) are all in good health, that they will be able to grow stronger and joyful, that they may remain alive and, in this way, be able to give much glory to God.

Give my regards to Martin del Campo. Please tell him for me that I'm getting some kind of light-headedness. Even if I just use a handkerchief, that alone, makes me dizzy and I feel as though I'm going to faint and fall down and so I have to hold on to something. See if he can send me a prescription.

My regards to everyone and ask them to pray to God our Lord for me.

May God bless you.

Josefa Navarro

Letter 116
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

September 30, 1930

My dear daughter, Teresita,
Last night I recommended to Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) that she write to you and congratulate you [on your feastday], in my name because I'm suffering from aches and pains. But today everything has turned out so well that I do have the pleasure of writing to you personally, even if it will be only a few lines. I can't do very much because I've been

feeling dizzy. Still, don't be worrying about me because I have my ups and downs all the time, and perhaps by the time you receive this, I'll be just fine.

My daughter, God our Lord wants you to be happy with a holy joy. Try to amuse yourself, to eat and sleep well, and to busy yourself in the little garden, so that you'll be able to have more time out in the fresh air, receiving the warmth of the sun and taking care of the little garden. Perhaps you could build a grotto and place [a statue of] Our Lady of Lourdes there. I'd be very happy to see it when I go there and the many flowers growing there, too. I love that little house very much and I sincerely wish to see it again. God willing, we'll be with each other there, and then I'll be able to have long conversations with my Teresita, with whom I'm very pleased. I really would like to see her.

My loving regards to Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Ortega*) and all my daughters who must have already received my letters. Pray for this poor mother of yours.

Good-bye, and may God our Lord bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Letter 117

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

October 28, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My very dear daughter,
May Jesus Himself be your reward.

Actually, it's my illnesses which haven't allowed me to write. The albumin is acting up and I feel dizzy and faint, to the extent that I can do almost nothing. Blessed be God! Yesterday I began to improve a little and the lab test results came out a little better, indicating less albumin in the urine. I think that my good daughters' prayers have obtained my improvement. May the Lord bestow countless blessings upon them and make all of them saints. That is

my greatest wish.

What a joy it would be for me to go and spend a few days with you but Our Lord, for the time being, doesn't allow me to. I need to take care of the small family, which is dwindling very much, and understandably so when you consider my poor health and our economic situation. God our Lord has permitted us the great grace of experiencing real poverty, which has never happened to us before this. No doubt He wants to see if, before I die, I would be able to accept joyfully even this--to watch my daughters suffering horribly. The little ones tell me, "How good it is, Mother, that we're so poor! And we eat with '*gusto*' (*with much enjoyment*) what God gives us!" Please pray that we use all the opportunities that God gives us under any circumstances-- you sisters in that country and we in this one--for all of us are under His Divine care.

I understand that you'll be sending me Brother Rafael's account (*Brother Rafael took care of the business matters of the Sisters while they were at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*), but it would be good if Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) sees it first since he was the one who intervened in this business. Greet him for me and Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*), also. I'll always be very grateful to both of them and I wish I could see them before I die, but if that's not to be then from heaven, where upon receiving God's mercy, I'll manifest my gratitude to them by my poor prayers to God our Lord on their behalf. I beg them to likewise pray for me.

I praise our good Lord for the help He is sending you, for the increasing number of patients you have and for whom you can do so much good, and also for giving you the financial means to continue paying off our debt. I'm supposing that every month you are able to make a payment, for that's my intention-- to lessen that sizable amount which we still owe, so that we'll have less interest to pay. I wanted to write to you for a while longer, but I'm not feeling very well. One of my daughters will continue telling you the rest. **Be truly good, all of you. Rejoice in being little, humble and simple.**

You can't imagine how happy the Tertian (*Third Order*) Carmelites are! These sisters, whom you know so well, have had their

Constitutions and Ceremonial Book approved and they have also received permission to transfer their motherhouse to the Capital (*Mexico City*). And let me tell you something else. Maria D. already entered with permission from Rome, so imagine all that God does with the humble and she is really manifesting her humility.

Give my affectionate regards to all my daughters and ask them to pray for me.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all. Good-bye.

Josefa Navarro

Tomorrow Margarita Amada (*Sister Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) will be having a tonsillectomy.

Letter 118

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, October, 1930

To Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart.

My beloved daughter,

May the love of the Sacred Heart fill your soul! Since Our Lord has postponed the pleasure of greeting you personally, at least I can do so partly through these present lines. With my whole heart I hope that you can spend the feastsdays of our most beloved Mother St. Teresa and your great saint by sharing in the spirit of the love of God.

Oh, yes, my daughter. May Divine Love consume your soul! After all, that's the reason why we are in the world. All of the rest is nothing but a puff of smoke. Through my letter to Mother Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) you'll learn the reason which prevented my trip up there and hindered my intentions of going to visit you. With that purpose in mind--that of going to visit you--I've decided to take good care of myself, to protect myself from the cold weather, and to use every means possible to me so that I'll be able to go and see you and spend a few days with all of you. May God our Lord grant me that joy, but if

not, I'll see you all from heaven, asking Him to keep you always as good religious.

Accept my sincere gratitude for the money that, in your charity, you sisters sent me and the letter you wrote to Nogales (*the sisters wrote to Nogales to facilitate Mother Luisita's entrance into the country at the border*) for me. **May God our Lord repay you because whatever is done for the poor superior, good or bad, is received by His Divine Majesty as having been done to Him.**

How was your retreat? Were you sisters happy? How good God is! How many graces He grants us! Let's hope that we'll use them. How are you feeling in both soul and body? I've seen Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) and Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) and once I saw Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*). He came to help us move some furniture. They are all well. Blessed be God!

We have all been well, thanks be to God. Some of the family (*religious community*) had trouble with their throats, but they are all well now, and keep in mind that it is now a very large family. Pray for us.

In order to get this letter out right away, I'm closing now. Kindly give my greetings to Father Ott and the other persons you know to whom we're indebted for their many favors and estimation of us.

Good-bye, daughter. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you and make you a good religious.

Maria Luisa

Letter 119

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, November 15, 1930

Miss Margarita Hernandez

My beloved daughter,

What a joy to see your letters! God reward you! I bless God our

Lord because He has deigned to visit you, showering your soul with graces through the letter of your good father (*Father Edward Huerta of Guadalajara who was a life-long friend of Mother Luisita*) as well as through such a worthy priest, (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.--Mother Luisita had asked Mother Margarita to look for a Jesuit spiritual director*). The counseling he has given you is good and you should appreciate it. Regarding which direction to follow, one or the other, you yourself need to see the advantages of either the one or the other. You were the one who requested the favor. It was granted to you, and then you did not go back. Don't you think it will cause them to form a concept of us which isn't very good--that there is no seriousness or formality? The Jesuits are serious-minded people, and let's hope that we'll win their affection and their interest in our poor family (*religious Congregation*). I would very much like for them to give your Day of Recollection every month, and if you sisters would communicate your souls to them, oh my daughter, it would be a very great good for our souls. Tell this to Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and, if you deem it opportune, see that Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) obtain this favor from papa Juanito (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell*) and from the Jesuits themselves.

Father Eduardo told me that he had written you with the hope that you would be coming down here, since he learned that you were coming.

It would be a great advantage for you to continue studying the piano. Don't you think that the purchase of a piano now would be spending very much money? Would it be possible for you to practice on the organ or the harmonium? By all means, I want you to pay off that great debt that we have little by little by paying something on the principal every month. Even though you'll have to deprive yourselves of some things, the important point is to pay off the debt. The financial situation is terrible here, and I know that it's just as bad in that country as well. We have to be very careful in our expenditures, above all because it's our duty and out of respect toward those who lent us the money. I repeat once again, it's essential that you pay something on the principal every month. I said the same thing to Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) in my last letter.

My daughter, may God our Lord accept the great sacrifice I make of being so far from you, so separated from you and your sisters. I miss you all very much. May it be for the love of God! If God our Lord keeps me alive until next summer, I would be delighted to go and see you all. Otherwise, I'll see you from heaven and will pray to God our Lord for my good daughters to whom I'm so grateful for being so good to their poor mother. Be good, my beloved daughter. **Die to yourself that Christ may live in you. Don't do anything without permission, obey immediately, and watch out that dissipation doesn't come into your soul. What great harm it does! Toward this end, you'll need mortification of the senses and continual prayer, but with tranquility through short aspirations that you can repeat often. This will be of great help to your soul.**

I had an urinalysis today and the albumin was not so high. The prayers of you sisters have brought about this improvement. May God reward you, but watch out! Don't be making any promises. *(One or two sisters had offered themselves to God as victim-souls when Mother Luisita was seriously ill).* You simply pray that everything will be for my eternal salvation.

I haven't had the pleasure of seeing your mother, Conchita. Usually when she comes, we ask her to remain either for lunch or for supper. I'd like her to become a member of the Third Order of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and to take your name. Father Figueroa has already accepted her and we're going to make her large scapular here. She's willing and very happy.

Affectionate greetings to all my daughters whom I wish to be very close to God, and never to offend him, for it's better to be dead than to offend God. Toribio (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) and another one of his brothers (*a Jesuit priest*) don't want us to go out into the streets unnecessarily. Toribio says that even the best spiritual life deteriorates in doing so, and, therefore, we must go out only for the necessary things and nothing else. Good-bye. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

(no signature)

Letter 120
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, December 1, 1930

Miss Teresita Chavez

My beloved daughter,

What a joy it's for me to read your letters! May God our Lord reward you!

I'm so very glad to hear that you are better. Continue taking care of yourself. **Regarding a spiritual director for your soul, pray much to the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to enlighten you so that you may see very clearly who should be your guide to lead you to heaven. What can I tell you? I like the Jesuit spiritual directors. *Nuestro Padre Pedro (our Father Pedro--Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.)* would be good, but he is so far away from you that it wouldn't be practical for you to go that distance to see him. Perhaps you could be Sister Margarita's (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) companion so that both of you could go every month to Loyola [High School] to the same priest who is directing her (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*), and then if you see that he isn't the right one for your soul, look for another one. In my humble opinion, the counseling of these priests is very solid. They only say a few words, but with very good results.**

Olivia's father was here to find out about his daughter. I told him what I saw when I was over there, and I promised him that I would ask you how she is doing lately. He wants Olivia to write him a long letter, telling him her problems and giving the details regarding her vocation.

Regarding myself, I still have lots of aches and pains. I can get out of the tarima (*the Carmelite bed of boards and mattress*), but soon after I have to return to it. With this albumin problem I have, the cold weather doesn't do me any good at all. And since it's such a fatal illness, they pamper me very much. Lately I've been very swollen in the face, especially on the right side. The cause of this swelling hasn't been determined yet. God knows. Just pray for my poor soul and that's enough for me.

Did you like the group [of sisters]? Let me know what you think about the new family (*community*) and their little dresses? They look very nice, don't you think?

We received the pictures but were surprised because the one of St. John of the Cross arrived so late, even though we had ordered it together with the rest and by return mail. How necessary obedience is for us! Excuse me, I was thinking of them as religious, but I am mistaken. I'm sending you a copy of what we read of the story of St. Juana regarding the obedience of the Visitation Sisters.

I would be very grateful if you would send Francisca with Mercedes Jimenez. How unfortunate that there are times when what has been ordered isn't carried out. It would be better for me not to say anything more.

May God our Lord bless you, daughter. **Be good, but remember that in order to be good, you need to be obedient. Pray to Our Lord for that virtue.** My regards to everyone.

Maria Luisa

Letter 121
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, December 15, 1930

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter to whom I wish the peace of God,

I've received your kind letters. May God reward you by making you a saint.

My sickness has prevented me from writing to all of you. My physical body is wearing out. I have complications of one kind or another frequently, and the albumin count doesn't decrease. Let's bless our Lord for permitting this because it is for our own good. Pray that He may forgive my sins and grant me a holy death. My daughters here take good care of me. With much sacrifice they buy very expensive medicine for me prescribed by Dr. Gonzalez Arechiga. I don't lack anything, but Our Lord is telling me that we're

at the point where all we have to do is to accept His Divine will, both you and I.

Be as good as you have always been. Try to be very united, obedient and charitable with one another, forgiving each other's faults even by overlooking them when prudence and union ask for it. Don't lose sight of those three virtues which give life to all the rest--Fraternal charity, union, union, union, and obedience to your superior. Pray to God with humility and perseverance for these virtues and He will grant them to you, and practicing them, our good Lord will bless you and, undoubtedly, the community will prosper.

Therefore, we shouldn't become cowardly or worry about anything because of my disappearance from this world; on the contrary, for Our Lord will grant us the grace, no doubt. We'll have to work with more enthusiasm and greater strength to conserve, augment, and to perfect our much beloved Congregation which is loved by God so much. Our beginnings have come at a tremendous cost, as you will see in eternity. As always, you will need much prayer, for with prayer there is nothing to fear because to those who possess God, nothing will be lacking.

And now, with the news of the contamination of our little sister (*tuberculosis*), I worry even more about you. Take greater precautions in view of the possibility of contagion and the seriousness of the malady. For the love of God take care of yourselves, eat well and cover yourselves in whatever way necessary. It's a duty of conscience and my order to you.

I'm deeply grateful for the prayers being offered for me and for your sisters. God will reward you. Continue offering them because that's the best present you can give us. Prayer will give us life, happiness on this earth and in the life-to-come, but we have to pray, pray without ceasing.

I saw Conchita, your mother. She was in the city and came to visit me. She soon returned to Atotonilco and Narcism (*Mother Mary's sister*) wrote to me inviting me to be "*madrina*" (*godmother*) at the blessing of the banner, but it's impossible for me to accept because

of my illness. I just wrote to her, expressing my gratitude for thinking of me.

Don't lose sight of the debt owed by that house. We have to sacrifice ourselves and make monthly payments.

My recommendation to you is this: Be simple. Simplicity is a beautiful virtue very pleasing to Our Lord. On the other hand, duplicity, of any kind, doesn't please Him.

My regards to each and everyone of my daughters whom I love so much, and I wish all of you a very holy and happy Christmas.

Your mother who sends you her blessing and prays to God for you all,

Maria Luisa

Letter 122
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

My dear daughter, Carmen of Jesus,

I hope you arrived without any incidents on the way and that you are well.

Braulita and her husband, Antonio, came by for a visit and I took the opportunity to invite them to be Consuelo's sponsors. They accepted with such good will that they even left me \$25.00 (pesos) for her habit, mantle, coif and shoes, but the veil wasn't included. They said they'll be attending and will be arriving the evening before the celebration. I hope that you'll go out of your way to give them hospitality and show them every consideration which they deserve because we really owe them very much.

I hope that Angelita will come soon and that her business will end on Monday. I already placed the application, but we're really in great need of someone to help us. Ask her to bring whatever she needs. If you haven't given her the customary list, please do so even if it's only for the most necessary things, besides her food.

The sisters are going on retreat today. Pray to God that they'll make these exercises according to His will. Try to see that Angelita comes soon.

The celebration for Clementina went very nicely and now we'll be having the celebration for Carmen Celina of the Infant Jesus (*Sister Carmen Celina of the Infant Jesus de la Torre Gonzalez*). Blessed be God!

Take good care of your health.

Written in another sister's handwriting: Our R. M. (*Reverend Mother*) says to start a triduum now for the souls of the family of one of the sisters and for Braulita's brother who just died.

Luisa Josefa del Santisimo Sacramento

Date: August, 1930. (Sr. Carmen Celina entered that month and year. (Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 5).

Letter 123

Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega

(no date)

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph be your protection, my beloved daughter, Jesus Teresa,

It gives me great joy to receive your letters, my daughter. I'm hoping that you'll continue writing to me whenever your occupations allow you to do so.

I bless the Lord because you don't have any serious illness. Try to eat and sleep well and be happy without exerting yourself too much; in other words, do whatever the doctor tells you.

I imagine, or rather I am hoping, that your soul has been profiting by the graces which you undoubtedly are receiving. Our Lord is so good that I'm sure He loves His Carmelites. We have to be generous with His Divine Majesty.

My daughter, I wish so much to see you and the rest of my daughters. Pray to God to grant me this grace, and pray also for my soul.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Ma. Luisa

Approximate date: 1930. (Sister Jesus Teresa was still residing in California)

Letter 124
Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez
Ortega

(no date)

For Jesus Teresa.

My very dear daughter,

Forgive me for being so late in answering your letters. It doesn't mean, though, that I am forgetting about you all for I have you present in my mind and I'm very interested in finding out about you and all the others (*other sisters*).

God our Lord has entrusted you with the mission of saving souls. Bless Him for that and apply yourself to prayer so that you will be able to be able to carry out that mission. "If God doesn't build a house, in vain do the builders labor; if the Lord doesn't guard over the city, in vain does the watchman keep vigil." This makes us see that it's only God Who does all. He is the One Who sees our hearts, and that's the reason why we should go to Him for everything, constantly asking for His help and offer to Him all we do.

Ay, my daughter! I urge you to be very obedient. Without obedience, you won't be taking one single step toward heaven. The contrary will happen. If you are truly an obedient person, you will have nothing to fear; without a doubt, you'll be saved. Love obedience and you will be a true religious.

Good-bye, my daughter, and pray for this, your mother, who wants you to be a saint.

Ma. Luisa

Approximate date: 1930.

Letter 125

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

(no date)

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls my beloved daughter, Maria of the Divine Eucharist.

Let's praise and thank our good God for granting all of us such a happy Christmas!

The Constitutions are being printed. They're going to be a little different because we've included the decrees which should also be in them. Now we'll be needing financial help from both houses to cover the printing expenses. If each house sends \$10.00 dollars it will come out to about \$1.00 (pesos) per copy, which is really not very much. As soon as they are ready we'll be sending you a copy per each. All of you are going to like them. Besides, they are already approved.

I've been feeling a little better, blessed be God, and I want to make use of this respite that Our Lord grants me by writing to each one of you.

You know how attached I am to you all, and you'll understand my great desire to be with all my good daughters, even if it was for only fifteen days in each house. May God grant me the grace to visit your house, too, if it's His will because you are still too little to leave you alone. You need the warmth of your mother, *pobrecitas*. Our Lord to Whom we belong, disposes everything admirably well, and if He doesn't let me go, He will watch over you and you'll be lacking nothing. He will talk to your heart, correcting you, consoling you, or helping you in any way you need. We should be, then, very happy and at

peace with whatever He wishes.

I give you the pleasure that your father (*this is an unfinished letter, one of the sisters finishes it.*)

Mother couldn't finish and she told me to sign it. Ha! "*Mija*" (*my daughter, mi hija*) are you going to tell me you don't like being pampered?

E. (*Elena*) de la Cruz

Approximate date: 1930.

Letter 126

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

(no date)

For Mary.

My very beloved daughter,

I greet you with great affection. How have you been feeling? Take good care of yourself and now that winter is coming; make sure you are well-covered and avoid getting cold.

I miss you very much. Blessed be God for everything! In one way I'm glad you are over there and that God granted us to have that area (*the location where Santa Teresita Hospital was built*) because in these times it's very necessary for us.

Be happy. Bracho (*Father Toribo Bracho, S. J.*) tells me to bring you all back here because he doesn't like the idea of your being there yet. Therefore, it's necessary to work and get settled and try to find ways and means to support ourselves in that beautiful country.

I imagine that house very clean and beautiful, with everything done under a schedule, and all of you trying to be good, happy and at peace wherever Our Lord places you, and that He has you without any other ambition except to please God, live happily, and make life happy for everyone else.

Lucita (*Sister Maria de la Luz Valle*) and Cuca (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) arrived on the twelfth, and if God wills it, they'll go over there so they may study and become well-educated.

I'll be very happy to receive your little letters whenever it's possible for you to write to me. Pray very much for us, and above all for me. Don't forget me before God. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1930. (Santa Teresita Hospital began in 1930.)

Letter 127

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

(no date)

Miss Mary of the Eucharist

My beloved daughter,

With motherly affection, which is very great indeed, I greet you. How have you been? Take good care of yourself and cover yourself well because I imagine that right now the weather is very cold over there.

It seemed that death suddenly came around the corner for me, but doctor put me to rest and on a very rigorous diet and I'm a little better, but without any exercise; I shouldn't have any surprises, either agreeable or disagreeable. Pray for me that Our Lord will take me to heaven, but really pray, and God will reward you. Don't worry about my illnesses. Maybe I'll remain with you in this world for a long time.

When receiving Rosa (*Rosa asked to enter the congregation but was never admitted into it, after all*), first let the finances that Father Esparza (*Father Fidencio Esparza, a friend of the community in California*) offers be well-arranged, with the guarantee that his arrangements as well as all the other requisites of the by-laws are met and are also in agreement with Fathers Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) and Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) and Mr. Contabri... (I don't

know how it's spelled). Lencho (*Msgr. Lawrence Altimrano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) will allow her to be there for six months and as I told Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*), by then we'll see if Rosa stays there and the family goes away from her, or if she comes over here.

Give thanks to Our Lord because Magdalena's house (*the hospital in Atotonilco*) is going to be fixed. Nacho Cordoba and Celso Sanchez are going to give the money, and today, the workers will begin. How His Divine Majesty moves hearts! When we least expected it, He gave this grace to us without even us asking for it. The two gentlemen saw the condition of the house and offered their help exactly on the twenty-fifth of December. It was really a Christmas gift the Divine Infant gave us. May He be Blessed! And we also acquired a house for Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of the Sacred Heart Reynoso*) to establish a school, which until now had not been possible.

On the twenty-fifth we ate at the orchard in Magdalena's house, enjoying ourselves very much, even though I was feeling a little weak and still on a diet, so I couldn't eat everything that was prepared for me. May God bless you, daughter.

Josefa Navarro

Approximate date: 1930.

Letter 128

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Maria Ana.

My dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. How are you? It's been a long time since I last received any letter from you.

If you are still thinking that I won't be going there, I want you to know that now I do have some hope of visiting you. How I'm longing to see and converse with all of you. May God our Lord grant this

favor to me.

We're in the Month of the Rosary. I'd like you [sisters] to pray all fifteen mysteries, asking for the solution of all our needs. It seems to me that the rosary is of infinite value.

My recommendation to you is that you take good care of your little sisters. Have a mother's heart in your relationship with them. *Pobrecitas!* Greet them for me and tell them I'll be writing to each one, but in the meantime ask them to forgive me because I don't write frequently.

I'm feeling a little better from all my illnesses. Blessed be God!

After getting to this part of the letter, I received yours. May God our Lord reward you.

We have to be patient with ourselves and pray that our defects will help us to remain humble. It's by practicing little acts of humiliation that we'll become humble, and only then will we no longer suffer. Self-love and pride not only make us suffer; they breed envy, which is a very ugly vice. Still, we shouldn't become discouraged when we fall, but ask God our Lord for His help and try to have Him on our side by not displeasing Him and keeping Him happy. He will lead us to heaven, and that's the most important thing for us.

Tell Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Valdivia*) that my papa Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) is earnestly asking if a poor girl who used to live in Santa Rosalia could come and spend some time with us. The family with whom she was living is no longer there and she would like to find refuge with us. What is really in his mind is that we should charitably take her in with us, and if it works out, allow her to stay with us because she is suffering very much at being alone. He tells me that she is very good and for me to ask Lorenzo (*Monsignor Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) if he would permit me to take her. If we see that she is capable of learning, we'll place her in the boarding house (*novitiate*), and if not, then she could do domestic work and continue to live with us until the family she was living with comes back. Papa Pedrito says that she's from our family, and she is. It's that very family with whom we were going

to stay. (*Her name was Rosa and she was not admitted, after all.*)

Would you also tell Manuelita that I would appreciate it if she would send me some of the "Aloine Houde" pills that I take, and one of the office books (like the little book that my daughters bought) because Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Alonzo Heredia*) doesn't have anything to use for her prayers.

Give my regards to all the family (*sisters*), and please give each one of them an embrace for me.

Good-bye, daughter. May we may see each other soon.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1930. (Foundation in Duarte: Chronicle of 1930, pp. 36, 37 and following.)

Letter 129
Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Reverend Sister Maria de Lourdes

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

Pobrecita! I haven't written to you offering my condolences upon the death of your grandmother. Forgive me, daughter, and pray to God our Lord for me to learn how to give myself time for the fulfillment of my duties.

How have you been? Even in the midst of such a great persecution, you must feel consoled because she died after having received the Last Sacraments. Give thanks to God our Lord, try to be resigned to His will, and pray as much as you can for her eternal repose.

Don't forget to pray that the novitiate be established [in the United States], so that we can bring Maria de la Luz (*Mother*

Lourdes's sister, Maria de la Luz entered and took the name of Sister Dolores of Jesus) over immediately. God our Lord prefers that this kind of work have patience, humility, and prayer for its foundation. Moreover, the devil will try to stop it because it certainly isn't beneficial to him! At the same time, the mere fact that he is trying to stop it's a clear manifestation that it's God's work, one that will give Him greater glory.

Take good care of your health. I want to see you all with rosy cheeks, well-nourished and serving our Lord with gladness because sadness in the service of God is a very bad sign.

Apply yourselves and learn English so that you'll be able to speak it well and with it give greater glory to God.

If God our Lord allows me, we'll soon see each other there. My regards to all the sisters. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Approximate date: 1930. (Mother Lourdes's sister, Maria de la Luz, entered in 1930--Sister Dolores of Jesus.)

Letter 130

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, August, 1930

My dear daughter, Margarita Maria,

May the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus be in your soul!

I greet you with motherly affection, my good daughter. I thank you for your letter which was dated twenty-third. That's the only one which I've received...*(Some paragraphs omitted.)

It's only natural that I miss you very much. You're such an affectionate little girl. Let's hope that very soon you'll have your little rooms finished (*the convent was being built*) so that you'll soon have your living quarters the way they should be. I understand that

it won't take long to build and that then you'll be moving.

When you see good Father Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J., Mother Margarita Maria's spiritual director*) please give him my regards and the same for the other people who've been so good to us.

Good-bye, my daughter. **Keep well and be what you are supposed to be--a saint.**

Maria Josefa Navarro

Approximate date: August of 1930. (as explained by Mother Margarita Maria in her introductory notes to this letter.)

Letter 131

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, June, 1930
Beloved daughter,

What a great joy it is for me to receive your letters! May God repay you. I can see that God our Lord has His purposes in permitting your matrimony (*final profession of vows*) to take place up there. It seems to me that I said the very same thing in my previous letter, and according to my thinking at this time, I can confirm that opinion. In the wedding of one of the daughters of Joseph (*Sisters of St. Joseph*) little Johnny (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*) performed the ceremony and Father Ott said the Mass. That's why I thought it could be the same way for you, but if you Sisters don't think that it would be possible, then no. Simply ask Father Ott to do both things and your sponsors to be the ones you mentioned.

I'll be most happy to accompany you from here. For the life of you, prepare yourself with prayer and humility. It is very necessary to have recollection and detachment and, above all, detachment from your own will. Really and truly you can't have any other will but that of the Beloved. You still lack very much, but God our Lord will make you very virtuous and give you what you are lacking. Humble yourself, asking Him to do everything for you and with tranquility continue working for the good of your own soul which is the most urgent thing for you

to do. See God, your soul, and eternity, and for the rest, do not preoccupy yourself. For greater things you were born. Pray for me. I want to be what I should be. Greetings to my other daughters. Make good use of the time and of your retreat.

Good-bye, my daughter.

Josefa Navarro

Letter 133

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

R.M. (*Reverend Mother*) Maria del Socorro of the Holy Spirit

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

It's been a great consolation for me to learn from your letters of the Archbishop's (*Archbishop Edward Joseph Hanna of San Francisco*) good will toward us. Blessed be God! And I'm also very pleased that the brothers (*Christian Brothers who staffed St. Mary's College in Moraga, California*) are happy. I hope that everyone will remain that way. I'll be writing to the Archbishop (*Archbishop Edward Joseph Hanna, Archbishop of San Francisco*), and regarding the brothers, let them make their suggestions, and your reverence, don't make any comments.

By return mail send me any letters the superiors might have written to me from Guadalajara and Atotonilco during the time of my stay there. I need to record them in the books.

Perhaps, if Our Lord permits it, I'll be leaving for Guadalajara on Monday. It's not a fact yet because it depends on whatever arrangements can be made. I've tried to leave several times, but something always frustrates my trip. Pray for me, for the needs of the Congregation and for the happy success of the Chapter. We need much prayer.

We're elated with the "shower" our souls received from Our Lord through Father Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*), especially my

poor soul. It was truly an oasis which we all experienced, leaving us tranquil and serene. May everything be for the greater honor and glory of God our Lord.

Over here, the sisters are tired--so much sewing to do and then the filling out of all of the census forms after having walked so much taking the census. Blessed be God!

Give my regards to my daughters and tell Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) that I'll soon write to her and that I hope she will continue writing to me, for receiving her letters fills me with great joy. Please tell the same to the other sisters.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament, O.C.D.

Please forgive me for the smeared letter. I don't know how it happened, but I'm sending it to you like that anyway.

Approximate date: 1930. (The letters of Mother Luisita are in the Chronicle, pp.86-87).

Letter 134

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

May the peace of God be in our souls, my very beloved daughter, Teresita.

Just now I had the joy of receiving your last little letter. May God reward you, daughter.

I'm in total agreement that you go to confession frequently with Father Rosso (*Father Sossi, a Salesian priest in Los Angeles--Mother used incorrect spelling*). May you feel at peace under his direction because it's essential for us to enjoy that peace of soul so necessary to us while we're living in this earth, until that time when we happily enter heaven.

Thanks be to God, I've been feeling much better for several days now, even though the albumin doesn't disappear, but the amount of albumin is decreasing. Blessed be God!

What a joy to learn that you are sleeping better and that your eyes aren't hurting any more. Blessed be God! Ask the doctor if you should start taking again that medicine which did you so much good. Keep taking it as long as it's necessary.

Daughter, I'm also celebrating because you can drive now. It's very useful. Learn how to drive well!

I'm grateful that Lucita, your sister, wrote to me wishing me a happy new year, and God willing, I'll be answering her very soon.

I appreciate the prayers you all have offered for Rafael's eternal rest. He died as a good Catholic, receiving all the Sacraments. Blessed be God. Maria [his mother] appears to be resigned [to the will of God] but she also looks very sad. She will be very grateful to know what you've done for her son. Please offer her my condolences.

Daughter, greet Lupe and Ramon, my sister and brother-in-law, over the telephone and let them know that I'm a little better and that if I continue recovering this way, I shall be writing to them very soon.

May God our Lord grant me the grace of seeing them again, which is something I desire very much. **Try to be very happy, joyful and at peace because you are one who is pampered by Our Lord, so love Him with all your soul and be faithful to Him until death.**

You give me great joy by teaching your sisters. I did notice the improvement in their little letters. Help them to study earnestly because it is very necessary for them.

Good bye, my daughter. Your mother who loves you very much and blesses you,

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1930. (In 1930 Mother Teresita was still in

California.)

Letter 135

Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez

For Maria Amada.
My dear daughter in the Sacred Heart.

I congratulate you for having so many little girls in your care now! May God help you to implant the beautiful image of Jesus in those virginal little hearts, never to be erased. There's so much that we can do for poor children, especially now, during these times of turmoil.

My daughter, try to be better with each passing day. Make all of your devotions with increasing fervor. Have a greater purity of intention at the root of all of your actions. In everything that you do give evidence of your love and respect for your state in life. Remember that you are the daughter of a very great mother (*Our Blessed Mother*).

May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1930. (Mother Maria Amada worked in the orphanage in Atotonilco during 1930)

Letter 136

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, February 2, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez.

My beloved daughter,

With much affection I greet and congratulate you for the lovely celebration. Blessed be God!

I hope you have received, even though they were late and I'm very sorry about that, the answer to your requests. I was hoping that you

would receive them the very evening of the celebration, but it was not to be so. Let it be for God! I'm enclosing the receipt in case you haven't received the package yet, so you can go to claim it. The problem of the school was very easily solved by Isidoro (*Mr. Isidore Cervantes, the mayor of Atotonilco and father of Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ Cervantes*) because he is so influential. We have your certificate here now, and I hope you've already received the license you requested from the main office.

The frame and the money arrived just on time and intact. May God reward you and be at peace because everything is satisfactorily arranged.

The time has changed, and as soon as I take care of a little business matter, I'll try to go and visit you for the desire to do so just won't leave me. I'll consider it as a little vacation that God our Lord grants me, one that I wish for so very much.

My illnesses are just about the same. The albumin still goes up and down with the same complications, and even though the dizziness hasn't recurred, I'm still very much afraid of it. The rest of the family is all right, except for Maria Davila (*Sister Maria Davila*) who continues having her aches and pains. *Pobrecita!*

Papa Abundio (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) isn't in agreement about Tomasita staying in the orphanage, but he left this matter to my prudence because he doesn't know the people involved nor the circumstances. In my opinion, we shouldn't deny Braulta what she is asking, but we should write her a little letter telling her that I'm most willing for Tomasita to remain in the orphanage for as long as she wishes because she is family. Please write it soon. If necessary, you should go ahead and give her all the extra attention she needs, but allow her very little communication with the sisters. Invite some people to take her out, such as Narcisa, Maria Romero, the Flores family or Gregorita (*friends and relatives of the sisters*).

Would you kindly do me the favor of going back over the opinion both you and Teresa had regarding the marriage of Maria de Lourdes (*Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba*), and let me know soon so I can ask for the permission.

At this moment they are coming to give me the milk injections the doctor prescribed.

My regards to my daughters. Good-bye and may God bless you all.
Josefa Navarro

Letter 137

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

February 7, 1931

Margarita Maria,

May the peace of God be in your soul, my beloved daughter.

Yesterday, thanks be to God, I had the joy of receiving your affectionate letter. May God repay you, daughter. I have no less desire to see you than you have to see me and I say the same thing about your other sisters. May God our Lord grant us that.

So, you've had some days of anguish? Let's bless Our Lord in all and for all, and let's have our eyes fixed on Him, our Hope, and our Love. Thus we will go through the ups and downs of life with all tranquility.

This life changes as readily as the moon does. Sorrow precedes joy, fear precedes conviction, weakness precedes strength and all redounds to the welfare of those who love God. I thank God that He has given you such an excellent guide (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*). Let's hope that you will profit from his counseling. A spiritual director comes from the heart of Our Lord. Try to see him as if he were your Guardian Angel.

I am leaving for San Felipe (*the Jesuit Church in Atotonilco*) right now. That's why I can't write any more. Father Huerta (*Father Eduardo Huerta, S.J.*) came to visit me and asked me to remind you to send him what he mentioned in his letter. I think he wants you to send it with Mercedes Jimenez. I saw Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*). She came to visit me and was as good as ever to us.

Good-bye, daughter. **Be a little better, more and more each day.**

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 138
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

February 13, 1931

My beloved daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

The peace of God be in our souls.

I am so grateful to you. May God our Lord repay your kindness by making you saints, very respectful and more and more deeply united each day with whatever superior Our Lord has prepared for you because that's one of the signs of a true religious spirit-- not its opposite which is an unbalanced and sick spirit.

The books are beautiful. We received them yesterday and were elated! We used them right away, and enjoyed, of course, reading them.

I bless the Lord because it is time for Maria de Lourdes (*Sister Maria de Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez*) to make her perpetual vows and I'm doubly happy because she is in such a wonderful disposition to make them. (I'm supposing that she is). You may ask for the permission. It is here granted.

Little Sister Maria Davila continues with very fragile health. Dr. Arechiga fears she might have a tumor and a homeopathic doctor's opinion is that it could be a fistula. *Pobrecita*, she looks so tired and her general health is very poor. Pray for her and send her little notes in the name of everyone and that will be a great consolation for her.

I hope that both you and Manuelita (*Mother Manuela de la Concepcion Rodriguez Ortega*) visited the sisters who are studying

at the hospital, as recommended in my last letter and that both houses, in community, are praying daily for them.

I'll never tire of repeating again not to familiarize yourselves with the patients. Take every precaution to avoid getting infected. And much charity, yes. Charity and prudence, let them be as two scales that are always in equal balance.

The albumin continues the same. As a matter of fact, these days it has increased. **Let's bless the Lord since this is for my good. Actually, I think it's much better for me to be constantly at death's door. What I do ask of you all, is that you will pray that my sins be forgiven, for my holy death, and for the salvation of my soul. This prayer will be the best present for me and I thank you for it. I am going to heaven with a grateful heart for all the prayers you've offered on my behalf and for having been so good to your poor mother. Don't let my illness worry you. Simply try to unite yourselves more and more to God our Lord. May He be your consolation, your strength and help in every need you may have. The separation is for a short time only and we will meet, as St. Augustine says, "There we will love each other and enjoy ourselves."** These days I've been offering my poor prayers for all of you and I hope they are pleasing to God our Lord.

My regards to all my daughters and tell them that I'll write to them soon, God willing.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Letter 139

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

February 25, 1931

Miss Margarita Maria

My beloved daughter,

Having greeted you affectionately, I'd like to share with you a great

joy--one which touches the soul. Yesterday your mother came to see me and she told me to let you know that Luis, your brother, has just finished making the exercises (*the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*) with Father Bracho. He went into the exercises one man and came out another and is now receiving Holy Communion every day! He was reconciled, that is, he went to confession with Father Huerta and is very happy. Luis is now resolved to make the nine First Fridays, to attend Mass regularly, and to recite the rosary every day. He has good health and is very happy, blessed be God!

Regarding what is happening with Father Callahan, we must be very tactful and prudent and weigh our words before we speak. From your own experience you must know by now that he pays a great deal of attention to every word we speak, and I remember what Father Gomez used to say, "Much prayer, much prayer is needed." Don't mention anything about the changes anymore or say anything about those other points. Act as though nothing has been said to you about closing the sanatorium. On the contrary, express your many plans for the future and your good will to remain in this country (*in the United States*) with gratitude toward them. Do these things in a natural way without mentioning the past.

I bless God for the very good guide He has given you. Avail yourself of his help and try to sanctify yourself more. Ask Him for his prayers and for those of his community.

Give my greetings to Father Callahan and tell him that I'm asking Our Lord to permit me to be able to go there to spend some days in the sanatorium. I desire it very much, but tell him that my poor health and lack of finances deprive me of that pleasure, and that I live always with gratitude toward him, praying for him all the time.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 140
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

February 26, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you most affectionately, wishing you the peace of God and for all to be well with you. How is Angelita (*Sister Angela of the Cross Castellanos who was in the first group of novices*) doing? You understand how worried I am about her. I'd like a daily up-date on how she's coming along. I hope that Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) or someone else who would have the time could continue informing me in detail about her condition.

Don't enter her room and don't allow anyone who goes to school to enter her room either. This is a matter of conscience. If any of them would pick up this germ and then would go near the children, these little ones in turn would pick it up and then take it home, and you all would be responsible.

Only assign two of the older ones (*older sisters*) to take turns caring for her. When they change her linen and clothing tell them to put it immediately into boiling water, and do the same thing with all of her dishes. I'd like Magdalena and Luz (*Sister Luz of St. Luis Gonzaga*) to be the ones to take care of her because of their age.

I would be very happy to go over and visit her because she is very dear to me, but what's holding me back is this business of the mortgage which we still haven't been able to settle. At the same time, I don't think I should expose myself and even though I have good color, the albumin just will not come down and neither will the swelling. Still, as soon as this business is taken care of and God wills its, I'll go. See to it that she lacks nothing.

por Nuestra Madre (*by our Mother*)
(*Another sister signed for Mother*)

Letter 141

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

J.M. + J.T.

Guadalajara, March 24, 1931

Miss Maria Nunez

The peace of God be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

I've had the pleasure of receiving your notes. May God our Lord reward you.

Regarding the proposal made by our good Father Callahan, there's no doubt that it's advantageous for us. God will reward his good will. At the same time, however, it's also true that there are risks involved. One example is that if the sisters reside there at the school, they may either lose their religious spirit or that they would no longer feel at ease among us. Their vocations would really be at risk, and more so because it's for such a long time. Being so young and staying at the institution would give them very little contact with you sisters. Nevertheless, you may experiment by sending the two sisters you suggest, but with this condition: Obtain permission for them to spend Sundays with you--arriving on Saturdays so they will be able to have the opportunity to go to confession and change their clothes but above all, for you to observe them and see that they aren't restless. Make the confessor aware of what might happen. He can help you and, at the same time, he can help them very much. That's why I want him to be your confessor, as he already knows them. Please thank him for me and tell him that I'm convinced that Our Lord has destined him to do this spiritual good for us, his family, and that God will repay him a hundredfold as he knows better than I. Tell him we will experiment and observe if the sisters are able to cope with that English course. Let the sisters go very well instructed and I, in turn, will write to them later. Furthermore, in both houses special prayers should be offered, asking for God's grace to safeguard their Carmelite spirit.

Dolores Nunez, Flavio's daughter, is earnestly asking to join us. Tell Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) who's been her friend, but don't tell the family (*the other sisters*) because she is doing it without the knowledge of Lupe, her sister, and pray that God will arrange this matter in the way He knows best.

As for myself, lately I've had less albumin. Blessed be God! At the same time, however, I can't walk very much. Actually, the doctor has forbidden me to do it. The discomfort I am feeling is so great that I can only walk with someone's help. If the albumin disappears,

and if there is money for me to go, I'll be very happy to go see all of you because, I'd like so much to go for a visit. Pray for me.

It would be very good if ordinarily you would speak in English. I understand that by not practicing their English the sisters still don't understand it nor speak it because they are only speaking English during class. Well, that's not advisable. Do as I tell you and I hope you'll have good results.

I don't need any clothing. Please don't be sending me any.

I went to Atotonilco after the death of our unforgettable and beloved Angelita (*Sister Angela of the Cross Castellanos, a member of the first group of novices*) and listening to all the good things Father Rodriguez had to say of her was a great consolation for me, since he was her confessor. He said that he had already taken her as his intercessor and is asking her to obtain for him a death like hers. He's sure that she is already in heaven. He can't speak well enough of her. He used to see her helping the sick which gave testimony of her virtue. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) is going to write her biography and we're praying to her. We're going to put away all the things she used and made. God knows if He wants her to be exalted. She was really humble of heart. Ask her for whatever need you have, but something which, if God grants it, would be a miracle.

Regards to all my daughters. I'm praying that Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless them.

Maria Luisa

I almost forgot to tell you that you already have two more little sisters, Gabriela de la Dolorosa (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) and Josefa de Cristo (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*). They had their party (*became novices*) on the nineteenth of March.

Letter 142
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, March 26, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

It has been a tremendous consolation for me to learn that Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) is all right. Blessed be God! Let's all give Him thanks in community with the Magnificat, Te Deum and Holy Mass. Perhaps it would be a good idea for her to come over here whenever there's an opportunity, so she will be able to be seen by Gonzalez Arechiga (*Doctor Gonzalez Arechiga*) for a second opinion, and if it's necessary to have x-rays taken.

It seems to me that Angelita's (*Sister Angela of the Cross Castellanos, one of the first group of novices*) mattress, both the inside filling and the covering, should be perfectly washed in boiling water. The same thing should be done with the pillows and pillow cases, and after they are very well washed in the river, since there's running water there, put away everything well-wrapped in case you have a similar problem in the future.

For the love of God, pray all together in community and particularly with the patients and children that this business of the mortgage be settled. It's worrying me very much, and I think it's urgent for this problem be solved. May it all be for God! If we could only learn to profit by these worries that Our Lord sends to us, how we would appreciate them in eternity and how happy we will be to have suffered them when we see all of the good we will have derived from them.

Poverty is visiting us. Let's bless Our Lord for that. Send word to Heliodoro, the brother of Ines, that it would be a great help to us if he could complete the payment of the interest and ask Jesus Garcia about the beans. Please tell Secundina that I send my regards to her and at the same time the message that if she could also get at least a part of the interest from her brother, D. Perfecto, she would be doing us a great service. Write directly to this gentleman in my name, and tell him the same thing and ask Exciquia also to give us at least part of the interest. Regards to my father and my daughters, and you, my daughter, take good care of yourself.

Maria Luisa

Letter 143
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, April 7, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez

My very dear daughter,
The peace of God be in your soul.

What happened to you that you didn't come last Saturday?

Mr. Anaya (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) informed me today of the visit of (I think he said) Bishop Benitez, who comes by order of the Holy Father to visit these houses and we have to show and tell him everything concerning them. If you find any writings or letters, please do me the favor of sending them to me or bringing them next Saturday. It would be good for you to be prepared just in case he wants to visit over there although, naturally, the visit will be here.

Write immediately to Teresa Orozco (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) or to her parents, telling them that Mr. Anaya says that it's time for her to come, or tell her I said so. It seems to me that it would be good for her to be here with us when the visitor comes.

Give my regards to Victoria Sotelo and tell her I received her little letter. I haven't answered her because I've been very busy. You encourage her without inviting her and try her out.

How I wish you were here so you could help me, but I understand that it's not possible because of the school. Pray very hard that the outcome of this visit will be satisfactory.

Fond regards to everyone.

Good-bye, daughter.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Letter 144
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, April 14, 1931
Miss Carmen Chavez

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul, my beloved daughter.

We would be very happy to have Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) come over with you so that she could receive the habit on October 4, but it would be more prudent to wait a little and perhaps her father could give us monthly payments since we find ourselves in such difficult times. If the situation were different we could pay her travel expenses and they could give us the money later. I'm even embarrassed about it. It would be a good idea, however, for you to bring the necessary documents with you, and in that way, when she does come everything will be arranged and there will be no further delay.

Tell Victoria to continue asking Our Lord to grant her whatever is more beneficial to her, and to try to please Him in everything so He may give her such a great grace. Give the same message to Arandas's daughter.

Mr. Anaya (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) doesn't want us to admit girls older than thirty years of age. You can tell this to Maria Aleman and also let her know that I'm really sorry in my heart because I truly appreciate her, and I would gladly receive her.

I like Dr. Mercado as the family doctor because he is very serious. It would be a good idea if he examines Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) so that we will be able to have another opinion. Take good care of her.

The exams will take place in June just the same as last year.

We found the sisters' account ledgers, blessed be God!

It would be splendid if, by the time Bishop Benitez (*who was sent from Rome to meet the sisters of this new Congregation as a part of process of receiving the Decree of Praise*) goes for the visit, the little surgery room could be finished, and if everything would be in order and perfectly clean throughout the house so he will be able to see that everything is running smoothly in our Congregation. It would also be a good idea to have all the nurses present themselves wearing the black dress and white apron, long-sleeved coat and belt. See to it that they look very presentable. Tell the school sisters to wear their habits for this official visit and to have their account ledgers ready, and for the hospital sisters to have the patients' charts up-to-date. Receive the bishop according to the ritual, prepare some hymns for the time when he enters the chapel and have a red cushion ready on his kneeler. Be sure to place the kneeler on a little rug and also have a chair ready for him. Have the sacred vessels very clean. You can clean both the monstrance and candelabra with Bon Ami soap.

Remember the money I told you about? Have you received anything? We're very poor. Blessed be God!

My regards to my daughters to whom I wish a very happy Easter and the joy that can only come from a pure conscience and the practice of virtue.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

P.S. Please give a present to Salvador (*Dr. Salvador de la Pena, Mother Luisita's brother*) this Sunday. It's his feast day.

Letter 145

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, April 22, 1931

My beloved daughter, Teresita,

May God's peace be in your soul.

It's always a very pleasant time for me when I receive your kind letters. I read them and then I re-read them with the same joy.

Thanks be to God that I've had no cause to be unhappy with you. That's not the reason I haven't written. Perhaps it's the result of own my laziness or of not having enough time to write. I've been wanting to write to you, and as you can see, I haven't done it. Pray for me.

I'm very happy that Father is still there. I'm hoping that, if it's for the good of all concerned, he can remain there helping your soul. On the other hand, let's not become discouraged [if he can no longer stay]. Let's be like Mary Magdalen who, when she went to the sepulcher, did not stop with the angel, but insisted on finding God our Lord Himself. It's true that a soul can become somewhat fearful when its friend [spiritual director] is no longer there, but only God knows why He takes these friends away from us at times. Let's bless Him for everything!

Our Lord has been so merciful toward our little houses! I'm very happy with the favors you [sisters] receive, and it's a great consolation for me to learn about them. Please make a novena to St. Therese for my intentions and I congratulate you for having such a beautiful image of her. Really and truly she's taken possession of those houses, and no doubt she is interceding for their preservation and obtaining blessings on all your works. That's the reason why the girls and the patients have changed.

I'd been getting a little better and my albumin count had been much lower but the last laboratory test results were not very encouraging. The amount [of albumin] has increased again, almost as much as it was at the beginning, but I'm still walking. May God be blessed!

Today, feast of the patronage of our Father St. Joseph--a beautiful feast--I distributed to each of my daughters their copy of our Constitutions which were just delivered yesterday afternoon. You'll have yours very soon--one for each of you--and if it's possible send them to be bound so they can last a long time. The cover should be the same color as the lining so that all of them will look the same, beautiful and practical.

There are several applications from very good little girls (*aspirants to join the Congregation*), but we don't have a house yet. **Pray that**

Our Lord will help us, and that He will be pleased with us. That's the only thing that should really matter to us, and as far as everything else is concerned, none of it counts for anything. All these other things are like flowers that bloom only for a day.

Take good care of your health, daughter, so that you'll be able to give great glory to our good God. Get used to speaking in English in your daily life. I believe the only thing you are still lacking is merely to practice it more often. Offer that sacrifice to Our Lord.

It's very good that you are teaching those classes and that you are diligently practicing on the piano. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

**Letter 146
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez**

Guadalajara, May 22, 1931

My beloved daughter, Maria de la Divina Eucaristia,

That the Holy Spirit may fill your soul with His gifts is my greatest desire.

I 'd been longing to hear from you and have just received your letters. May God our Lord reward you. I congratulate you for the new patients' ward, for you now have a bigger field of action in which to help a greater number of patients. **I hope that your intention was very sincere and that Our Lord will be very happy. That's the goal that everyone should have in mind in every undertaking and in all of our works; otherwise, if it's the contrary, everything will be lost, as it's only a puff of smoke that the wind blows away. How sad that would be!**

I agree with the separation of Eufrosina (*a religious sister from another group of Tertiary Carmelites whom Mother Luisita admitted for a time at the request of Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*). I suppose

this has been already discussed with our Padre Pedrito. I've been reflecting on the fact that her vows were already made for this year, so please consult with a R. (*a religious priest*) just for peace of mind, and find out if she has to remain until the year is completed or if she can leave now.

It's all right with me for a Jesuit to give you your annual retreat.

I regret very much you had an outside person there. At the same time that money was being earned, remember that a relationship with a secular, secularizes.

I think it's impossible to do what you tell me about Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*). Her character and her poor health aren't for being with patients, watching treatments and surgeries. Her soul isn't for that- it wouldn't be at peace. You need people who can fulfill the work of a nurse. God will send us suitable members and they'll go to study because not even Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) is capable. I do know both of them and neither can take on that occupation. Nevertheless, we have to be very prudent in dealing with those men; therefore, don't irritate them and at the same time we have to do what we have to do, especially when conscience is involved as in the case of placing Teresita in such training.

We're here at your command at Avenida Libertad 1000 in a very handsome two-story building. We're comfortable and are located on a good street. Blessed be God!

The Archbishop wants the girls (*the sisters*) to go take care of an orphanage in Tepatitlan, and here we are already making arrangements to open another school. They'll give us the house, the furniture and the monthly salary. Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) and Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) will be just the ones we need for this job. Pray to our good God for the help which we, his poor daughters need.

I pray that every day you'll become a better religious, but what

I mean is truly better, and that you'll practice solid virtue.

Perhaps you'll have to economize. Those books must have cost quite a lot of money, i.e. The Life of Santa Juana and others that have been purchased. Can you spend so much and still be able to pay?

Maria del Carmen (*Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*), it seems to me, can join her sisters in Los Angeles. One celebration is enough, and in that way we'll not inconvenience the priests by asking them for two celebrations.

Loving regards to all my daughters. May God bless them.

Maria Luisa

Letter 147
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, June 2, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter, to whom I wish God's peace.

I give thanks to God for having helped you with your exams. I know that He will continue to help you with the ones you still have left to take.

By letter immediately let Don Jose Maria Garcia know that he'll be able to forget about the roof shingles and the rods that Hilario took out and sold with my sister Refugio's consent. Inform him that before the last arrangements were made, she had mentioned to me about it and I told her she could sell them, and also she could allow them to take one piece of furniture as well as the stove which belongs to Refugio. Tell him that I'm most grateful for the good care they have taken of our little house, and that God will reward him and to please forgive our bothering him so much. Try to word the letter as courteously as possible.

I'll continue in another letter. I can't write anymore.

There exists a very great need among us. Offer the novena to the Sacred Heart for the solution to this problem. Would you also make one of the processions that can be found in the ritual for very serious needs, as well as the novena of the three Hail Mary's and also pray the rosary with the patients?

Don't put any children on the altars for Corpus Christi. The Archbishop doesn't allow it.

My regards to my daughters. Tell them I am very grateful for their little letters and to be patient with me, for I shall write to them sometime.
Maria Luisa

Letter 148
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, June 7, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez

My dear daughter,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

I bless God our Lord for granting us the grace of helping our sisters to feel better. Let's hope that He will cure them completely. Over here we imagined so many mortifying things when we learned how gravely ill they were and how unexpected it all was. We thought that perhaps someone had fallen and was killed, or that the roof had collapsed on their heads, or that they were struck by lightning, in a word, we suffered very much making all kinds of conjectures, but, thanks be to God, your little letter put us at peace.

Send the money order right away. We owe that money and our deadline is on the ninth, so it arrived just in time.

The sisters did the right thing in asking that they be anointed. Do it like that always so that no one will be already in such a state that she won't know what's happening during the Sacrament, and remember that the holy oils give health to the body when that's what the body needs.

We're living in such a beautiful church season. We have to love much and ask for much and be enriched with the indulgences which each new day brings, such as the plenary indulgence after receiving Holy Communion and on the last Sunday of this jubilee month (of *the portiuncula*).

Give my regards to all of my daughters and tell the sick ones to take good care of themselves.

Mary Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all. Continue praying for our present very great need.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

**Letter 149
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez**

Guadalajara, June 8, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez
My dear daughter,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

I just read your longed-for letter and I understand that the sisters are now gravely ill. Let it be for God! Do you want me to send Isabel (*Sister Isabel of St. Pascal Fonseca*) over so that she will be able to help you? Tell me right away what you think would be for the best.

Assign someone to look for the house your brother wants so it can be as close as possible to where you are living, a nice little house in good repair and you help him from the little money we have. Or maybe the children from the fifth and sixth grades could lend them some little cots, chairs, a table, whatever is indispensable. In short, do the best you can to help him. Gregorita could help you and Delfina Vazquez, or Maria Romero. Look for people who are more familiar and ask them to give you a hand and also to help him move out.

Don't go into the room of the sick sisters anymore. And don't allow the sisters who go to school to enter that room either. It's a matter of conscience. Don't expose the children to this contagion nor the members of their families, and make sure you wash the clothes in boiling water. Take every possible precaution and especially when washing the dishes. Give the sisters my love and prayers and tell them to place themselves in the hands of God, submissive entirely to His divine will. Make sure they are wearing the holy scapular and have holy water around, and remind them to say little aspirations and if God our Lord gives me a little money (*literally, "some little cents"*), I'll go see them. Continue updating me regarding their condition.

I understand the amount of work you have and I'm asking God our Lord to help you all. Perhaps we'll have the pleasure of seeing our Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) soon. Rafael offered to pay her travel expenses and I gave her permission to accept his offer even if she has to go right back because Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) is still not resigned to the fact that she will be coming. She is her moral support and I understand that. If she comes and there's no danger of contamination, I'll send her to you so you will be able to be together, even though Our Lord places His little drop of gall in the best of sweets. Probably it's better to do it that way.

Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you.

Be good and continue writing me.

Josefa

Letter 150

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

June 16, 1931

Miss Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart

I greet you with all affection. **How have you been, my daughter? How about your soul? Is it taking little steps toward heaven or**

is it flying up there? Are you like the eagle or like some little animal preferring the mud of this world? I hope that you are like the golden margarita, beautifully fashioned, and pleasing to God our Lord. Truly, I receive your letters with joy and, above all, I don't like it when you write long letters to me and then say that you'll tire me with your "newspapers." Oh, no! That will never do, and I forgive you for using that expression.

Really, it was edifying the way that little girl died. (*On May 17, anniversary of the Canonization of St. Therese, Mercedes Limon, ten years old, died of tuberculosis at Santa Teresita Sanatorium.*) May God our Lord be very pleased with the first fruit of that house and continue to bless our poor work, so insignificant in comparison to what He deserves. During these days, God our Lord has deigned to visit me with the great sorrow of serious illness--Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus (*Botello Gonzalez*) with a fever, and Sister Maria del Refugio (*of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) with congestion in the lungs. Both have received the Last Sacraments. Sister Maria del Refugio is somewhat better, thank God, but Sister Guadalupe is still gravely ill with danger of intestinal hemorrhage which could result in death at any time. This was the news as I received it yesterday, and I am afraid that today they'll tell me that she is dead. The doctors realize how much they'll miss her, and are trying to do everything possible to save her. She's become an expert in the hospital giving anesthesia, starting intravenous injections, preparing medicines, and she was also in charge of the choir. She was the soul of the hospital and has greatly matured. Blessed be God! Fortunately, His Divine Majesty never makes a mistake and does all things well. So, if He takes her unto Himself, it will be the best thing for Him, even though we'll mourn for her and miss her very much. Let's bless God for everything.

If Our Lord permits, very soon we'll have a very beautiful statue of St. Therese made by Espinoza. It has been purchased through a gift from a person who wants to further devotion to the saint. We don't even know the person, so it's as if it were heaven-sent. Please help us to give thanks to Our Lord and to St. Therese because she wanted to come to us during these troublesome times when there's so much misery that it would scare anybody.

It really was a surprise to learn that permission had been requested

to establish the Apostleship of Prayer without any approval. Ay, my daughter! A thing like this has never happened before. You've always been like little girls, asking permission for everything. **How beautiful that spirit was and how pleasing it is to God our Lord! This is why he's blessed our work--because of the union and submission.** I remember years ago, when the Fathers of the Holy Spirit invited us to belong to the family of the Holy Spirit and I liked the invitation very much. Fortunately, I always try to be guided by obedience to my lawful superior. So I went to consult with Mr. Anaya (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) and **he told me that we should fulfill the rules of our Congregation and not try to establish anything outside of it. He stated that in our Congregation we already have all of the graces we need for our sanctification.** If you had obtained permission from here, you would have established the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular of Our Blessed Mother, which would be following the right path that God has given us. What you sisters did was to act entirely outside our customs and without any lawful permission for religious, as you are. Furthermore, you made arrangements with the nurse and consulted me afterwards. Maybe you believe this is a small matter, but it isn't. Please pay attention and you'll see that it is of consequence and that you have done wrong. I am surprised that Mother Mary and Sister Margarita did not reflect upon this with the maturity that they should have. How sad! May it be for the love of God, and let's hope your decisions will have good results. I have no time for anything else.

Maria Luisa

Letter 151
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, June 22, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

God our Lord didn't grant me the grace of visiting and spending my feastday with you, in that house so dear to me, even though I had hoped for it so very much. Let it be for God! We shall arrive in

heaven someday, where our wills will be one with His.

I received the money, but at the same time an invoice for \$142.00 (pesos) and some cents for taxes and it was a matter of paying them right away so we they wouldn't confiscate the property. Really and truly, Our Lord wants us to suffer the rigors of poverty. May He be blessed! We've never before had something like this happen to us.

I received a letter from Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) and she tells me she still hasn't received any money from her brother and Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) tells me the same thing. That's why she hasn't come yet. I answered Rafael right away telling him that Teresita was coming as long as he provided her transportation as he had offered. Perhaps he didn't receive my letter and that might be the reason why he hasn't sent it yet and so it seems that our expected joy has fallen into the well!

From the bottom of my heart I am so glad about the recovery of Cuca (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) and Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*). Blessed be God, and I hope in Him, they'll not suffer any of those after effects that we have learned to lament.

If you see that Victoria Sotelo has a vocation, tell her to make the necessary arrangements to enter in August. There's a beautiful feast on the second. You can find out from the Constitutions what she needs and then ask her for whatever it calls for, and also give her the usual list. But before making any arrangements you and Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*), should see if it would be convenient for her to enter because of the relative she has who is mentally ill.

I am awaiting with joy your arrival here with Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) on the first Saturday, which will be the fourth of July.

With our Blessed Mother helping us, we know everything will turn out fine.

Let's belong all to God and may everything that we do be for His greater honor and glory. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Luisa

Letter 152

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, June 29, 1931

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles, California

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved and unforgettable daughter.

I've received your letters with much joy and also your gift which is not only valuable because of the amount, but because it's the fruit of the exhausting labors of all of you whom I love so much. Oh! my daughter, for me, really, my gratitude for the money you sent has no limits. God our Lord will evaluate it at the just price and He will repay you and on my part, I'll always be grateful.

I gladly approve the hiring of one or two girls to help you since it's so necessary. Meanwhile, someone from here can go as soon as Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) releases them, but that hasn't yet been possible. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez*) is also in need of personnel. Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation who left the Congregation*) is in the same condition as Jesus Teresa (*Sister Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*). The doctor says for her not to go with the patients and Sister Guadalupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*), barely recovering from a serious illness herself, is also unable to help. The school sisters have also been working the graveyard shift in addition to their teaching and that's an understatement. They are consuming themselves like the oil in lamps because we have so few sisters and this hurts me very much. Let it be all for God! Not receiving any new sisters for three years has had very serious consequences for us. Aren't there any vocations in that country where you are? What has happened to Lucita Sanchez? Is her situation still the same? It can hardly be believed that there's not even one vocation.

Tomorrow, the first, vacations (*the yearly retreat*) for our sisters will begin. Blessed be God because they really have worked very hard during the year. Pray that they will be able to profit by this rest, that they will be able to become more recollected and united with God our Lord. We have to help each other with our prayers--you for the sisters that are here and we, for the sisters over there. We must always be united in every sense.

Today I sent the money that Sor Teresita's (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) brother sent for her trip. Please tell Manuelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) not to worry if there's not enough money for a companion. We aren't obligated to do something that's impossible and if that's the case here, then Sister Teresita can tell her brother why she couldn't come, adding that as soon as circumstances improve, she will come via El Paso so they will be able to meet somewhere along the road closer to Durango. In that way, they'll be able to spend one or two days together. We can't send anything to pay for a companion given our present state of poverty. Now we know what it is to be poor. Blessed be God! This is a grace that has made it easy for us to fulfill what we promised and to imitate in a very small way Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I recommend very much, my daughter, not to do any renovation without the proper permission from here. I'm saying this because obedience brings great blessings for everyone and, at the same time, your sisters will be getting trained. If we remain united we will progress; otherwise, any little seed you drop will grow as a harmful weed and destroy the garden. I promise to answer you right away when you are asking me for a permission, but don't do anything without it. For the love of God I beg of you, don't bring upon yourself such terrible responsibilities.

Keep well. Remain very submissive. This is my wish for you. Regards to my daughters. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa
Letter 153

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, July 28, 1931

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter, Margarita.

I haven't been able to write to you because we were on retreat, only finishing it last Sunday. Now, thanks be to God, I am able to do so, greeting you with very much affection in Christ our Lord.

How many graces our good God has granted to His poor daughters such as those we have just received. The priest who gave the retreat was a Jesuit, Father Pottar, an old man who knows the human heart very well. He spoke to us in such a way that we were enchanted and most anxious to reform our lives. He gave us such a wonderful definition of the religious life and such practical ways to fulfill our duties, that if we don't now take flight toward heaven, I don't know when we will. You sisters pray for us that we'll be able to avail ourselves of so many graces.

Father Eduardo (*Huerta, S.J.*) received the reliquary already and he came today to ask me how much it was. He left \$30.00 telling me that he will send more if it's not enough and if it's less, would I please return the balance to him. He's waiting for your letter to learn the cost of the reliquary.

Don't worry any more about what you did in establishing the Apostleship of Prayer without permission of the council, but please don't do it anymore. You need permission from here for everything that has importance or that is extraordinary. This will be granted in one of the meetings which we hold regularly every two months. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) come for these meetings on the first Saturday and Sunday of every month (*general council meetings*). As you understand, these methods are very necessary for the Congregation to run smoothly, not for my own person but for the welfare of everyone. **What kind of order or structure would there be if one Sister could establish one thing, according to her devotion and zeal, and another one something else? We must make the effort to maintain discipline, and not do anything which hasn't been established or which would be omitting our customs. At the same time, feel free to propose to**

the Council whatever you think is useful so that it can perfect itself, little by little. The members of the Council through prayer, experience and study should be able to see what is for the greater glory of God, for the welfare of the Institute, and how to facilitate the discharge of our duties. Without hesitation then, you should propose things as a matter of conscience. I repeat once again, don't worry any more. I understand the good intentions you Sisters had, but I hope that nothing like this will be repeated.

Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) arrived well, thanks be to God. Today she left for Atotonilco where she will stay with the family for a few days (*she is now with the community in Atotonilco*). Ah, my daughter, as time goes by, I wish more and more to see you again. May God our Lord grant me that joy! Your mother, brother, and sister are well. I'm not so well, as my ankles are swollen and the albumin is high. God's will be done. Avail yourself of such a wonderful spiritual director which God our Lord has given you. The more that I am in contact with the Jesuits, the more I notice their good qualities and training.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you. Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Letter 154
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

August 19, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you and my other daughters with all my affection. How have you all been?

I'm glad that your days have been happy ones. Now that it's almost the beginning of your retreat try to become more recollected and ask our good God for His help to be able to fulfill your duties well. I couldn't get a priest, so please ask "*nuestro padre*" ("*our father*," i.e. *Father Macario Velasquez*,

pastor in Atotonilco) to give you some conferences which will be useful to you. He's witnessing your needs and knows in what kind of environment you are living and he has the grace of God as your Superior, for that he is, and spiritual director as well. What is urgent and necessary for you to do is to enter this retreat very well-prepared so that you'll be able to hear the voice of God.

Did you receive your certificates? I'm told that Isidoro sent them with Gabriel Garcia. Let me know how everything finally turned out.

I'll expect you here as soon as you finish your retreat so we can begin arranging the personnel for both schools. Or rather, come next week so we may not delay the registrations but have them on time. You would need to leave the sisters on retreat and then be back with them as soon as possible.

May God our Lord keep you well and bless you.

Maria Luisa

P.S. What has happened to Victoria Sotelo? Is she coming?

**Letter 155
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez**

August 21, 1931

For Cuquita.

I greet you with all my affection, hoping that you are already in good health! How are you doing?

I'd like so much to see you--for you to come over and spend a few days here in this, your house. I'll just wait a little longer for you until your appetite improves. When you can take more nourishment, come.

Take good care of yourself. Try to eat a little better and have a good sleep each night so your strength will come back. In addition, avoid breezy areas. Obey your doctor. Do whatever is possible on your part to get completely well, so that you'll be able to work for the greater honor and glory of Our Lord.

Don't forget Father Bracho's (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) advice. Remember how much at peace you were then? Just so, continue putting his advice consistently into practice because it wasn't meant to be followed for only a few days. Try to find peace for your soul. Live in close intimacy with God our Lord. Rest and let yourself be pampered by Him. He loves you very much, so don't be afraid of Him.

Study as much as you can and try to get stronger in spelling because that's a very urgent matter for you. In fact all of you need to practice your spelling very much. I'm being asked for workers (*in the apostolate*), but the workers have to be very well prepared. No one wants anyone who writes with all their words misspelled. A visitor just came in, so I won't be able to continue this letter anymore. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 156

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, August 24, 1931

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter, Margarita.

As usual, it was a great happiness for me to receive your last letter! It's one of the joys that our good Lord grants me in this life. May He reward you, daughter. We had the pleasure of a visit from Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) but at the same time sorrow because he couldn't accept any meals. Msgr. Gutierrez said that their itinerary had already been made and so it wasn't possible to accept our invitation. May God be blessed! I was rather surprised to hear Father say that you don't need more personnel, in spite of having thirty-three patients. He proposed, instead, that he would find an older nurse to take the night shift with a salary of \$50.00 (dollars). He said that this is a very small salary. In spite of the fact that I mentioned that the patients require a great deal of care, he did not change his mind nor did he mention anything about sending personnel from here. He told me that you were worried because he was coming here. No, daughter. **Don't become too fond of anyone. Be fully attached to God alone, as it should be. It's**

natural, though, for us to have estimation for benefactors. It's not only natural, but our duty. However, this duty must be discharged by praying and asking for them whatever would be good for the salvation of their souls. We shouldn't be preoccupied because this is the important thing and everything else in this world vanishes away.

Don't send any gifts, as you've suggested, with Mercedes Jimenez. No. It's better if you send money as we're in very great need, even the buying of essential things such as food. Let's hope that you'll be able to send a small amount of money each month, a very small amount--for instance, \$5.00 would be a great help.

How have you been? How ardently I'd like to have you with me for a little while! **Take good care of yourself, your soul and your body; try to keep them in good condition and strong so that you'll be able to do whatever Our Lord requires of you.**

Good-bye, my daughter, and be good.

Maria Luisa

Letter 157
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

August 28, 1931

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

I don't know whether I should offer you my condolences or congratulate you for the passing of your Aunt Emilita, who went from this earth to heaven. I'm told that her death was very edifying and that our Blessed Mother gave her proof of her predilection by taking her on Saturday the eighth and in the middle of the month. Let's bless our good God and adore His designs.

Just now I had the joy of receiving your letter and I grant what you ask for. You may order the Album of the Christian Year. It shows the apparition of our Lady of Guadalupe beautifully. It would be very good for you to talk to the sick girls about our Blessed Mother. Over

here we have truly experienced an "*Ano Guadalupano*" (*four hundredth anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a "Guadalupe Year"*). There have been numerous pilgrimages, missions, and many other celebrations in honor of Our Blessed Mother.

It was delightful to see a little Indian girl from Tuxpan asking to be admitted. She was wearing a fringed dress with a peacock embroidered on it and a colored knitted waistband. She knows how to read, to write, and to count. She speaks Spanish well and Mexican (*Indian dialect*), also. Perhaps Our Lady of Guadalupe will be very happy if you accept her during her "Guadalupe Year" and in her honor we'll name her Guadalupe. Would you like that?

On the twenty-seventh we had a celebration. Sisters Rosalia de Santa Teresa (*Sister Rosalie of St. Teresa*) and Juana de la Cruz (*Sister St. John of the Cross Dominguez*) took the habit.

May God reward your charity in providing us with the money for the reliquary. Father Huerta, before knowing how much it was, brought us \$30.00 and said that if more money were needed he would bring it. I hope he gives us the missing \$10.00. I don't have the courage to mention it to him.

By Margarita's (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) letter, Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) didn't want anyone from here to go help with the sick girls, which seems very strange to me.

Pray much for us. We need prayers. As you can see the devil is never asleep, but God our Lord will help us. Don't worry, and we'll continue writing to you to let you know how we are. Please forgive me for sending this with stains. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 158
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, September 4, 1931

Miss Maria Nunez

Beloved daughter,

From the very depths of my soul I'm very grateful to you and my good daughters for giving me the financial means to visit you-- something I've been wanting very much. I gladly accept your offering. If God wills it, as soon as possible I'll be there. What a joy it will be for me to see you again!

Remember me daily to God our Lord. May God our Lord bless you. My congratulations and poor prayers on your feastday. The celebration (*profession of vows*) of Lola (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez*) and Cata (*Mother Catalina de la Cruz*) will be on that day.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Letter 159
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, September 30, 1931

Miss Carmen Chavez

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter,

What a joy it would be for me if you could arrange the opening of a first grade class. Poor little children! Really and truly, I would be elated if this would become a reality so that those children could be taken care of, without having to put them together with the younger girls, and in that way they would be able to finish the year satisfactorily. Experiment by placing Maria de Jesus (*Sister Mary of Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament Garcia Torres*) with them and watch her very carefully so that you can help her to prepare her lesson plans, teach her classes well, and assist her with discipline.

I want to leave for Los Angeles next Monday, depending on whether or not the railroad workers' strike is still going on or not. If I go, you'll have to stay here in my place. Come over on Saturday, unless you receive news to the contrary. Teresita (*Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) can substitute for you in

the school and Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) as the S. (*Superior*) in the house and Lupita (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) staying as usual as second in command.

Regarding the room for the Rodriguez girls, the infirmary will be good as long as you disinfect it.

I think that both the bathroom and the laundry would be all right where you suggest.

What do you think about Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) being my companion to go to Los Angeles? Could Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) stay there in her place? Consult with "*nuestro padre*" (*Father Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*) about this matter to find out if he thinks there would be any danger of her being too noticeable because she isn't ugly. I think that Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) can help with the fourth grade until you return. I don't want Teresita to get over-tired, so let her do whatever she can, taking care primarily of her health.

We need someone here to take care of the boarders (*postulants and novices*). I think Lolita (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*) could do it. What do you think? If you see any difficulties in this, let me know right away.

It just occurred to me that you have to be there on the fifteenth for Dolores's celebration, so it would be good if you could come here on the sixteenth. You can send Carmen Teresa on Saturday, (bringing her passport) and Dolores de Jesus.

Tell "*nuestro padre*" about my trip and ask him to pray for me.

God willing, we'll see each other soon. I'd like to come back as soon as possible. Fortunately, my albumin count is low--almost nothing-- and this encourages me and makes me hope that I'll return. God our Lord will dispose of these matters in whatever way is good for me.

Give my regards to each and everyone of my daughters, to the patients whom I love so much and to the little orphans.

Regarding Lupe de la Cerda, you did the right thing in securing the money.

Good-bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Josefa

Letter 160
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, October 7, 1931

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

Let's bless our good God in all situations, in adversity as well as prosperity for we can greatly profit from both. Just as I was prepared to leave on my trip, a strike was announced for railroad workers and it hasn't yet been resolved. So, I waited and waited. And now with the cold season coming upon us, it's impossible for me to leave. My doctor says that cold weather, in my case, would result in my death. Let it be for God! So this is what I did. I deposited the money that in your charity you sent me, in the hope that as soon as winter is over God will allow me to travel because I'd like to visit you so very much.

How have the sisters been and how are you? It's such a long time since I have heard from you. *Pobrecitas!* It must be because you've been waiting for me to arrive. I hadn't written either, hoping to be with you one day soon. However, I'm still hopeful that I'll be able to stay with you even longer when I finally do make it because, just imagine, I'm planning to remain two or three months! I'm thinking this visit will probably be the last time that I'll see you because my health is so delicate.

I'm glad you had a very happy feastday. Blessed be our good God!

You shouldn't worry about your family's concern that you might become infected (*from tuberculosis*). It's only natural for them to show their concern. You should write to them and put them at ease. The members of your family are good people and they do a lot to help our sisters in the little town (*Atotonilco*).

Pray daily in community for all of us and this house which is naturally the target for the snares of the devil. But prayer can do all things. It's our most powerful weapon and nothing can withstand or resist it. Therefore, prayer is what will save us from the many dangers surrounding us daily. With courage, trust, and prayer, *adelante*, (*onward!*) even if we have to walk among the thorns.

May you joyfully celebrate the feast of our Mother, offering her above all, the present of imitating her virtues.

Affectionate regards to Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*), my daughters, and the sick girls. Tell them all that I'm counting on their prayers.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Letter 161
Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

October 26, 1931

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in the soul of my beloved daughter, Josefina.

It gave me much joy to receive your letter. I was eagerly awaiting it.

How are your eyes? Do whatever it takes on your part to keep your vision. Don't cry anymore, for you should understand that crying is harmful to you and that you do wrong [by crying so much]. I think that your conscience must suffer.

Tona has been coming frequently and is helping us very much. She sells altar bread for us, goes out to take care of some of our business, and answers the door when we're on retreat. In a word, she is one of my "right arms." God our Lord will repay all she does for us. Maximiana and the rest of your aunts are well. Lupe was kind of sick, but Tona told us she was better now.

What is your soul telling you? Is it working hard to become

united with God? Be all His. Seek God our Lord, not yourself, and you'll do very well.

May God our Lord grant me the grace of going over and spending some time with all of you. You can't imagine how much I desire to do just that! Pray to our good God to deign to grant me this grace, if it's pleasing to Him. Via telephone, please give my regards to Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) and tell him why I had to postpone my trip.

That every day may be a step closer to heaven for you is the wish of your mother who is so concerned about you and blesses you.

Josefa

Letter 162
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, November 30, 1931

Miss Mary of the Divine Eucharist [Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez]

My beloved Mother,

I pray from the bottom of my heart that you may belong totally to God.

I've received your last two letters. God reward you for the joy you give me when I receive them.

We have received the \$27.00 you've sent us, which we can most assuredly put to good use because under our present circumstances that amount means very much to us. Don't worry that you couldn't send us more. It's urgent that you continue paying off the debt of that house, and it's important that it decreases little by little. **God will provide for our needs here, as well as over there. Let's trust that we'll receive all from Him Who loves us so much and is always watching over us.**

Regarding Maria Esperanza (*Sister Maria Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*) you may happily go ahead and arrange her wedding (*perpetual vows*). I don't remember if I already mentioned that it should take place where she is now living--your house.

Regarding the eight-day retreat you mention, I leave the decision to your prudent judgment, depending on how the sisters feel about all the extra work they took upon themselves when the previous group of sisters made theirs.

The reason that I was moved to call your attention to the party you had for good Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) to congratulate him was the ardent desire within my soul impelling me to see that this family is preserving the good spirit it has had from the very beginning, and also keeping in mind that you are still a very young community.

God willing, on the second of February there will be weddings (*profession of vow ceremonies*) in your house because the girls insist on getting married. May God our Lord bless them, and I ask you to pray that we will be able to do what is best for all concerned.

There's great enthusiasm in our Mexico for the celebrations during the fourth centenary of our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe. When it becomes possible I'll send you a booklet which describes the different festivities we Mexicans will have, and we'll be sending at least a small contribution in the name of that house and Manuelita's, (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) toward the construction of her basilica.

My affectionate greeting to my unforgettable daughters and tell them that, with pleasure, I'll answer their little letters. That you spend the beautiful Advent season in a saintly manner is my desire. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Letter 163
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, December 18, 1931

R.M. Mary of the Divine Eucharist

My beloved Mother,

A very happy Christmas to your reverence and my very beloved daughters! I hope that during this Christmas season your souls will be able to be filled with God so that you may spend these days very happily and at peace, since those who possess God lack nothing, as our mother St. Teresa says.

I'm continuing this letter on the sixth of January and then again on the eleventh. I don't give myself enough time for anything. Ask Our Lord to help me to be responsible in fulfilling my duty.

May God our Lord repay you, my dearest "*madrecita*" (*little mother*) for your letters which I've received on time and also for the charming calendar.

I've been in bed with a chest cold. The doctor ordered me not to get up. Now, however, I'm feeling better so I get up whenever the weather is a little warmer. The cold increases the albumin, which still remains in spite of the diet I'm following. Let's bless Our Lord for everything!

Mother Manuela (*Mother Maria Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) shouldn't be in that house during the winter because of her albumin. Let her leave immediately for Los Angeles where it's a little warmer. *Pobrecita*, the albumin is deathly and to have to be in that cold climate is not good at all.

I'm doing as much as I can for the girls (*sisters*) to acquire the education necessary for them to fulfill their duties. Whenever it's possible, I do wish that the nurse you have would give them practical nursing classes, such as the application of bandages and other treatments of that sort which they have to know how to do. See to it that they apply themselves earnestly, but not Sister Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). She has another mission. The people of Ortolan are opening a hospital and they want our sisters to run it. In that case, it would be very helpful if a sister already trained would go there, and one or two other sisters could be sent also to take care of the

pharmacy, but I know they are still needed here. I'll go there sometime and we'll talk about it.

The girls here are all excited about getting married and if God our Lord permits it, Carmen Celina (*Sister Carmen Celina of the Child Jesus de la Torre*), Imelda (*Sister Imelda of the Blessed Sacrament Nuno*), Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*), and Cuca (*Sister Refugio of Jesus Espinoza*) will wed on February 2. I hope that there will be no impediment because grandmother (*the religious persecution in Mexico*) is very ill and a turn for the worse is expected.

Maria del Refugio (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) is very ill and walking toward heaven with giant steps. Lately, she's been bleeding profusely from her lungs, and the doctor says that she already has cavities in them. Writing to her (she's in Atotonilco) will be a great consolation to her.

Give my regards to good Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) and Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*) and tell them that I'm praying to God our Father to allow me to go there.

I almost forgot to let you know that we gave a very small contribution in the name of both your houses toward the construction of the Basilica of our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe and I'm enclosing a booklet so you will be able to see what was done. It was a magnificent celebration. Perhaps you may have read the details in the paper. Good-bye, "*matricide*" (*little mother*), and may God our Lord bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 164
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

My dear daughter, Carmelita [Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez],

I greet you and my other daughters with all of my affection.

How is everyone? Were you able to make any of the arrangements

yet regarding the school?

We're urgently in need of the decree (*there was no exact information found regarding which decree Mother Luisita was talking about, although in 1920 the sisters received the Decree of Affiliation to the Carmelite Order. Perhaps she is referring to this.*) Please send it by return certified mail and place it in a mailing tube, but before you do this, ask your godfather if that would be secure enough. At that post office they'll check to see if it's being sent by certified mail, and perhaps if you take it personally, it would be easier. You and Maria de C. (*Sister Maria of Christ Castellanos*) could go, or she could go with a friend, or you could also ask Gregorita, or the Flores family, your neighbors. I trust that you'll try everything you can to send it as soon as possible.

Maybe I won't be able to go to see you after all, even though I'd like to so very much, but this weather is very severe, and I simply can't afford to catch a cold right now. That train leaves very early in the morning and the doctor has told me that I had better not expose myself to the cold. You act in my place. God will help you.

In case the decree can't be mailed, send it with someone who is coming over here because it's urgent for us to have it. If someone is bringing it, send it already framed. If not, you can bring the frame when you come. It needs to be kept in this house.

Monday at 6:00 p.m. we had a celebration (*postulants were admitted to the novitiate*), and in it, we had some changes of names. Leonor is now called Margarita del Tepeyac (*Sister Margarita of Tepeyac*). Rosa is now Ana de Santa Maria de Guadalupe (*Sister Ana of Our Lady of Guadalupe*). Magdalena's new name is Ines del Carmelo (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*). Cuca is now Imelda del Santisimo (*Sister Imelda of the Blessed Sacrament Nuno*), and Micaela is now Refugio de Jesus (*Sister Refugio of Jesus Espinoza*). Let my daughters know.

Please write to my nephew, Jesus Angulo (*Father Jesus Angulo*), and tell him to kindly do me the favor of taking care of Conchita's business with Don Perfecto Rodriguez before the twenty-ninth. God our Lord will repay his good deed, and he will be taking that responsibility and worry away from me. Make sure you give him my

regards and tell him I place in his hands all the business of the little girls (*sisters*) in that place. Let him know that I'll consider anything he does for us as well-done.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931. The novices mentioned in this letter received the habit that year. (Book of Admissions and Professions, p.6)

Letter 165

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

R. M. (*Reverend Mother*) Carmelita of Jesus,

May you and all my other daughters, whom I love so much, have a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with merits for heaven.

It's God's will that my illness continues to make progress. Let's bless Him for that.

At this moment, I just finished reading the letter from our father, Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*). He tells me that he is well, asks me to give you his regards and says that I'll live a little longer. We'll all soon know how good of a prophet he is!

Ask Jesus Garcia for the money from the beans and corn and please send me the amount from the beans. It would be good to get the corn in Los Altos. Even though it's yellow, it is not as expensive.

There were no vacations over here because the exams were in May. I imagine that's when your exams were, also because it's now a government regulation.

I'll be happily expecting you on Saturday, and if God improves my health, I'll go see you after the ceremony of reception of the habit.

Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) fixed the "epactas" (*church*

calendar or ordo regulating the recitation of the office) for us, and at a later date I'll be sending the ones that belong to that house.

Someone is waiting for me to finish so they can mail this letter. I'll write to the other sisters at a later date. In the meantime, greet them for me and thank them. I did receive their condolence letters. May God reward them.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931.

Letter 166
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with affection in Our Lord.

May God reward you for the bread, the chocolate, and the drawing. They are all very useful to us.

With great urgency because this case requires it, call Mr. Orozco in order to draw up the document regarding the \$1,000.00 (pesos) of his daughter, Teresa (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*). (*Mother Luisita is asking her to fulfill the requirements of canon law regarding the dowries of those who enter during this time of open religious persecution.*) There must be some form already made for that purpose. Just buy it and have his wife sign, also. The terms could be for the first days of October, but it must be before the eighth. See if it's possible for the transaction to occur in Maria de San Jose's (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinosa*) name. This is so urgent because the canons stipulate that it must be done before the reception of the habit, and that will take place on the twenty-eighth because that's what Mr. Anaya (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) has decided. Tell Teresa's parents that for this reason we can't postpone the date. With all my heart I would postpone it if I could, but I can't. I'd like them to come to the

ceremony and we'll pray they'll be able to attend.

I'm still trying to establish the school. May God our Lord grant us that grace. Do you already have the permission for the school there? Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) got a satisfactory answer. In case you still don't have an answer, it would be advisable to find out what is happening.

My regards to all my daughters. Have a very happy celebration of the feast of our Mother St. Teresa and ask them to pray to her for me.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1931.

Letter 167
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Miss Carmen Chavez,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul, my beloved daughter,

I hope you are already on vacation (*retreat*). The sisters here began theirs last Friday.

It's urgent that you send me the little book about Holy Week, the one that Sister Guadalupe showed me--the one that has "Visits to the Holy Sepulcher" and you may make use of the Lenten bouquet. If you send it to me by mail it won't cost very much, but it has to be by return mail; otherwise, it won't arrive here on time.

I wish Conchita (*Mother Concepcion of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) would come over here as I told you in my last letter, but we have to wait until we have enough money to feed her well because as of right now we have nothing. I'm hoping that Hilaria's husband will be able to fix a little corral for the donkey and put a muzzle on

him so he won't drink up all the milk. Ask the doctor if Conchita's things will need to be disinfected or you could simply do as you did with Maria de C.'s (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) things. She can tell you how to go about it and once her things are sterilized, don't keep her isolated. She will be able to sleep in her little room and attend to community acts, but without overdoing it. We don't want her to have a relapse.

Thanks be to God, I'm feeling a little better. The albumin has been less. Most probably it's the prayers of all of you sisters that are keeping me on my feet.

Call Jesus Garcia and tell him that now it all depends on him whether or not his sister will receive the habit on the eighth of May as she hopes to. He needs to send us his sisters' monthly payment and the \$50.00 (pesos) for her taking of the habit.

How is each and every one of you? Take good care of yourselves because you still have a long life ahead of you to give much glory to God.

S. (*Sister*) Ines (*Sister Ines of Carmel Chavez*) doesn't even have a habit to wear. If she could have Socorrino's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) new one we could put up the hem and gather it, or perhaps you could find an old one you could send her.

My regards to my children (*sisters*) and pray for me.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931. Mother Conception recuperated that year and Sister Ines took the habit in February of 1931. (Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 6).

Letter 168
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

My beloved daughter,

After affectionately greeting you, I'm answering your note which I received yesterday.

You may put Jesus Teresa's (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) deed in the name of Sister Maria del Refugio (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) because she is still young and has no debts in the world.

I'm going to ask about the piece of music you want and I'll be most happy to send it to you.

The bearer of this letter, is Mr. Jose Arellano (*a good person and benefactor of the Hospital in Atotonilco who gave his services for many years without charge*). He's a good person who wishes to settle here. He's from Durango and our good Padre Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) advised him to come and to educate his children here. We do have them here in our school, and they are very helpful to us as well as to our Mothers (*Carmelite cloistered nuns*) in Durango. Do what you can to show him hospitality. Invite him to have his meals at the hospital. Set the table very nicely and even provide a little bed for him there, or perhaps in Gregorita's house if she allows it. Let Tomas take him to people who can help him attain what he wants. Salvador, my brother, could help if you tell him I recommend him. He will be arriving from Tucson and still has work over there, but because of his concern and love for his children and their education, he is forced to be here.

I'm hoping you could send us yellow wax as well as the seeds to make the oil for the Blessed Sacrament, and also some corn silk and beans. Buy them with the money given to Jesus Garcia.

Someone is waiting for this letter to take it to be mailed, so I'll finish it right here.

Regards to all my daughters.

Maria Luisa

P.S. I'd like the wax as soon as possible so that we'll have enough time to whiten it and carve it for Holy Thursday. Also, please send us some of the beehives we had before, at least three or four of them.

Approximate date: 1931. This year Mother Carmelita was in Atotonilco. (Letter of Mother Luisita on February 2, 1931.)

Letter 169

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Miss Carmen Chavez.

My beloved daughter,

May the peace of God be with you!

After greeting you, I want ask you to do something. Upon the death of our good and dear Sister Angelita (*Sister Angelita of the Cross Nunez Castellanos*), would you please let our father know and come to an agreement with him about everything. I already wrote to him begging him to make the arrangements for the funeral and interment, and I explained to him my wishes on that matter.

We do not have to be sorry because our sister is going to heaven. She'll do greater good for us from there, and because she belongs to Our Lord, may His will for her be done. Let's bless Him for that.

For the love of God, take all the necessary precautions. It's your duty. Help her from the chapel (*help her mainly by prayer and keep her in isolation*) and do not put her in the choir.

If God our Lord permits it, I shall go and visit you. Take good care of yourselves, all of you--so you won't also get sick.

My regards to everyone.

Maria Luisa

P.S. Ask Lucita to get some money from her relatives for Mercedes. We have to make her dress for the nineteenth, and we have no money. It has to be right away.

Date: 1931. (Sister Angela of the Cross Nunez Castellanos died in

March, 1931.)

Letter 170
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Miss Carmen Chavez

My very dear daughter,

After lovingly greeting you, I'm replying to your last letter. I'm very happy that you want to have the celebration that the girls (*sisters*) are hoping for so very much. I approve. Talk to your godfather (*probably the vicar of religious*) for him to approve it and greet him for me.

The book I was asking you about still hasn't arrived. What do you think happened to it? Ask Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) how she brought it over and if she still had it when she arrived.

As usual, my albumin is high, although not as much as it was in the beginning. Still, it just won't disappear. Blessed be God!

I think that two of the girls (*sisters*) should accompany Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*). They may sleep in the adjacent room so she won't feel so isolated at night, and they can set up the refectory (*dining room*) in the room right next to the orchard as they did it before.

We'll be very happy if you send us the chickens that Magdalena (*Mother Magdalen of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) has for us. God will reward you.

Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) is very well and no longer feels any discomfort in her throat. Let's bless God that she was able to have the surgery and I'm hopeful that she'll recover. Rosario (*Sister Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) arrived and she is well.

My wish is that all of you remain very serene, united, fervent,

loving God very much, and working and suffering for Him.

See to it that the girls (*sisters*) take good care of themselves. I've learned they are sick with colds. Please make them cover themselves well, and tell them to drink very hot cinnamon tea. Greet them for me and I'll eventually write to them. *Pobrecitas!*

Good-bye, daughter. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.
Josefa

P.S. I'm enclosing a letter for Macedonia. Please send it soon.

Approximate date: 1931.

**Letter 171
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez**

(no date)

Miss Carmen Chavez

My esteemed daughter,

Yesterday I asked you to come over on Saturday and now here I'm telling you to wait until further notice because it really isn't essential for you to come over here to sign. In this way we can avoid the double train fare and the loss of time from school.

Call Mr. Jose Maria Garcia and ask him privately if he's already paid Luis (*possibly Mother Luisita is referring to herself or one of the other sisters*) for the sewing job for this year. If he hasn't, tell him to let me know first when he is planning to do so. Please inform him, also, that I would appreciate it very much if the next time he comes to Guadalajara for any business, he would come here to this, his house, because I have to discuss something with him, something of great urgency for both of us.

How have you all been? Thanks be to God, I've been feeling a little better.

Regards to our father and my daughters.

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1934. The matters in this letter are related to the previous correspondence of that year.

Letter 172
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

I quickly greet you and all my other daughters. Because someone is waiting for me, I'm sending you these few lines so you will be able to send the enclosed letters. How I hope that those children (*sisters*) could make a little money, any amount at all would be helpful for their immediate needs because we have almost no money left at all.

Ask Salvador (*Dr. Salvador de la Pena, Mother Luisita's brother*) to draw up the document but without interest. We'll take care of that because he is already paying for what he is going to give us. Greet him for me.

It's urgent that the wall is built. Use those adobe bricks that are available and also fix the vaults (*for the dead*) in the chapel.

Ask Mr. Jose Maria Garcia if he would do me the favor of taking care of the orchard payments ("*La Labor*" was the name of this orchard which was Mother Luisita's property), acting as administrator for the owner who is away. He can determine the amount from the taxes. See if they are up-to-date and find out how much he will have to pay. Ask him to forgive us for this imposition.

I'll write you a longer letter next time.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931.

Letter 173
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

R.M. (*Reverend Mother*) Carmen de Jesus

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

Perhaps we'll send Sor Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) to help you out during the Archbishop's visit, and then you won't have to worry about the choir. She could teach the little orphans some song that they could all sing as he enters the orphanage.

Sor Teresita (*Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is telling me that she is exhausted--that she has no energy. Send her over for a few days, but tell her to bring her music books with her so that she could take care of the choir here while Sor Elena is over there.

Sor Teresa bears now the name of Guadalupe Teresa de Jesus (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*).

Ask Sor Dolores (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*) to write to her sister very soon, telling her it's urgent that she makes arrangements for her property. Tell her that what needs to be done is to have a deed of sale drawn up, transferring the property from her sister's name to Domitila's, as Mr. Anaya (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) has determined. Regarding the harvest, [I think it's wheat], that would belong to her sister--in other words, whatever we already agreed upon with her

sister. Sahagun will be able to arrange the drawing up of the deed, and Domitila needs to come to Atotonilco.

We have to make arrangements right away for the property of Sor Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa who later changed her name to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) and that money could be used for the drawing of the deed. It could be in the name of one of the sisters, Maria del Refugio (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*), for example.

May God our Lord help you in everything and bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa

Approximate date: 1931. (Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco received the habit that year. (Book of Admissions and Professions, p.6)

Letter 174
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

After greeting you and all of my other daughters, I'll reply to what you are asking me in your last letter. I hope all is well with you.

I'm in agreement with the terms Mr. Orozco proposes regarding his payment. For this purpose I'm enclosing the form which needs to be filled out in the name of Miss Dolores Vazquez Cisneros. It's understood that the monthly payments of \$15.00 (pesos) will need to be given until Teresita (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) makes her vows. It's independent from the dowry.

We have two more sisters. They're both the fruit of our little school here--Josefina Hernandez (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez*) and Maria Luisa (*Sister Genevieve who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa of the Holy Face Ascencio*). Pray to Our Lord daily for them and for

others to come through the intercession of our Father St. Joseph.

Make sure you have holy water in all your rooms and sprinkle all the house. We have to be very alert against the devil.

Tell Teresa (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Oroczo G.*) that I greet her and that I owe her the letter of congratulations. I couldn't write one now because a visitor is waiting for me.

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you all.

Josefa

P.S. Madre Carmelita (*Mother Carmelita*), our Mother Luisita says for you to put the Ericson (*or Edison?*) telephone right there in the hospital. She says she did not tell you herself because she did not have time.

Approximate date: 1931.

Letter 175
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter in Our Lord,

From the bottom of my heart I hope that my good daughters will spend the beautiful feast of our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe happily, trying to be especially pleasing to her. I'm enclosing a funny poem so that you may use it for the celebration, if you'd like.

My stomach has been much better, but I just can't seem to get rid of these headaches. It seems to me they are a symptom of a serious illness. [Doctor] Gonzalez Arechiga came and ordered lab work of both my blood and urine to find out what is wrong. I'll have the tests done soon and I'll let you know the results.

Our little Indian girl entered yesterday. Mr. Sanchez Aldana (*Father Arcadio Medrano Sanchez Aldana, pastor in Atotonilco*) received her and I'll be very happy to send her over as soon as we have enough money to do so and someone who can accompany her. We're hoping that this could happen soon because there's just not enough room in this house, but we simply can't afford the travel expenses. Aside from all of that, she'll be of great help to you.

Do me the favor of writing to Heliodoro Gonzalez, telling him to please send us the beans, and that it would be a great help if he is able to send us the yearly rent.

It would also be beneficial if one of the family (*community*), someone who is bright and understands well, could be trained for the pharmacy. What are we going to do if we're asked for sisters to work in the hospital in Ocotlan? And even if we aren't asked, it's always useful to have someone who knows. This training should include the monitoring of vital signs and the administering of ether. Ask Dr. Mercado how we should go about acquiring this training. They should also study the book, The Art of Taking Care of Patients. Finally, you've got to motivate those girls (*sisters*)! Tell them to wake up (either a little or a lot depending on each one!) and get busy training to be nurses, but really getting down to business, doing all of their homework and studying until they learn their tasks so that they may be placed wherever you need them.

May God our Lord bless you all. Good-bye.

Josefa

Date: December 10, 1931. (Sister Maria of Guadalupe Mesa entered on December 9, 1931. (Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 7)

Letter 176

Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez

(no date)

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul, my beloved daughter, Sor Maria del Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament.

I've received your kind letters. My God our Lord reward you, my daughter.

You must already be a soul of solid virtues because you have pronounced your perpetual vows. Now you'll have to live in such a manner that you can say, "It is not I who lives, but Christ Who lives in me." Let's rid ourselves of those tinsel-like virtues, which shine but at the least touch fall apart. That type of virtue isn't for religious, and much less for Carmelites. Our Holy Mother St. Teresa taught her daughters to be as strong as oak trees, not like straw which is always knocked down by the wind.

I've been wanting very much to see you. It seems to me that I've been waiting a very long time for that moment when God will grant me the joy of being together with you again. Pray much for me and commend me to our good God, daily.

Christina and Maria Vazquez are here. They seem to be very happy. They have been in three months already, and Teresa Orozco is now Guadalupe Teresa de Jesus.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931. (Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament professed her final vows on July 19, 1931: Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 4)

Letter 177

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

(no date)

For Conchita.

My dear granddaughter,

With great affection I greet you, thanking you for your congratulatory words and the little letters you have written to me. May God reward

you.

I think it is a good idea to make the little gifts and simple party for your *mamacita*. It's justice for you to have a Mass offered for her.

It's wonderful that you are recuperating well and that your vacation was a happy one. Take good care of yourself so you will be able to remain in good health.

I can't do it anymore [continue writing]. That's why I write to you very few lines, but I wanted to answer you immediately. Good-bye, and give my loving regards to your little sisters (*novices and postulants*).

Maria

Approximate date: 1931.

Letter 178

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

(no date)

My dear Conchita,

Daughter, I greet you lovingly. May the Holy Spirit fill your soul with His gifts!

Your little letter was appreciated. May God our Lord reward you.

Our good God is molding His image in you by means of sickness. May He be blessed! Receive your illnesses with joy and take care of yourself.

I'd like for you to go to Tapalpa during vacation because the climate over there is just perfect. I hope you can go and you could go see the doctor, also.

Let your sisters help you with the sewing for the school and the chores. Don't get too tired because that would be exposing yourself to becoming gravely ill and then you'll not be able to do anything.

Why aren't Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico*)

Rodriguez) and Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) writing to me? I'm worried. Tell them to write so that I may know, in general, about everything.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931. (*Testimony of Mother Conception and Letter of Mother Luisita to Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez dated March 26, 1931*)

Letter 179

Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega

(no date)

For Jesus Teresa.

Alleluia, my daughter, Alleluia!

I can't help but give you this greeting of true joy for the grace that Our Lord has granted you--the greatest, after your Baptism (*perpetual profession of vows*). Let's bless Him, daughter, and be very grateful to Him. I, too, am sharing in your joy for I am with you in spirit. I had truly hoped that I would be able to go, but it was really impossible. My health is so frail that right now I am truly a calamity. Pray for me.

When you go to the sanatorium, go with my blessing. God our Lord will help you. Pray to Him to give you a true spirit of charity and abnegation, and entrust yourself to Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, who always liked to take care of T.B. patients. Invoke him every day and place before your eyes a little holy card with his image, and better still read his beautiful life.

Because I can only write a very little, I'm not continuing any longer, but I didn't want to miss giving you a mother's greeting.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you. My regards to your sisters.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931. (On January 29, 1931, Mother Jesus Teresa made her perpetual profession of vows: Book of Admissions and Professions, p.5)

Letter 180

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

(no date)

For Josefina.

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with much affection, hoping that you are well in both soul and body. How are you? What can you tell me about your eyes? Are you still suffering from that disease? Write to me and tell me how you are doing because it's already quite a while since you last told me about yourself.

Through the Padilla girls I received the embrace you sent to me. I am very grateful, my daughter, that you remember me.

Are you becoming a saint? God our Lord has given you a soul for that very purpose, and woe to you if you do not correspond to the graces that He has granted you. You've been especially chosen through the predilection of a great God. Don't be a coward, my daughter. Fight in a manly manner against your passions. Overcome yourself! Seek sanctity through the ordinary duties of daily life, and don't let any occasion that presents itself to you take control of you or have any dominion over you. If you follow this advice, I can assure you that in a very short time you'll gather so much spiritual wealth that even you'll be surprised. Don't doubt it. And not with just a little bit of effort, either, but with perseverance. Onward (*Adelante*), my daughter! (*Adelante*) Onward!

I'd like very much to see you and all your other sisters as well, and I invite you all to enter into the Heart of our good Lord. May He be our refuge and may we all find strength, life and happiness in Him.

Tona, as always, has been very good toward us. She is one of the consolations that God our Lord has granted during this difficult time for me, and since I have great confidence in her, I go and bother her very often, and I always find her the same. She never says if she is tired or not. She's like an anvil at work. In a word, she is a treasure. Don't let her get ahead of you. **Be good and keep yourself well. Be the joy and consolation of your superior. May God our Lord bless you.**

Maria

Approximate year: 1931. (Testimony of Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra)

Letter 181

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

J.M. + J.T.

Very beloved daughter, Josefina,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

I read your little letter and in answer to it I'm telling you to pray very much--a humble prayer filled with trust, asking Our Lord to grant you that grace which you so greatly desire through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. Try to remain recollected. Humble yourself and meditate upon both your present situation and upon what you are asking for--that specific grace which you are desiring and hoping to receive as a favor from God. Meditate upon the love which God our Lord has for you and think about how you have spent all these past years as a consecrated religious. Also, think about how you would like to live your consecrated life from now on. Be sure to meditate very close to the tabernacle, peacefully and without being apprehensive about this or that because anxiety is bad. It springs from pride.

It's wonderful that your surgery is over and that you are now out of danger. Take care of yourself and try not to use your eyes very much. Do whatever the doctor tells you. You should be exercising the virtue of obedience with the doctor.

At the same time that you are recollected, try to be glad, with a holy gladness.

We'll see each other whenever God our Lord allows us. I hope to finish with the business matters here so that I'll be able to return soon. Pray that the results are successful and that everything will be in conformity with the will of God.

Maria Luisa Josefa del Santisimo
(*Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament*)

Approximate date: 1931. (In 1931 Sister Josephine had surgery for tumors of the eyelids. Testimony of Sister Josephine)

Letter 182

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Sister Josefina of the Infant Jesus

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

I really enjoy receiving your loving letters. May God reward you. How are your eyes? I bless Our Lord because you've already had your surgery, and we're praying that you'll continue doing well so that you can give great glory to God with your eyesight. Take good care of yourself. Offer up in a spirit of penance the wearing of your eyeglasses, and give God a little present everyday so that you will be able to receive health for both your soul and your eyes.

God loves you very much, my daughter. Correspond to that love. Make acts of humility, especially interiorly. Be truly simple and try to detach yourself from everything that is not God. You'll be able to obtain all of this through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother. Don't doubt it.

Let's think very frequently about Victorita (*the first Director of the School in Atotonilco*), who has been so dear to us. It is only

just. We owe her so much. Let's desire heaven for her and not be so selfish by wanting her suffering here on earth to continue simply because we don't want to be separated from her, for we're depriving her of the sight of God. No, my daughter. Let's not be earthly-minded. Let's raise our souls to heaven. I can't continue because a visitor just came. Be good, daughter.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Approximate date: 1931.

Letter 183

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

For Lupita.

My daughter,

May the grace of God be in our souls.

I bless God our Lord for granting you the grace of good health again. I really and truly am happy about it, and I hope that it will be for the glory of God our Lord and the good of your soul. May you use every day of your life to love Him, to serve Him and to thank Him for the love He has for you.

Your little letter gave me great joy and I appreciated it all the more because it must have been a great sacrifice for you to write it because of your illness. May God reward you, daughter. Sickness is really terrible. Most of us don't realize how precious good health is, and we aren't thankful enough for it. Let's learn to profit not only by the illness but by all of the discomforts that come along with it as well. That will be a better penance than one of our own choosing because we will be accepting exactly what God our Lord wills for us. In order to purify our souls of so many stains that make it ugly, we can avail ourselves of enduring our sickness in order to beautify our souls before they present themselves before our good God.

Through Mother Carmen's (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) letter, I see that you've become ill again. Let it be for

God! May His will be done. Place yourself in His hands, for you are His, and He will allow to happen whatever is most pleasing to Him. Don't waste any of your sufferings. Unite them to those of Our Lord and offer them for that which is most pleasing to His Divine Majesty. Do everything that the doctor orders. Be very obedient and try to be at peace with your conscience and indifferent regarding life or death.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 184
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

(no date)

For my daughter, Maria de la Divina Eucaristia.

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter. I bless God our Lord for letting me write you these little lines because sometimes even if I have the will to write, it's not always possible for me to do it.

Last Sunday we finished our annual retreat, and we came out really pleased. Father Potar, S.J., gave the spiritual exercises to us. They are so important. May we profit by them. Pray to God for that grace for us.

I can imagine how much work you have with so many patients. This worries me somewhat because of the danger of contagion, but for the moment, we can't do anything about it. Start saving funds for the transportation expenses of those who will go in January to help you out. I don't see our financial difficulties ending until the first of June when we will receive the rent for the orchard, but I think you should get another girl to help you, besides the one you already have, and you continue providing for the patients. Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) should do the same because both of you have to take care of outsiders.

All of you take good care of yourselves, and I repeat, observe all precautions indicated by the doctor.

It's good to use the experience and good spirit of Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) for the ordinary things already established, but for extraordinary things obtain the permission from here because the Council will have to decide.

I can't continue this now because visitors were just announced, so I'll have to finish it here, even though I'd like to keep on talking to you. I'll write again soon, God willing.

My regards to everyone.

Good-bye. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Approximate Date: 1931. (Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception was sent by Mother Luisita to the United States during the latter part of 1930, when Mother Luisita was thinking of residing in Guadalajara. Chronicle, p. 87.)

Letter 185

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

April, 1931

A little note for my daughter, Margarita.

I greet you with all affection. May the peace of God be with you!

Paulino, whom we used to call "the Mexican" and who lives in Long Beach, wrote to me. Do you remember him? I'm sending you my answer and would you forward it to him, please?

Greetings to my daughters and tell Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) not to worry about money. It's more beneficial to me if you do not send any right now, as I'll not be able to make the trip until June and I'd run the risk of spending the money on something else.

In addition, I beg of you not to send me any clothing. I have quite enough, and I've wanted to tell you that for quite a while.

May God our Lord permit Teresita Cottage (*a new part of the T.B. sanatorium*) to give Him great glory and you to pay such a great debt Greetings to Father Callahan and ask him to pray for us. Please do the same, for we need much prayer.

Maria Luisa

Letter 186

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

March, 1931

For Margarita Maria.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit always be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

I've wanted to write to you for quite a long time, but it's been impossible. Now I'm going to do so with great pleasure. The check arrived safely, blessed be God! May He repay you for all the effort you've put forth in obeying my orders. I thank God our Lord for the honorable visitor you had (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*). I think it would be a good idea for you to speak to him in English to facilitate his ability to express himself to you and for you to derive more profit from it. Thank God our Lord and humble yourself, acknowledging His goodness to you by providing such a good guide.

My daughter, I'm truly anxious to see you and, indeed, I miss you very much, but what can we do about it? God our Lord has asked this sacrifice of both of us and maybe it will continue for some time yet. We have to keep in mind that when we least expect it, He removes the obstacles and grants us what we desire. It worries me that I can't send you the personnel you need right away, but it's impossible. Dolores (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez*) and Catalina (*Mother Catalina of the Cross*) will complete their studies in August, and in January four others will be finished. Then, with great pleasure, we will send them up there. Let's hope, if at all possible, two will be able to go in August because I really do want to send them there.

I very much appreciate your efforts to get a free pass for me, and even though you did not succeed, I accept your good will as if you

had really and truly been able to obtain it.

Before me I have a maxim which I like very much. I'm going to transcribe it here so that you'll be able to profit from it.

"The soul becomes more beautiful each day through its increasing merits. It's like a jewel embossed through sacrifice, like a flower sparkling under the dew of tears. When each one has been generously accepted, it sparkles like a ruby."

Do you like it? Furthermore, I'm enclosing the little holy card which you wanted me to write a thought on, but this thought is mine. I kept the card in my prayer book, always forgetting to send it to you. **How ardently I wish you to be a good religious, beautifying your soul with solid virtues. Really and truly I want you to be wholly for God. Ah, my daughter, may God our Lord deign to fulfill my desires!** Conchita, your mother, was here. She is well. She had lunch here. Every time she comes, we try to serve her something. She is so good! Greetings to all my daughters and ask them to pray for me. Your mother who blesses you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 187

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(no date)

My unforgettable and dear daughter, Refugito,

May the Divine Infant be born in the soul of my daughter.

How much Our Lord loves His little daughter, Refugito! Be assured, daughter, that this illness which He has given you is nothing more than a proof of His love for you. The isolation in which He has placed you shouldn't become a cause of sadness for you. Neither should it discourage you. On the contrary, you can profit by it. Be like Our Holy Mother [St. Teresa] when, as punishment for the reformation, her superiors ordered her not to go out at all. She used to say that her soul needed to be isolated in order to be able to be recollected.

You must not see yourself as being alone. On the contrary, now you are more accompanied than ever before because Our Lord is always with those who suffer. Talk to Him. Trust Him with all your sufferings. Tell Him about your doubts and abandon yourself entirely into His Hands. Besides, I can truthfully assure you that by the mere fact that you are suffering this illness, you are bringing down innumerable blessings from Our Lord upon our Congregation and even greater graces to your own soul.

Perhaps this illness will be the means of your sanctification and you'll not pass through Purgatory. Oh, my daughter, don't be foolish. Raise your eyes to heaven and see the joy that is awaiting you, and which is being earned by your sickness. You were already an apostle when you were teaching the children, and now you'll be a martyr in your bed of sorrow. Let's bless our good God in all and for all because He allows everything to happen for our own good. Take good care of yourself and obey the doctor in everything. Make a novena to Saint Therese asking her for your health, if it will be to your [spiritual] benefit, and try by all means to be at peace and happy whatever way Our Lord has you, while He is trying your loving submission. How beautiful, my daughter, to be always smiling and at peace in suffering this prolonged martyrdom. Talk to me in writing, and if you wish to write to Father Huerta (*Father Edward Huerta, S.J. pastor in Atotonilco*), I'll send the letter for you. Read every day. I'm going to send you Conformity to the Will of God. If they have it there, borrow it.
Good-bye, daughter.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931.

Letter 188
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(no date)

For Refugito.

May the grace of God be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

What a surprise for me to learn about your sickness! It's been such a short time since you wrote to me telling me all about your exams, and now after learning how serious your illness is and Lupe's (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*), too, I was imagining all kinds of sad things--that maybe you had fallen from the choir loft or while trying to place a decoration or that the roof had fallen on you, but blessed be God, your illness is being sent by God.

It isn't good to go out into the cold when you are hot. Take good care of yourself and do whatever is within your power to get entirely well, and I hope that no scars (*in her lungs*) will remain.

I'm also very happy because you've been feeling at peace. Try not to lose it. Peace is a treasure for you and for everyone. That's why the devil tries to make us lose it.

I truly desire to see you all, but difficulties present themselves and I can't overcome them. Let it be all for God! However, perhaps when Sor Teresita (*Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Ramirez*) comes, Our Lord will grant me the grace of returning with her. Good-bye, daughter. May you be very good.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1931. (Letter of Mother Luisita to Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez, dated June 8, 1931)

Letter 189

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito,

A blessed and happy Christmas to all my beloved daughters!

It's a great joy for me to know that you'll have the immense grace of

attending midnight Mass. Blessed be God!

I wish that Maria and Estella could get what is necessary without taking anything from the house of M del E.S. (*Sister Maria of the Holy Spirit*) and now I can't give her the address because I do not know where Tomasa is.

You can take the baby in the night, very well covered as if it were of flesh, as if he were sleeping. Carry him. (*Possibly Mother is referring to carrying the statue of the Infant Jesus*)

May you spend your retreat in recollection and adore the baby as if everything were in silence.

It was recommended by Mr. Anaya (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) not to go out. Careful, then, with obedience! Be on your guard that you aren't seen on the roof tops because it seems that Father was already seen through a window and I was even told he was carrying a *tambachito* (*a little bundle*). You have to be extraordinarily cautious, making sure that especially when Father is there, all the doors and windows are locked.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1931 (Testimony of Sister Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez).

Letter 190

Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

For Teresita.

My beloved daughter,

Pobrecita! I hadn't answered you! But I do so now with much pleasure, greeting you with much affection, and wishing you from the bottom of my heart, a very happy Christmas. May it be a holy and joyous one for you!

I imagine you as very happy and working hard in the midst of the sick little girls. Yes, my daughter, we have to forget about ourselves and make others happy. Whoever does good for others in this life will be a happy person.

Your mother and sister were here to visit me. They look well, blessed be God. As always they were very kind to me.

You are right. About this time, our good Lord grants us a little trip. Let's bless Him for everything because He does everything well.

I continue with my swelling and my aches and pains, but that's part of getting old. Pray for me.

May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1931. (Mother Teresita worked with the sick girls suffering from tuberculosis in the Hospital in Duarte, California in 1931. In the second part of the same year, she returned to Mexico. Letter of Mother Luisita to Mother Carmelita dated September 30, 1931.)

Letter 191

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Miss Teresita Chavez

My very dear daughter,

I bless God our Lord because your letter tells me how happy you are working with the children. (*Mother Teresita was giving some classes to the novices and postulants*). You can do great things with them--in fact with everyone with whom you are now working. I'd like you to attract ex-pupils so you may take them to God--girls such as Lupe Garcia, Chabela Ruiz Velazco, Elvira, and many others.

Tell Carmelita to clean the house very well now that papacito is

visiting you, so you will be able to show it to him. Invite him to celebrate Mass and prepare a good breakfast for him. In a word, "Move!" All of you should greet him. **Prepare yourself by prayer, so that Our Lord will give him good will toward the house and that the results will be solely for His greater honor and glory. In addition, have the nurses wear their aprons and white veils like the postulants do.**

Try to take good care of your health, keep your soul in peace, and don't open the door of your soul to sadness because sadness is a very bad advisor.

Really and truly, I'd like very much for you to spend some time with me. You could help me with my little letters as my private secretary, but I hesitate because I know your help is needed in the school there, and over here we don't have any children yet. **Pray for them to Our Lord. Prayer can do everything. How beneficial prayer is for us!**

Relatively speaking, I'm feeling better. Yesterday, I was able to go to San Felipe to the confessional with Father Bracho. Blessed be God! And now I'm just anticipating that cold weather which is so bad for me. [Doctor] Arechiga tells me that the cold weather will cause my death.

Maria de Jesus is here, the same one who had been in Los Angeles. I heard that she came yesterday, and I was sorry I did not see her because she arrived when I was already at San Felipe. She told me that she wanted to go see you.

Good-bye, daughter. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1931. (Letter of Mother Luisita to Mother Carmelita dated April 7, 1931 explaining the official visitor from Rome regarding the "Decree of Praise")

Letter 192

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, Jalisco, January 15, 1932

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in the soul of my beloved daughter, Sister Margarita.

I greet you with all affection from my bed, wishing you a new year filled with heavenly merit and blessings. The albumin has gone up, perhaps because of our extremely cold weather. **According to the last analysis, the results were discouraging if we're thinking merely on the natural level, but if we're thinking on the heavenly one, it's just the opposite. Let's bless our good Lord because everything He disposes is for our own good. We are His little girls enjoying His protection and His love. We should, therefore, remain in peace and be happy in whatever situation He places us.** Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) has been well. I've seen her frequently, and she tells me that Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) has been working and is well. So is Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*).

The junior pastor (*Father Edward Huerta*) went to Mexico City for the yearly celebration honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. Those who attended the ceremony said it was magnificent and that this generation will not see anything like it again. The Basilica is one of the wonders of the world. May God be blessed!

I'm going to give you my poor advice, in case I die, so that you'll understand how much interest I have in you and in all the Sisters. I have a motherly heart for all of you and consider you as my own daughters. **When you give gifts, try to see that they are becoming to a religious, something like purificators or other objects for worship and prayers, but not worldly or valuable things because of the work and the finances of the Congregation. Our Holy Mother Saint Teresa sent some fruit to her brother, Lorenzo, and told him, "Go ahead and enjoy it because I did not buy that fruit with the community's money." Oh, my daughter, how ardently I want you to be a true religious with solid virtues. To this end, it would help you very much if you would read The Way of Perfection by Our Holy Mother Saint Teresa and The Precautions of Saint John of the Cross, rather than books of mere sentimentality. Women, as it seems to me because of their very nature, have a vivid imagination and a compassionate heart, but their so-called virtue might be likened to the blaze of a palm mat, which leaves behind**

nothing but ashes. We must be practical, austere, and hard-working even to the utmost of our strength so that we may be resolved and become what we are supposed to be and not merely phantom religious. I'm speaking to you as a mother would to her daughter because I feel that way toward you. What else can I do? I feel so confident and interested in you.

We've felt the cold weather very much here, but lately it's been changing and becoming warm and certainly pleasant. Good-bye, daughter.

May God bless and sanctify you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 193

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

February 8, 1932

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez
Los Angeles

My never forgotten and dear daughter,

I've received your two letters. May God our Lord repay you for the joy that you bring me whenever I receive them.

Regarding the car, you sisters look into it. If it really is indispensable and you can't supply the need in another way, let father find out which would be the best buy--a brand new car or a second-hand one. He must have had experience in these matters.

I'm not opposed to the establishment of the Apostleship of Prayer and the J.C.F.M. group for the girls (*Juventud Catolica Femenina Mexicana, i.e. Mexican Women's Catholic Youth Group*). The only thing that I beg of you sisters is that everything be done after consulting with your mother. Don't you agree that when daughters do something without the approval of their mother, it should bother them? I don't understand how father orders you and how that's a compromise for you sisters. The natural law proves what I'm saying and I'm sure that father will agree and be most happy to wait next time, if you tell him that you are going to let me know and that you

are certain that I'll be happy to grant the approval. It has always been my desire to please him. I certainly have always insisted that you sisters do everything with permission. Poor little ones, I have upset you and that hurts me, but I do think it's absolutely necessary. Time will show you how important it is to act in this way.

My heart empathizes with the sickness of Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*). Invite him to come and visit you frequently and take care of him as much as possible. Prepare dishes of his preference, entertain him, and give him my very best regards.

Accept with joy everything that humiliates you and consider it as a special favor from God our Lord. He permits these things for our own good and so we must humble ourselves and suffer humiliations. We need this bitter medicine to cure that pride of ours which harms us very much and even closes the gates of heaven. I pray every day that you'll be more and more what you are supposed to be--good, very good.

Good-bye, daughter. How much I wish to see you sisters! Your mother who blesses you and loves you.

Josefa

Letter 194
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, February 16, 1932

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

After greeting you I'd like to give you the wonderful news that God our Lord wants that house to prepare the wax that will burn on the feast of our father St. Joseph. It will be sent to you and you'll need to whiten it, wash it and thus, we'll contribute to this feast with our work. I suppose the girls (*sisters*) will be very happy. For me, it's a great thing.

I hope that you aren't overwhelmed with work anymore, now that the girls (*sisters*) are lending you a hand. *Pobrecitas!* They are very

good, very hard workers. Are they happy?

I'd like Cuquita (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) for the hospital, but you are able to see what the needs are, so use her wherever you need her most.

Perhaps God will give you the means to send us the cost of the *jerga* (a coarse material) because of the obligations we now have to meet. Amparo's (*Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez*) mother promised to send us the money for her dress, but I guess she hasn't been able to afford it. *Pobrecita!*

I would appreciate it very much if you could send me the wax that I bought for Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who later left the Congregation*) and also the one that was given to me. These will be very useful in helping me cover our upcoming March expenses.

Paz told me when I was there that she wanted to come and see me, but she needs a companion. When you or some other charitable person comes, please bring her over here.

Take very good care of the girls, the little ones. Observe them, reprimand them, and advise them, for it's my hope that they'll become exemplary.

Give my regards to my daughters and ask them to pray to God our Lord for me.

Tell Victoria Sotelo that I received her little letter and that I greet her and for her to let me know whatever she wants through you. I also told her to be patient and whenever her father and godmother can make the financial arrangements, she will come, but explain to her that it isn't necessary for them to give the money right away, but just to make sure that it is given. I'm not saying this out of greed. I'm simply trying to keep the wise laws of the Church, for by doing this her own upkeep will be assured because in the event that she leaves the school (*convent*), it will be returned to her. At any rate, the money will be set aside for her welfare, and we will be able to only use the interest which is barely \$20.00 (pesos).

(no signature)

P.S. Don't forget to give bread to Sister Carmen T. (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*). Don't let her eat tortillas.

Letter 195

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

February 19, 1932

Los Angeles, California

My never forgotten and dear daughter, Margarita Maria,

May the Sacred Heart be your dwelling. I greet you with all affection and would like to use a common expression of our countrymen, "I would much prefer seeing you or talking to you." But this joy, this pleasure, if it's granted me, will not be until the beginning of June and I wouldn't be able to come until around the twenty-first. Still, that's not very far off--just three months from now and time passes as though we were traveling on a fast train. How time flies!

The girls went to find out how Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) is coming along. She is much better and out of bed already. She had the flu, which is now prevalent around here. Be at complete peace, therefore. We liked the gift that you sent us very much, and the girls are copying many drawings from it. I certainly had a good laugh at the funny pictures, so graceful. I'm happy to learn that you had the joy of seeing Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*), as good as he is. *Pobrecito!* When he left here, he did not have enough clothing. Find out what he needs most and see if it would be easy for you to provide him with it.

It might be that we'll be moving again to another house. It's really a pity, but what can we do? This one is so beautiful and so comfortable, but we've been fearful ever since some people came up to the wall between the house and the orchard. In that orchard we have peas, green peppers, potatoes, chayotes, cucumbers, cilantro, strawberries, very good oranges, peaches, grapevines and flowers. All are very well taken care of by the girls (*sisters*), who by

the way, might have to leave their employment. *Pobrecitas!* But we know that we can't become too attached to anything.

So, Edward (*Father Eduardo Huerta*) is planning on going up there. Be it for the love of God! Pray for us here. We're feeling our poverty very much. The girl who was born on the second of the current month was baptized with the name of Amparo (*Sister Maria Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez*). Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) already has nine children (*nine sisters in the Novitiate*) and some others who are already married (*professed sisters with vows*). Poor little Socorro, she looks well. Thomas Ramirez, a son of Ignatius, (*Father Thomas Ramirez, S.J.*) helps her very much to support such a large family. What could she do otherwise? It would be impossible.

I have had my ups and downs, with swollen legs and face. The albumin still gives me trouble. The special diet has weakened me very much and I've been suffering with bad headaches. When Doctor Gonzalez Arechiga saw me the last time, he prescribed some vitamins and let me have fresh fish and chicken one day a week. Let's place ourselves in the hands of God so that he will do whatever He pleases with us, and let's wish nothing else except what He wishes.

Maria del Refugio (*Sister Maria del Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) continues with her lung trouble, spitting blood and with labored breathing. She is suffering very much. For the love of God, take good care of yourselves, Sisters, very much care, so that you'll avoid contracting such a terrible disease.

I'm continuing with this letter today, the twenty-fourth. Conchita, your mother, came. She is fine now and is, as always, in the very same house which you knew. She wants you to know that she received your letter. Toribio (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*), who was such a great support for me, has been transferred to Mexico City. I still feel as though I've been left dangling in the air. May it be for the love of God!

How difficult it is to go up that last flight of stairs in life. Help me with your prayers and those of everyone there. My greetings to Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop*

of Guadalajara) and to Father Callahan and Father Ott.
Josefa

Letter 196

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, March 3, 1932

My dear and unforgettable Mother Maria,

As always, it was delightful to receive your letter. May God reward you.

I'm sincerely happy that Esperanza's wedding (*Sister Maria Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid's perpetual profession of vows*) took place. May she always be an excellent spouse, as indeed we all should be.

It's been quite a while since I've received a letter from Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). Both of you mentioned about the new car, but she didn't tell me that you had already purchased it. She had only mentioned that Father Callahan wanted to buy one for you because the one you had didn't work anymore, and you were asking me if you should buy another one. I understand what you are saying-- that it hasn't arrived yet. So, I see that you are already young girls who now own an automobile. It must have cost a lot of money! [*It was a used car which cost cost \$275.00 (dollars)*]. May it be for the honor and glory of God and not a cause of anguish at the hour of death, for it's better for us to leave our comforts and riches for eternity where we know that they'll last. Here on earth a life of poverty is best.

Maria Espiridona (*had entered the community in Atotonilco under the direction of Mother Mary and then left*) is earnestly insisting on coming back with us. She says that she will behave and do whatever we tell her, that she will even come to the kitchen. Because she was with you, and you know her well, would you kindly tell me anything you noticed while she was with us? I need to share that information with Papa Abundio (*Father Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) because she went through him in order to be accepted by us. She saw that I didn't pay much attention to her

and it seems that Father, her uncle, is interested also. I would be grateful if you tell me as soon as possible.

I would also be most happy to visit you. I long for it so much that I'm ready to go despite the many hardships it would involve because I'm so old and infirm. **You should see how difficult it's for me to move. For me, everything on earth is difficult to do. Blessed be God who permits our age, sicknesses, and moral suffering to make us feel so useless and unable do anything. Pray much for me. God our Lord will repay everything you do for my soul.**

We are currently looking for another house, as I think I told you in my last letter. We still haven't found one that's suitable.

I'm continuing this letter today, the fourth. I've just received a note from Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). In it she mentioned that grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara, who was in exile in the United States because of the religious persecution in Mexico*) wants me to go there (*to the United States*). I'll do everything on my part to leave as soon as it's possible, and I'll let you know when I'm ready so you will be able to buy the tickets and notify Nogales. I want to take my daughter, Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*), as companion because she knows a little English. What a joyful reunion it will be to see you again! I'm really excited!

My congratulations to Esperancita (*Sister Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*) and loving greetings to all the family, and for now I send you all a close embrace. Take care of yourselves. May God our Lord bless you. Until we see each other again.

Josefa Navarro

Please give Manuelita the [enclosed] letter. [signed] Sr. Elena

Letter 197
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Los Angeles, April 24, 1932

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter, to whom I wish everything that is good.

I'm most grateful for your longed-for little letters. May God our Lord reward you.

We'll leave it to Cuquita's (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) own conscience whether or not she should return to her hometown. This needs to be her own decision. My Uncle Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) told me that she should get out of the town because there's a chance she could get well in some other place away from here.

In the event you do go to Guadalajara, you can see how the house is. At the same time, however, if you can't go, that's all right with me because I don't think that it's really necessary for you to go.

May God help Victoria Sotelo to arrange both a monthly payment and also the deed of the orchard as she has offered, and for her entrance to take place on May 12. I don't remember if she sent me her application and her certificates of Baptism and Confirmation, as well as evidence that permission has been given. I have an idea she did, but you ask her and make sure, so you will be able to accept her at the same time as Maria de Jesus Padilla (*Sister Teresa Margarita of the Sacred Heart Padilla*), Maria del Carmen Gutierrez (*Sister Angelica of the Immaculate Heart Gutierrez*) and Guadalupe Suarez (*Sister Matilde of the Good Shepherd Suarez*) in case my Uncle Abundio admits her (Victoria) to do housework and remember that Maria del Carmen will still have to apply.

See to it that Merceditas (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*) takes care of herself. Greet her for me and the same for the rest of my daughters. Let Lucita accompany Cuca (*Sister Refugio*).

May God our Lord help you in all your difficulties, for this is what I'm asking Him.

Perhaps it will be good to take Isabelita (*Sister Isabel of St. Pascal Fonseca*) to Guadalajara to get rest and get cured, now that she is feeling so weak. Good-bye, daughter. Please have everyone pray

for me.

Josefa

Letter 198
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

Los Angeles, April 24, 1932

Miss Refugio Navarro

May the peace of God be in your soul, my daughter, whom I love so much.

I'm very glad that you had a good visit with Mr. Morales (*Father Morales, the pastor of Guadalupe Chapel in Jalisco, Mexico*). I hope it was helpful.

Regarding the permission you asked about going to the [town of] Chapel, you may have it, and I hope it will be beneficial to you. Let it be for the greater glory of God our Lord! I can only say that I leave it entirely to your own conscience whether or not to go back to your hometown. Whether or not you decide to go back, it would be a good idea for you to take care of the pending business concerning your property. Remember to always seek the advice of Mr. Morales, either verbally or in writing.

Take good care of yourself. Continue following carefully all the suggestions and orders of the doctor. Don't let your soul be as troubled as it has so often been. Naturally, your health suffers as a result because body and soul are joined together. Even though the soul is the superior part of your being, when you go through all these problems, your body pays for it. Remember to let everything you are going through be only for God! If you insist on going with the Capuchins, consult with Our Lord and your conscience, and do whatever you think best. Then again, maybe they won't receive you anymore because of your illness. I leave you free to make your choice, and then be happy with whatever decision you make, for I only want your happiness. What I'm trying to do is broaden your thinking so you that you won't suffer.

If you become uneasy when you see your sisters commit faults, remember that all of us serve as instruments of each other's sanctification, and you can be sure that no one has bad intentions, and that all of them are acting in good faith. If you could only see their interior motivation you would be convinced of this truth and you wouldn't even notice what they do or say. It is your solitude and preoccupation which is saddening you. Try to see all these things as coming from Our Lord for your own good and adore His designs. I do assure you that it's not because of any lack of good will on the part of your sisters that they won't be going with you. On the contrary, they love you very much.

May God bless you.

Josefa

Letter 199

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Los Angeles, April 26, 1932

Miss Maria Ana Ramirez

My very beloved daughter,

It gave me so much joy to receive your letter. May God our Lord reward you.

I understand very well how poor you are and I share in your sorrow because you've nothing to eat. Let it be for God!

Invest the \$200.00 (pesos) from Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) so that you can soon earn some interest. Tell Maria de Jesus and Carmen, the new children (*postulants*) who will be joining us, to bring in their ten pesos each. If Victoria enters, then she should either bring fifteen pesos or the equivalent of a year and a half.

Come back from school on the street bus. It isn't good for you to walk that distance.

Regarding the house, you should ask Mr. Cortes if he wants it after all, but "play it safe" and act as if you are unconcerned about it. If you ever decide that it's necessary to move, then you'll just have to do it.

Take good care of your health. Consult with the doctor and don't you be worrying about anything. God will provide for all our needs.

It seems that both the rain and cold weather were waiting to pay me a visit. The mountains are full of snow. Can you imagine how cold it is over here? And it's even colder in Duarte! I wasn't able to remain there for that reason.

I'm in need of prayers because of some problems that have me very worried. I'll tell you all about it when I go back. Blessed be God our Lord because He allows all these things for the good of our souls.

I pray that you'll become a little saint, helping those around you so that they, too, may become saints.

My regards to everyone and to Lola Huerta. Good-bye, and may God bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 200
Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Los Angeles, Calif. May 4, 1932

Miss Maria Ana Ramirez
Guadalajara

My dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. I hope that you are well.

Your kind letter is now here in my possession. I wish your letters could be more frequent, even if the girls mail them for you. If you or the others don't have the postage stamps, you can all write to me in that way.

I think it is a very good idea for you to accept Isabelita's invitation. It would be very good if you and Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) would be the ones to go because it seems to me that the two of you are more in need than the others. Let the others remain, then. It would just be too hard on the family if more of you went, and during these times even one more person becomes a burden because of the lack of resources everywhere.

Let's bless God our Lord because He's allowed us to become so very poor. No doubt this lack of even necessary means of support will help us all to grow spiritually. All we have to do is to accept gladly the privations and rigors that poverty brings us.

The cold weather has been quite rigorous. We even had some hail and now the mountains are full of snow. As for myself, in spite of feeling a little stronger, I fear that the albumin will increase, but I know that God our Lord will only allow whatever is more beneficial for me to happen.

How did you spend the feast we celebrated on the first? I was with you in spirit. I imagine that the girls (*sisters*) are very happy now that they are wearing their new dresses (*holy habits*) for the first time, and Josefina and Maria Luisa especially because of their fathers' visits.

Have you learned anything about your mother? How is she doing? Give her my best when you write to her.

May God our Lord bless you.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Letter 201
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Los Angeles, May 9, 1932

Guadalajara

Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My beloved daughter,

How few your letters have been! You've written to me only once and with very, very few lines. Why? You know I like you to tell me everything.

God our Lord wants you to come to the United States. Let's bless Him for everything. Because you are His, He will be able to make use of you in any way He wishes. I think it would be prudent, though, not to mention it yet to the family (*religious community*) in order to avoid suffering among your daughters. Confide in Tomas (*Father Thomas Ramirez, S.J.*) so that he'll be able to indicate the duties you're going to encounter over here. Father Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) had the same duties in Tucson, and he can help you also by means of a letter. To whom would you like to entrust the care of your daughters (*novices*)? I want you to let me know by return mail and if it is possible bring her to live with you and instruct her about everything you do and in that way, there will be no confusion. Your transfer will take place as soon as we have the financial means to bring you. By the end of the month Jose Maria could give us some money, and from that money you buy your ticket to Nogales, Arizona, and we'll see if we can buy your ticket from Nogales to Los Angeles. Get your passport for an indefinite time. Lately I've been staying in Monrovia, so please address your answer there.

Regarding what your father told you, I congratulate you heartily because that's what is best for our souls. **It doesn't matter if we are trampled upon, if it becomes a means of raising ourselves up closer to God, and, once elevated to God, may we remain that way. We have to be strong and valiant with ourselves and not let suffering get the best of us. All pain is transitory and as Our Holy Mother Saint Teresa tells us, any pain that is not eternal, is no pain at all.**

How did the feastday go? Did you have many guests? Were the girls (*sisters*) happy? I never forget you and every day I excitedly await letters from you all.

It's my great desire that Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia S.J.*) would visit your family but in an intimate manner (as confessor). It should lead to good results especially if grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) wants it. May God allow it to happen. Take good care of yourself, my daughter, so you will be able to gain a little weight and be able to take on all the work that's awaiting you. I know it will be as heavy as the one you left but we have to endure something in this life.

If you can't greet my uncle Abundio (*Father Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) personally, do so at least by telephone and tell him that I miss his counseling. With all my heart I bless my granddaughters (*postulants and novices*) and you. Please pray for me.

Good-bye.

Josefa

Letter 202

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

May 19, 1932

Reverend Sister Margarita of the Sacred Heart

My beloved daughter in Christ,

Pax Cristi (God's peace)! As soon as I received your loving letter, I began writing these lines. Don't be a foolish little girl, my daughter. Don't be worrying about me. It is only natural that it would be very difficult for me to leave you sisters, as you can hardly understand how much I love you. What can we do, my daughter? I've suffered very much for you sisters and only God our Lord is able to weigh the great affection I have for my daughters. **The difficulties you are seeing, the troubles that are presenting themselves, are nothing new to me. God resolves these problems and believe me, they do not worry me. I trust in him. I'm so used to having problems that they have become my daily bread. Don't worry because we must always be happy.** I'll be very happy to pray for Father. To do so would an act of justice because his good

estimation of us had been apparent. As far as you are concerned, it would be very good for you to read the life of St. Francis de Sales, written by himself. Pay particular attention to the chapter on hope, which should help you under the present circumstances.

I would be delighted to go up there to spend a few days with my good daughters, if God our Lord permits. Certainly, that would make me most happy! I've been feeling rather sick these days and have spent most of today in bed. May God be praised for everything! About Rev. Father Peter, O.C.D. (*Father Peter Heris, O.C.D. who at a later time died in Barcelona, Spain, as a martyr during the religious persecution there*), in my opinion, he should be canonized upon his death. How good he is and what a great interest he takes in us.

Please deposit the dowry of Mary de Jesus Tadeo (*a postulant who left the Congregation at a later date*) in the bank as soon as you can, as you did with the other money.

Good-bye. Greetings to my daughters. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament, O.C.D.T.

Letter 203

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Los Angeles, California, May 20, 1932

Miss Socorro Cholico
Guadalajara, Jalisco

My beloved daughter,

I'm sending you \$36.00 (dollars) for your ticket. It will be at that price only until the thirtieth of this month, and even if we don't use the return ticket, it will still be less expensive. I hope that Mr. Canedo will arrange everything for you and also give you the money that will be needed for the rest of the errands. We'll pay him back as soon as Mr. Garcia pays his rent which, hopefully, will be at the beginning of June. It won't be possible for anyone to accompany you because we just can't afford the expense. Perhaps Mr. Canedo

will find a worthy person as your companion among the great number of persons who travel here. In the meantime, leave your daughters under the sister you chose to be in charge and ask her to take good care of them until I arrive there. You will wear your black dress because you are alone, and when you arrive in Nogales, send me a telegram so we may be waiting for you at the station in Arizona. Inform Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) and Maria Ana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*), in my name, about these plans.

I'm sorry you have to leave your "little doves" (*sisters*) but God wants it that way. May He be blessed forever! I've been suffering headaches at night. I go to bed feeling fine and then I find myself waking up with a headache in the middle of the night, so I sit down for a while until it goes away, only to have it return again in the same manner. I think that one night I was up three times with the same problem. This has just been happening lately because I had been well for a long time. I have moments when I feel ill, but I can't explain what's happening to me. I started feeling uncomfortable one afternoon and that same night I got the headache again. I've been feeling this way for three nights in a row already, and the number of times it wakes me up and I have to sit up, has been increasing. Kindly bring me a prescription of Dr. Arechiga and the little machine to test the urine, and please greet him for me.

Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) says that if Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) takes care of your family (in whatever way possible, I say) the sisters (*novices and postulants*) will be all right. Do not forget to tell him good-bye. Greet him and tell him, in my name, that I entrust my family to him.

Give my best regards to Maria Ana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) and tell her that if I'm able, I'll answer her note tomorrow. A very affectionate greeting to all my daughters. I'm ending this now so that this letter will go out today. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Josefa

Tell Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of the St. Elias Estrada*) and Sister Maria Flores (*Sister Maria of the Sacred Heart Flores*) that Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) has

granted an extension of one more year; therefore, this year pay only the interest, but tell them to prepare themselves to meet this obligation by the end of 1933.

Letter 204

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Los Angeles Calif. May 24, 1932

I now continue with my letter to my beloved daughter, Maria Ana. I wasn't able to finish it this morning, so I'll finish now. Don't worry. Lupita's (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) health problems are either physical or the result of her character. I've noticed that whenever examination time is approaching, she works even harder and since she is already very tired, consequently she becomes even more excited and nervous. *Pobrecita!* We'll have to buy some *cerebrina* (*a vitamin/mineral supplement*) for her and give her more milk and eggs. I also wish she could sleep longer, at least until 5:00 a.m. You should seek Father Solorzano's advice in the confessional as to what would be the best thing to do to help her. Ask him to assist you in this because he has a lot of influence over her. During exams, there's nothing much we can do but to try to keep the family (*community*) at peace. Let it be for God!

In case Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) agrees for you to go to Tapalpa, take Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa*) with you instead of Trina (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) because Consuelo hasn't seen her family, although they'll probably have to come back to the house to be standing again [because of the high winds there]. But because the climate has been so mild recently, maybe we can do this as an extraordinary thing. If for some reason you can't go to Tapalpa, then go to Atotonilco to spend your vacation.

If Mr. Garcia (*Mr. Jesus Maria Garcia*) gives you the rent, pay Lola Huerta what we owe her. Also pay Father Sanchez's sisters five pesos. He's the priest that Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) knows. Give a hundred and some pesos to Victor Gonzalez Luna, the lawyer. If you can call him on the phone, he will send someone to pick up the money.

Now is the time to sow the seeds we'll reap in heaven, offering God our Lord our sorrows, and doing His holy will with serenity and joy.

My regards to all that family (*community*) so dear to me and to you, my blessing.

Josefa

P.S. I'm sending you a book which I'd like you to read during June.

Letter 205
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

June 1, 1932

My beloved daughter, Socorrito,

At the moment I'm feeling better so I take the opportunity to write to you a few lines in answer to your loving letter. May Our Lord reward you all for the prayers which have been offered on my behalf.

I'm glad that all the girls are well and happy. Greet them affectionately for me, and tell them I do not forget about them and that my great desire is to be able to see them and ask them how they are doing and to remind them all that God will reward their progress.

Regarding Alfredo (*Father Alfredo*) choosing the name for the child, (*novice*) we already have two of them. It's too bad he did not think of another one; nevertheless, you may grant his request.

I totally agree about what you are asking me for yourself. At another time when I'm a little stronger and feeling better, I'll write you a very long letter.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 206
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Los Angeles, June 6, 1932

Miss Maria del Socorro
Nogales

My dear daughter,

Let's bless Our Lord because He is allowing us to suffer a little for Him. I can see by your letters that right now you are very worried. Let it be for God! I hope that you received the letter that we sent to immigration stating that Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) are assuming responsibility for you when you come to the United States. It was addressed under the name of Paz Reynoso. Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) also sent a letter and I hope that with these letters the doors will open for you. I'm surprised you're asking me for all those papers for yourself. You should have everything in the files because you've already been here. I gave the date when you came, and the information should also be with the doctor because he gave you the bill of good health after you were examined. At any rate, go ahead, and I'll wait for you. The notarized document you're asking for will follow.

Don't worry and don't allow yourself to drown in a drop of water. You're all right where you are.

Give my regards to the superior and may God reward her. Ask her to provide for what you need and we'll repay her as soon as we know how much it was.

We're excited about your arrival, especially this mother of yours who prays for and blesses you.

The telephone number here is Century 21170.

Manuela Rodriguez (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) is coming with me. Tell them there was a change of superior and she is Maria Nunez (*Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*). I'm enclosing the information you asked for.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Letter 207
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

1045 E. 34 Street
Los Angeles, California.

June 18, 1932

Guadalajara
Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My dear daughter,

I've received your letters and am hurrying to answer them. We called you on the phone but were told you had left that same day. Don't worry about the \$40.00 (dollars). That amount will be paid very soon.

The little packages you mention haven't yet been received.

Our Lord one way or another manifests His most holy will, and He used this to keep you there. About the birth certificates... blessed be God! I'm very happy you went back to your same job. Be at peace, take care of your health, and dedicate yourself to the training of your daughters without any other concern. The work over here wouldn't have been suitable for you because Our Lord did not permit it.

Thanks be to God, I'm feeling better after being in bed with bronchitis, but it is already going away as will everything else in this life.

I'm concerned that my father, Abundio, (*Father Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) will not be in agreement with making the girls (*sisters*) wait for their ceremony. It might annoy him at this time. Talk with Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and the other sisters, and in view of the circumstances

and state of mind of my father Abundio, go ahead and do whatever is more prudent. Once I go back there, we'll see that this doesn't happen in the future. In my name, let Carmelita, Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) and Mariana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) know about this.

Don't be afraid of the earthquakes. Just try to have a clear conscience and to be submissive to the adorable will of God--that is enough to be at peace. How beautiful it is to be in the hands of God, searching His Divine Gaze in readiness to do whatever He wishes.

I'm going to spend my feastday in Santa Teresita with Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and the girls and I'll remain there, God willing, for a few days. You will be able to write to me at that address and after I receive your letters, I'd like to return to you soon because I'm worried about you all.

Tell Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) and Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) that I'll write to them very soon. Tell them also to take something good for bile. It will help them recover from the many impressions they may still have in their minds, their fears of death because of the earthquakes and all....let nothing frighten you.... nothing disturb you as our holy Mother St. Teresa used to say. Give them my best regards and the other sisters, also.

Good-bye, daughter, and please pray for me. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa

God willing, Maria del Pilar (*Sister Maria del Pilar Padilla*) and Maria de las Victorias (*Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel Rodriguez*) will make their perpetual vows here. They were not held back because of their work. It's important you let father know that.

Letter 208

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, August 29, 1932

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with great joy wishing for you, from my heart, the peace of God.

I hadn't received a letter from you or Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and I hadn't been able to write either, but now that I've finally received letters from both of you, I'm replying immediately.

I'm celebrating with you because you have your new dresses (*holy habits*). May you look well in them! I'm happy when you are happy and very pleased that you gave Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) her new dress (*habit*). I can imagine how elated she must be! *Pobrecita*, she is suffering the effects of poverty so very much!

I understand that the girls (*novices and postulants*) moved from that house (*not really--the novices and postulants had been pretending they had been changed and Mother Luisita is just going along with the little joke*). May God our Lord bless them in their new residence.

Conchita, your mother, came to visit me and brought Jose Javier (*Joseph Xavier was Mother Mary's nephew, the son of her brother Francisco*). It seems to me that he looks very much like you, full of energy and happily running all over the place and drinking water. I was very grateful to Conchita for coming to see me and bringing the little grandson. She told me that Aurelio (*Mother Mary's father*) was well and quite plump. I think that his illness was actually good for him!

We had a very pleasant trip except for a little problem in Nogales, but God our Lord got us out of it, and during the rest of the journey we happily distracted ourselves by contemplating the beauty of the passing fields. Naturally, having a mother's heart, I was suffering [because of the separation]. I'm most grateful for the many kindnesses I've received from my good daughters. May God our Lord repay all of them. Please greet them for me and tell them of

my gratitude and love.

Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) has a new daughter, Lucia del S. (*Sister Lucia of the Blessed Sacrament was a new novice*) and Rosalia (*Sister Rosalie of St. Teresa Plascencia*) got married (*professed her vows*) on the twenty-ninth of this month.

Remember us before God our Lord for we have great needs and need much prayer. Let it be for God!

May God our Lord bless you all.

Maria J. Navarro

Letter 209

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, September 5, 1932

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

Affectionately remembering that the twelfth will be your feastday, I want to greet you just a little ahead of time. May your feastday be a very happy one! My poor prayers which I'm offering for your intentions will be my gift for you and may God allow them to benefit your soul in some way.

I had the joy of receiving your last letter, and today Margarita's (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) arrived. May God repay you for the happiness I experience whenever I hear from you. **You mentioned about my poor advice.**

I can only tell you that it flows from my interest in the welfare of your souls, as well as our family in general. May God deign to bless my words and make them bear fruit in your souls, which if well-prepared, will reap a hundredfold.

I'm so very pleased that you are taking care of grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*). Besides being a sacred obligation for us, it's an act of charity most pleasing in the eyes of our Lord God.

My regards to all the family whom I love so much.

Josefa

Letter 210

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, September 23, 1932

Miss Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart

My beloved daughter, to whom I wish the holy peace of God.

I've received your two letters. The last one came today. May God our Lord reward you for the joy you give me with your letters. **Don't be a foolish little girl, daughter. All the works of God have the stamp of contradiction, difficulty, and great sorrow and humiliation. If none of these is present, don't be so sure of the work and be afraid of its execution. Therefore, with this in mind, you should be at peace and happy to see that it has His stamp. Be positive that it will be done when God our Lord wants it so. Let's confide in Him and not in this or that person. The Holy Spirit says, "Cursed be the man who places his confidence in another man." This is why, when I see that you girls are too solicitous and seem to take everything from one individual, it makes me sad. Certainly I'd like to see you have more confidence in Divine Providence. Otherwise you'll be suffering many great disappointments and your projects will meet with failure. Everything human is changeable and the one who is for you today, will be against you tomorrow. Trust, my daughter, only in God and try to please Him at all costs. Thus, you will have everything. He will move hearts and do everything as long as we confide in Him. (Pardon me if I continue this letter in pencil). It seems to me that God our Lord wants me without any more suffering since He's given me so much confidence in His Divine Will. I leave everything in His hands and I'm at peace.**

Lately, there have been rumors, or at least fears, that we'll be left very poor, without any work aside from our own. Not even this worries me. Maybe because everything has been quiet and

this is why I've asked for your prayers. Maybe your prayers are the ones that have given me this tranquility. I've been hidden away from people to avoid being seen and soon they'll forget all about the money (*Mother Luisita was the target of a search initiated by the government forcing her into hiding.*)

Good-bye.

(no signature)

Letter 211
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, September 26, 1932

R.M. (*Reverend Mother*) Mary of the Divine Eucharist

My beloved daughter,

I've had the satisfaction of receiving your letters but you haven't mentioned anything about the official letter we sent you. Didn't you receive it? I hope so. We also wrote to grandfather (*the Archbishop*).

I'm glad you had a happy celebration on the sixth (*Father Leroy Callahan's birthday*) and the twelfth (*the feastday of Mother Mary*), for both days give us cause for great rejoicing. Blessed be God for everything!

As for myself, thanks be to God, I've been well and have been feeling a little stronger. Pray to God that I take advantage of these good days by taking care of the pending business.

It is all right with me for you to return Maria del Pilar (*Sister Maria del Pilar Padilla*) to Los Angeles. You'll have to see who can take her place because you are the one who knows the needs over there. Just do what you think is prudent about any changes and let me know where you send them (*assigning the sisters to the different houses*).

I think that grandfather's (*the Archbishop's*) proposed financial arrangement regarding funding the girls (*sisters*) in Los Angeles to

help them pay the bills will be a great help.

You have to obey grandfather by becoming citizens as he wishes, but as it is a matter of spending money, we will have to do so prudently. Two of the girls could become citizens one month, two more during the following month, and so on, but tell him why you chose to carry it out in this way.

My daughter, you have a new nephew. Conchita (*Mother Mary's mother*) must have told you by now. He's been already baptized and Conchita and Narcisa (*Mother Mary's sister*) came to see me. Aurelio (*Mother Mary's father*) didn't come, but Filiberto's son came in his place. Aurelio's health is all right.

In another letter I thought I mentioned about Maria de Jesus Tadeo (*Maria de Jesus Tadeo was a postulant who left the community*). If her Confirmation certificate can't be located, then I think she has to be confirmed.

Perhaps we could arrange to have another little school in Tapalpa. Pray to God that we will be able to make the best decision and in case it does happen, then Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*), Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*), Ines (*Mother Ines of the Sorrowful Mother Rivas Magallon*), Juana de la Cruz (*Sister St. John of the Cross Dominguez*), and Guadalupe Teresa (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) will go there.

My regards to all my daughters and ask them to pray for me.

Good-bye. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Letter 212

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, October 5, 1932

Miss Margarita Hernandez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with all affection, wishing you every blessing. Because I don't want to take the risk of not being able to send you a feastday greeting, something which I would regret, I'm sending your letter early. May you have a very happy day and may your patron saint obtain for you a great love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. How have you sisters been? I haven't received any letters for quite awhile from you sisters, and I'm rather concerned. Has Papa Juanito (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*) answered yet? I don't think there's anything that we can do about it, if this is the way it has to be. (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez had asked Mother Luisita to establish the Province in California. His Excellency petitioned Archbishop Cantwell for his approval, but he did not answer the petition.*) I wonder what Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) will say? **May the most adorable and holy will of God be fulfilled in everything because whatever He orders will be for the best.**

We are now reading the life of St. Ignatius which you sisters gave me. We enjoy reading about his conversion and the virtues that he practiced. I'd like you sisters to also read it. Thanks be to God, we're without any newsworthy happenings here at home and are very happy. You can easily understand how happy we are because every morning Francisco, a son of Ignatius, comes and with his good sense of humor makes little parties for us (*a Jesuit priest went to the house daily with Holy Communion and gave them little conferences*). He was especially kind in pleasing us on the feast of little Therese which has just passed.

I saw your mother, Conchita, a few days ago and she told me that Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) and Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) are well. **You see how good God our Lord is. We should have more confidence in Him every day and have recourse to prayer, not permitting anything to discourage us or make us sad.** Certainly, I appreciate with my whole heart the remembrance that good Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*) made of me. Give him my greetings and ask him to pray to Our Lord for me. Did you like the little play we sent you? I hope that it has served its purpose. I would be delighted to learn that the girls are already wearing their uniforms. They'll look very nice in them. (*Mother Luisita is referring to the proposed uniforms to be worn by the T.B. girls, but it was never possible to acquire them.*) Give them my greetings.

Have you found a handyman to work for you? I don't forget about your needs. It seems as though I live up there with you. God willing, I'm going to read the life of your patron saint. Do you sisters have it already?

I'm continuing this letter today, the seventh, since I can only write a little bit at a time. You know how my life is concerning time. I hope that all of the family (*community*) will make the novena to Our Holy Mother Saint Teresa with great enthusiasm and with their whole heart. Thus, we'll be able to obtain the immense grace needed for the "Decree of Praise" (*the first step in the approval of a new Congregation in the Church given by the Holy See in Rome*) which will be a great relief for me. During this winter season, cover yourselves very well. The cold weather is already here and I certainly sympathize with you up there where winters are so cold. May God bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 213

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, November 3, 1932

Miss Margarita Hernandez, Duarte, California

My very dear daughter,

Thanks be to God because yesterday after your long silence, I had the joy of receiving your letter. The letter which was addressed to Tona's house never arrived, and no other letter has arrived either for a long time. I learned that the day we moved, the mailman delivered some letters but the gentleman who remained in the house picked up the correspondence (*some of the sisters were taken to prison, some escaped, and the government took over the house where they lived*).

It is a good idea for you to address your letters as you did this last one to Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) because we haven't found a house in which to live yet. The crisis here is most difficult, and we don't know what to do. Believe me, I feel like going to

Mexico City or to El Paso to find work. You understand my situation, with so many little children and without a house or money? Please, sisters, ask Our Lord to give me His help and fortitude to suffer whatever would be His divine pleasure. Taking into consideration my age, habitual ill health, and the great worries of the family with whom I'm now living, my health is the best it can be. This family has been very kind to house me until we find a house that we can move into, but it is a worry to me even though I understand that it isn't possible to move at this time. By all means I hope to find a little house where we can accommodate all my daughters and granddaughters (*sisters and novices*). I'm so used to living with them that I can't do otherwise. The girls (*sisters*) are sick to think of another change of residence.

Jesus (*Our Lord*) is very poor and if He has nothing, what can He give to us? Imagine, He doesn't even come to say hello to us. He did come for one moment, only one day and this makes my daughters very sad. (*No Blessed Sacrament. On one day they did receive Holy Communion. No Mass.*)

It makes me very happy to learn that you are going to be comfortable with the rooms you've added. It really was a need. Now that you are going to be at ease about that, don't think other difficulties won't be coming up. **In this life we shouldn't live without a cross. Everywhere we turn, we will see Calvary. Blessed be God!**

Now that you have more work, take good care of yourselves so that you won't get sick. I hope that you'll enjoy the play and will be able to use it. It has good teaching and is recreational as well. I'm most grateful to Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*) for the care he is taking of your soul. Thank him in my name and give my greetings to him, to *grandfather (The Archbishop)* and to my daughters (*the sisters*). Please address your letters to the following: Mrs. Concepcion G.V. de Hernandez for Maria Navarro.

Maria

Letter 214
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, November 16, 1932

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles

My beloved daughter,

Yesterday I had the joy of receiving your kind letter. May God our Lord reward you.

I'm taking for granted that you are already living in Los Angeles and I'm hoping that you'll be very happy in your new residence. **Wherever we are, we experience both joys and sorrows-- in Duarte in one way, and where you are now in another way. The truth is that we see Calvary everywhere. Blessed be God! It would be very unfortunate for us if we did not have the cross, for then we would completely forget about our good God.**

I stand informed that Lourditas (*Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Aldaba*) is helping you with your duties. I think that whatever grandfather (*the Archbishop*) determines, is right. He is the head of the house and what he says should be done.

Your mama "Pepa" ("*Josefa*")--*Mother Luisita is referring to herself*) has been so sick that she isn't receiving any visitors. She's confined herself to one of the inner rooms where there is more solitude and quiet. The *pobrecita* is in such condition that the only thing that can be done is to pray to God our Lord for her. (*Mother Luisita had gone into hiding because the government was searching for her. In addition she was suffering because of the five sisters who were taken to jail.*)

I've been relatively well, in spite of several late nights because of the girls' (*sisters*) illnesses, yet once more Our Lord has manifested to us that He is our health and our life. May He be blessed! They are well now but we have to get rid of the "*encapillado*" (*a scarf the sisters had worn on their heads in lieu of a veil, by which they were recognized as religious sisters and taken to jail*) because we used it, and now we fear we could get infected again with that terrible illness (*of being taken to jail again*). Pray to God we never get it again. (*The three professed sisters taken to jail were: Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez, Mother Elena of the*

Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo, and Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada. The one novice was Sister Maria de las Santa Llagas Asuncion Herrera. The one postulant was Sister Maria Guadalupe Meza.) They are residing in a different place for a while because all of them needed a change of environment. We're all hoping that they'll recuperate a little, *pobrecitas* because they aren't themselves right now.

Margarita (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) is telling me that the new department is almost completed. What wonderful news! I'm very happy! The need that you had for the addition of those two rooms was really an urgent one. Now they'll be more comfortable, as it should be. It was to be expected that in trying to settle over there (*establish a house in the United States*), you would suffer discomfort and want but eventually everything falls into place.

My regards to all the family and our friends, especially grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*).

Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria Navarro

P.S. You do well by not writing to mama "Pepa" ("*Josefa*"--*Mother Luisita is referring to herself in code during this dangerous time*) about anything. She isn't capable of understanding.

Letter 215

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, November 26, 1932

Miss Margarita Hernandez, Los Angeles (*Mother Margarita was living in Duarte, California*)

My daughter whom I love so much in the Divine Heart,

Your loving letter dated the sixteenth of the current month, is in my possession. Also I've received the check for \$75.00 which you and

my other daughters sent to me. What a valuable gift it is for us! It means no less than we now have money to buy food. I, myself, am not in such great need, but my daughters and granddaughters (*sisters and novices*) are. They told me that we did not have even one cent and no one from whom to borrow any money. God our Lord is truly watching over us. May He be blessed! You certainly understand how the news you gave me about your new house has comforted me in my suffering. How good God is! Now that you are going to live the way God wants, an enormous weight has been removed from my conscience.

As soon as I read your letter, I told Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) to please ask Orozco about the material for the habits. He says that they can be made for \$35.00 a bolt plus the freight to Nogales. He needs \$80.00 to start the work and in a week he will have three bolts completed. You'll be able to send the money directly to Conchita and she will give it to him. Then very soon you'll have the material up there.

Once again, I thank Our Lord for such a wonderful teacher He's given you in the person of Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*) May Our Lord grant him many years up there! Give him my greetings and ask him to pray for us. Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) has already moved with part of the family (*the novices*) and Guadalupe Teresa (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco*) was married (*professed her vows*) on the twenty-first of this month. She is such a graceful girl and so very happy. I couldn't attend the ceremony but she was thoughtful enough to come to greet me, embracing a bouquet of fragrant jasmine. Despite so many difficulties, nothing caused her to change her mind and Amparo (*Sister Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez*) is following her. She will be married on February 19. Pray for the family. Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) praises them very much.

I haven't congratulated you as yet for your new position. Speaking with sincerity, I'll have to wait to congratulate you in heaven. In order to congratulate someone who is carrying such a heavy weight on her shoulders, we know we must wait to see if she discharges her duties. The person who carries such responsibility needs very wide shoulders, angelic ones, rather

than human ones. It's very true that she is in a position to do very much good and has an ample field in which to work, but, it's also true, that the person can err, make mistakes and do very much harm to souls. May God our Lord help us. Let's place all our confidence in Him, unbounded confidence. Since He is the One who gives the responsibility, He will give us the grace. Prayer, very much prayer my daughter is needed. Before doing anything, pray.

If only you knew how ardently I hope to see Socorrito and her family working in El Paso, since it's closer and the transportation isn't as costly. If it's God's will, He will provide the means to do so. Talk about this with Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) and see what his will is because his will is mine. Tell him that I'd like to go also, or else the family could go to Mexico City until the crisis is over.

I just read your letter of October 22 which was at the post office. Conchita went to pick it up. Blessed be God! When I read it, I cried with joy and gratitude to God our Lord. In it I see that my hopes, my most ardent desires, the work of my daughters, is being approved by the boss (*The Pontifical Approval of the Congregation*). You answered correctly. We certainly can't forget you sisters. **We will be united in heaven and we're always going to form one single body. I want all my family to be very united, even if they are scattered to the ends of the world.**

Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 216
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, November 29, 1932

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles

My very beloved daughter,

Your esteemed letter is in my possession. May God our Lord

reward you!

I'm not only in agreement but very pleased about the cooperation taking place between the houses. That mutual help is excellent. (*Mother is referring to the financial help that the sisters in Duarte gave to the sisters in Los Angeles by sending them work and paying the sisters in Los Angeles a monthly salary for this work.*) Blessed be God because everyone benefits. Let's hope that this union will always exist as a sure sign that God is with us. The help that the sanatorium (*Santa Teresita in Duarte, California*) gave us over here is very valuable to us. The lawyer was continually asking for payment, and we don't even have food! All of a sudden every problem was solved. Blessed be God!

The girls who were in serious condition (*it seems Mother is referring to the sisters who had been released from jail*) remain in poor health, and I'm afraid that they'll have a relapse. If this happens, it will be very difficult for them to regain full health again. I wish that these poor little ones could have a change of climate, but we don't have funds for that. I think that it would be beneficial for them to go either to Mexico City or some other place in the Republic with a pleasant climate and where work could be found for them. Ask grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara in exile in the United States*) what he thinks would be good for us to do, and then you tell me what he decides so that, being so ill, he won't have to write us personally. As for me, my health is still delicate. I come out very rarely and even then I need to lean on the arm of my sisters Refugio (*Mrs. Maria del Refugio de la Pena de Arambula, Mother Luisita's sister*) or Concha (*Mrs. Maria Concepcion de la Pena de Toledo, Mother Luisita's sister*). My daughters are with Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and Holy Face Martinez*) in the school, earnestly desiring to do well and complete normal school. Pray to God that He will grant me the grace to see them finish.

Through Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) you must know now that Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) was married (*professed her vows*) on the twenty-first of this month, in the midst of difficulties. But she got married anyway and she is very happy.

I'm happy that "Chuy" (*Maria de Jesus Tadeo who at a later date left the congregation*) continues working there. As a reward, have a good party for her and let her wear her new dress (*habit*). Let me know beforehand when the celebration (*entrance into the Novitiate*) will take place. I'd like her to be named after our Queen and Mother, Maria de Guadalupe.

It's only natural that we feel the sorrows of our families. I'm saying this because of the affliction Pancho (*Mother Mary's brother, Francisco*) and his family are going through, but let me tell you that this lack of funds is something happening all over our country. People who were very wealthy are now in the border of misery, to the point that they do not know what they'll be eating tomorrow. As far as we ourselves are concerned, the sales went down so much in the little store that we had and which had helped to support us, that now we don't take in enough to even buy food. And I'm worried that Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) and Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez*) will lose their jobs. There's a rumor that they're going to be laid off. I don't know how we're going to survive, yet God will provide.

The material that Margarita (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) wants is going to be ready soon. (*The sisters in California had placed an order for "sayal," a coarse material used for making habits.*) You can send the money and the address to Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) so she'll be able to send it right away.

I repeat what I said in my last letter. Don't be talking to your mother about business. Her health isn't good. I'll tell you when she is better and able to understand you.

How is the winter affecting you up there? We're feeling it very strongly here. This cold wave is so intense in Mexico that people have died from it.

My affectionate regards to my daughters and all those I know. Good-bye.

Maria

P.S. Cut Manuelita's (*Mother Maria Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega's*) hair.

Letter 217

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, December 13, 1932

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez

My very beloved Daughter,
I greet you with all affection. How have you been? Did you receive my last letter? I suppose that you've also been feeling the cold weather very much. Over here, we've had frost. Cover yourselves well because catching a cold wouldn't be good at all for you sisters.

I can see by your last letter that you are convincing yourself of what I've repeated very often--not to trust in creatures. We'll suffer many disappointments if we do, and our enterprises will be without any consistency. Today we might have the favor and estimation of others, but tomorrow it could be the contrary. You sisters are very young and do not have the experience that comes with years. Keeping your inexperience in mind, I've preached to you very much, asking you to place your confidence in the providence of God and not in creatures. Now, daughter, I repeat again to you, please God our Lord and expect everything from Him and you'll have everything. Place your confidence in men and you'll do nothing good. It's something like taking hold of a cloud which only vanishes. Oh, poor Margarita! Face reality before suffering the bitter lesson of experience. Above all, give yourself entirely to God and do not offend Him. Place your confidence in God our Lord and He will give you the means to build the house for your Father (*Mother Luisita is referring to the chapel which was built in 1935 at Santa Teresita in Duarte, California*). Perhaps this will happen in a way you would never expect, as it happened to us in Long Beach. People whom we had never met gave us money when we least expected it. It proved once again that Our Lord is the One Who does everything. May He be blessed! I have always placed all in the hands of God and I have been successful.

It's only natural that you dream of Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) and me, since we're the two persons who love you the most in this world and have a greater interest in you. Nevertheless, don't let these dreams impress you. Avail yourself of them and pray for us.

Our family and I've been well, thanks be to God! The sickness has already passed. Chayito (*Sister Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) had the flu and Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) had pneumonia, besides her many other afflictions, but she is better now. Both she and Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) are working with the girls. They still have a job, but rumor has it that they may lose it. Pray very much to the Sacred Heart that they will be able to continue their work, for it's been difficult to get the license for the school and that Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Martinez*) will be able to work. Until I write to Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) tell her that I approve of your plans regarding Mary of Jesus (*Mary of Jesus Tadeo, a postulant who left the Congregation*) until you are positive of her good will. As soon as I finished this, your letter arrived and the money you sent for the material. I'm adding a few lines regarding what you said.

You are beginning to suffer in a direct manner in your new responsibilities. Don't be afraid. These small unpleasant things happen everywhere, and we must see everything with serenity in order to be able to solve the problems because you'll not be able to do anything if you are disturbed.

As you might remember, when I was there I was telling you that it's very necessary to build a wall or plant a hedge which would divide the house from the street. This is indispensable even if you put it up with wire if that's all you can afford. It's also necessary to have a gate with a lock and keep the key at hand. It's very important to secure this house.

Today, the sixteenth of December, I'm finishing this letter.

Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*), as

always, is manifesting the soul of a great woman. We see her happy, joyful, daring, taking care of her daughters living in the same house with her, together with the children who are very mortified in the midst of privations and difficulties. They look very happy, blessed be God! I gave your message to Socorro, and she said that she'll write to you.

Your mother took the \$80.00 (pesos) to give to Mr. Orozco. She was going to ask him for a receipt and then we'll mail it to you.

Greetings to all my daughters, Mr. Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*), Mr. Ott (*Father Francis Ott*), and Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*). God bless you.

Maria

Letter 218
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, December 24, 1932
Ave. Vallarta 1013

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles

A very blessed Christmas! **May the Divine Infant live in your soul, my beloved daughter.**

I received your kind letter, having already received your previous one. May Our Lord reward the joy you give to me through them.

Don't worry about my situation. Really, I couldn't be better because it was Our Lord Who has placed us in this position, and believe me, I'm happy and feeling much better. It's just that I have a lot to think about because I want my daughters to find some work in order to support themselves and so I just keep thinking and thinking.

The school in Tapalpa did not materialize. Permission was not granted, and therefore, Teresita isn't going to work there. So, I'm sending her (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) and Maria de C. (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) to Mexico City. Someone gave Maria de C. a ticket to

see an optometrist because she is getting pricks in her eyes. Her family lives in Mexico City and her sisters work in a public school there. What we're hoping is that they'll be able to get permission for us to open a school there. I'm going to use the permission of grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) to stay in the Villa (*housing available on the grounds of the basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe*) but my mother "Pepa" ("*Josefa*"--*Mother Luisita is referring to herself*) wants him to give it to me in writing, just to be sure. You try to get it soon for us because it seems that opportunities opening up--the ticket that Maria's family gave us out of their desire for their daughter's eyes to get well again, friends who are public school teachers there, the new school year just about to begin, and the sisters already prepared since they were ready to go to Tapalpa. Now, they are ready to go to Mexico City. It's urgent that we find work because we're extremely poor.

I think it was fine for you to receive the little *Americanita* (*American girl*). The classes she can give will be very useful to you. Still, you'll have to be very careful with your family (*the sisters*) so that there will not be any familiarity with the girl. They must keep their distance because it's very delicate matter to mix with strangers, and I think you are obligated before God to preserve the beautiful original spirit of that family.

How was your Christmas? Ours, thanks be to God, went very well. My daughters had dinner at midnight (*Midnight Mass*) and continued feasting. They were very happy. I'm very grateful for your prayers for Salvador (*Mother Luisita's brother*), and he thanks you also. He's all right now, blessed be God!

Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) is always with her family. I hardly ever see her. She almost never goes out anymore (*after spending five days in jail*), and I haven't gone over to see her since she became sick. Still, I believe that everything happens for a purpose. She only goes out when it's absolutely necessary. Remember that she has to wash and iron to help make ends meet. She has so many children now! There are nine other people in the house besides her, and naturally the bills pile up. What I am afraid of, though, is that she might have a relapse. Pray to God that won't happen, and that she will be spared

from that terrible sickness. In addition, there's always the danger that her daughters would also get infected. (*Mother Luisita is referring to the possibility of the sisters being jailed again.*)

I just finished this letter on the twenty-sixth. Good-bye my daughter, and may Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you.

Your mother "Pepa" ("*Josefa*"--*Mother Luisita is referring to herself*) wants two little books like the ones that Father Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) sent. I hope you can get them for her.

Maria Toledo

Letter 219
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Madre (*Mother*) Carmelita,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul.

How have you been, my daughter? As for myself, my albumin count has gone even higher. God Who loves us so much has permitted this to happen and so that's what is best for me. Blessed be God!

If would be great if the property of Sister Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa who later changed her name to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin of Porres*) could be sold at the price that Jose suggests. If the brother-in-law doesn't buy it, perhaps Jose can tell us who could. It's urgent to settle that business.

How is Sister Maria del Refugio (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*)? See to it that she lacks nothing and suggest to the Sisters that when they go into the patients' quarters to bring a little something for them--the night before they could prepare some cinnamon tea or *atole* (*a hot gruel-drink made by boiling Indian corn, or maize, in water or milk*) and in the morning they can just heat it up. Take care, also, that breakfast is taken no later than 8 o'clock.

I know that Sister Guadalupe, unconsciously, is too frank with the doctors and those who are with them, and this will not always be liked or accepted by them. She is very sincere and simple, but she has to be constantly reminded to share with the others only what is strictly necessary. When you remind her, do so in a manner that wouldn't embarrass her so that she won't turn around and do just the opposite.

Write directly to Mr. Perfecto Rodriguez and insist about the arrangement of his sister's dowry and the interest, and ask Tona, her daughter, and Secundina as well, to all intercede with Mr. Rodriguez on our behalf.

How are you doing in the school? Has the inspector been there yet? Has Maria de Cristo (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) had any recurrence of her headaches?

Write to Miss Macedonia informing her in my name that, God willing, Sisters Maria and Christina (*Sister Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez*) will be taking the habit on the second of February. I'm hoping that they will be able to find some people to help pay the cost of their habits because we have no money. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1932. Christina Gonzalez Gutierrez (Sister Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez) took the habit that year. (Book of Admissions and Professions, p.6, #72)

Letter 220
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Carmela.

My beloved daughter,

How happy I am to greet you and to take advantage of this opportunity of placing your letter into such safe hands.

How is everyone? Especially, how is Carmelita (*Mother Carmen herself*)? That all of you may remain well in both soul and body is my ardent desire--that you continue serving God our Lord with joy and preparing yourselves to receive the Divine Infant to Whom we should be so grateful and love so much. It was on this very feast that He gave us the house in which we have been so happy and have received so many graces. Give thanks to Him for me because I owe Him so very much.

Dr. Alvarez saw Sor Maria del Refugio (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) and he says she is better, even though she is still very sick. We'll have to help her rest. Take her out to the orchard to breathe fresh air. May she be happy! *Pobrecita!*

You did right to use that money for dresses. They needed them badly. Let's bless our good God for allowing us feel such poverty.

You may study at night as you suggest, but only until 10:00 p.m. and then take some nourishment and phosphate and a cup of orange tea leaves when you go to bed.

There's a rumor that the private schools are going to be in a lot of trouble. We have to be on the alert and should not sign anything without consulting first.

We're making the arrangements, after all, for a school in Tapalpa. Perhaps the sisters will be leaving either this coming week or by the following week at the latest. Pray for its success.

Don't forget to write to the United States. Try to keep the communication open, but use prudence because we think the mail is probably being censored. Don't write anything at all that hints of our vocation as religious sisters. At the same time, it's imperative that we all try to maintain our unity, and that goes for the local houses, too. I haven't noticed that your daughters like it when you share my letters with them. You can read them any portion of my letter that you think is prudent, or share with them how I am doing, and to give them expressions of love. It's also fine for you to share things you'll learn through other persons.

I am still with Concha, my sister, and thanks be to God, I'm feeling a little better. I don't write to you more often because I don't want the employees to notice too much mail. Let it be for God!

Did the following people give their monthly payments: Maria de los Angeles' (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) mother, Heliodoro Gonzalez, Ines's (*Sister Ines of Jesus Gonzalez*) brother, and Don Perfecto Rodriguez? What's happened with Francisca's (*Sister Francisca Teresa who changed her name to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) property? Now that it's harvest time it should be easier for someone to buy it.

Mr. Anaya (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) doesn't want the sisters to go alone to visit the homes. He wants two sisters to always go together. Try to put.....
(*Letter unfinished*)

(*no signature*)

Approximate date: 1932.

Letter 221
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)
Miss Carmen Chavez

My dear daughter, Carmelita,

It seems very strange to me that I haven't received a letter from any of you. What has happened to you? How are you feeling? I'm worried.

Lola Huerta was here yesterday. She told me that next Saturday she's going over to spend a few days with you. She said that her father won't allow her to be in any other place, only with you (*sisters*). See to it that she is well received. She could stay in Teresa's (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) room and you could ask some friends to pick her up and take her to see the orchards, to Chichimeco and to Los Altos where she can enjoy the beautiful view. Do the best you can. She isn't a city girl and loves the

countryside. Take her to see the sugar cane fields. She could watch the processing of sugar cane and also visit any other place you can think she might enjoy. I hope that little Leonor (*Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ Cervantes*), who already knows her, could go pick her up at the station. My regards to each of my daughters, and may Our Lord bless them.

Josefa

P.S. Send the letter to D. Guadalupe soon.

Approximate date: 1932. Leonor Junior entered the Congregation in 1934 and was given the name of Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ.

Letter 222
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

(no date)

For Elenita.

My dear daughter,

I think you can write in this house. Everything is kind of hidden. You can bring a book and when you finish it, another, and in order not to have lots of papers out of place, a desk can be brought.

You and Cuca (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) will be able to come over when it gets dark. Have your supper before you come, and tell Trinita (*Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) to send us breakfast and supper every day. Lunch is offered here.

Bring the life of our Mother Saint Teresa with you. You can send the meditation book to Marianita's (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) house. For that house, bring the one they have over there. Over here, Refugio will provide.

If you are embarrassed to come through the front of the house, you can enter through the side door and bring your few clothes through

there also because we'll be in the room that Fernando was occupying. There's a place to wash the clothes and an electric iron, so our clothes will be taken care of.

Bring all the letters I have around there. Don't be leaving behind any papers that we wouldn't want anyone else to read.

Let them begin the novena to St. Ignatius tomorrow, asking for his help for this family (*community*).

Tell Trini and Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) to inform me of anything they observe or anything that happens.

How are the children (*novices and postulants*) doing? My regards to all the family (*community*).

Maria

Letter 223

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

(no date)

For Josefina.

How much I appreciate all of your letters, and I hope you would be able to write to me more frequently.

My daughter, I think you need a scolding. What's the reason for so many tears and such sadness? Examine yourself well so that you will be able to discover the origin of that depression you are experiencing. If you want to come over, you may do it. If you can't hold out until July, come over with someone now. You are harming yourself with this life of tears and sadness which you've adopted. I think that the time is coming and probably in the near future that you'll live to regret it. And you'll lament over it, but then it will be too late.

Toribio (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) advises me not to bring anyone [over to the United States]. Now, isn't that wonderful! If I didn't have so many pending problems, if I didn't have the responsibility of spending some time with my family (*community*) [over here], I would

have gone back already. I'm only here because it's the will of God, and for that reason I have to be happy about it. Following my own inclinations, I would have gone back a long time ago, and perhaps I'll have to return if God arranges things in that way.

I'd like you to go to Loyola (*the Jesuit community*)--to the confessional. The priest will be happy to help you find peace.

When I see little toys, I remember Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and you and want to send you some [for the orphanage]. When I return I'll take a few and then you can go and wait for me at the station and prepare some "tamalitos" (*a Mexican dish made of maza or corn and some meat*) for me, but make them very tasty!

Get busy in the little garden and orchard. Don't neglect them. Doesn't the gardener help you with the planting anymore? How is the peach tree coming along? Did it take? Ask for some little trees over in Chino and remember to plant fig and pomegranate trees, and a lemon tree as well.

May you be happy.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1932. (Mother Luisita visited the United States, accompanied by Sister Elena of the Cross from May to August of 1932. Chronicle, p. 93)

Letter 224

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, February 9

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles

My beloved daughter,

After greeting you, I want to thank you and the rest of my daughters for the help you sent to us. We have received the \$70.00 (pesos). May God our Lord reward you especially because we all know that

you've earned that money with much sacrifice, even to the point of exposing yourselves to infection and the possibility of death from that disease (*tuberculosis*).

We place at your disposal another new member of Socorro's family (*a newly-professed sister who is just leaving the novitiate*). Her name is Amparo de los Angeles C. (*Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez*). She is a pretty girl, and you'll grow to love her as you know her.

Give grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) little presents whenever you are able. *Pobrecito!* He's aged so much and he is so sick. Make him feel happy to be up there with you.

As I want to send this letter out soon, I'll finish it right here, so for the time being I don't have anything else to say.

Good-bye, and pray for this poor mother of yours who loves you so very much.

Josefa

Date: 1932. (Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez entered the Community in July, 1931. She received the Holy Habit in February, 1932. Book of Admissions and Professions.)

Letter 225

Mother Maria of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia

(no date)

For Maria de Jesus.

As I was reading your letter I sensed that you are becoming preoccupied thinking about your illness. Don't be foolish, daughter. You're going to get well. Begin a novena to the Infant of Prague, today--nine days of whatever you would like. Let's say, for example, nine days of Holy Communion. His feast is on the twenty-fifth of this month, and you'll see how He grants you your good health. We're going to make the novena with

you, in community, for your intentions. Rid yourself of those tears and nerves. The only thing they are good for is to destroy you by making you even sicker than what you are, and that would be very harmful to you. Let me know how you progress.

Are your *angelitos* (*little angels--her school children*) getting alone fine? Love them very much, poor little ones.

You make me laugh very much with your letters. You still have your good humor. It's only that your last letter sounded rather sad.

Yesterday I went to see Dr. Gomez. I was remembering you because you've gone so very many times to see him. There's something wrong with my nose, also. That's why I had to go to that particular doctor.

May this new year be very fertile in graces for heaven.

Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1932.

Letter 226

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

Los Angeles, June 13

Miss Maria del Refugio Navarro

My very beloved daughter,

God's peace!

What a great consolation it was for me to receive your letter. May God our Lord reward you. I was a little worried because I hadn't heard anything from you, but thanks be to God, I can see that you feeling better now. Blessed be God! Now, don't you be worrying or concerning yourself about anything. That would be harmful to you. Those with your kind of illness, for I can see the patients over here (*at Santa Teresita Sanatorium in Duarte, California*), need peace

and tranquility of both soul and body. You can get well. Worrying and fretting will only give you a setback in your recovery. **Knowing this, try to overcome everything. Don't pay attention to anything that will make you suffer or preoccupy your thoughts. Abandon yourself totally to the will of God. Try to distract yourself from your illness and be at peace.**

Some of your sisters are going to take advantage of Tapalpa's beautiful climate by spending their vacation there. People suffering from lung diseases have recovered perfectly in Tapalpa. Perhaps just being there among the many pine trees and breathing all that pure fresh air so high in the Sierras helps their lungs become stronger. Very well, then. Would you like to go?

I would really like the children to come here--the ones you were telling me about. You know and understand how much I love the people from that unforgettable town (*Atotonilco*) so dear to me. Tell them I'll try everything I can for them to be accepted here. Let them talk to Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*). I hope to visit you just as soon as the examinations are over or when I return there, which I hope will not be delayed.

I had a recurrence of bronchitis. The truth is the I'm very *casca* (*broken, infirm*) because I'm so old already. **Let's bless our Lord in everything. Let's be very submissive to His divine will.**

My respects to Mr. Morales (*Father Morales, pastor of Guadalupe Chapel in Jalisco, Mexico*) and tell him that I'm commending myself to his prayers.

May Jesus bless you, daughter. Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1932. (Letter of Mother Luisita dated April 24, 1932)

Letter 227
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Sister Maria del Refugio,

May God our Lord be with you!

It gives me such great joy to know that you are both well and happy. I had expected that would happen while taking care of that family. Blessed be God! He has poured out His infinite mercy abundantly upon us, His poor daughters. Let's love Him with all our souls and ask Him for fidelity no matter how many tribulations He deigns to send us.

Affectionate greetings to the family (*community*) whom I love so much, and I'm really sorry for not having been able to greet Lupe yesterday.

I am well, blessed be God.

I recommend that you pray very much. Good-bye, daughter. Be good.

Luisa

Approximate date: 1932.

Letter 228
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in the soul of my beloved daughter, Sister Refugio.

It hasn't been possible for me to write to you, daughter, but it's because I just don't give myself the time to do it. Forgive me.

My heartfelt desire for you is this--I'm asking our good God to send abundant graces from heaven into your soul tomorrow, your feastday. May God our Lord give you peace of soul. Try to spend your day very happily. Get rid of all those preoccupations that will only harm and disturb you.

I wish that I could see you and that you could start working again with a group of children in the school, and then just see how happy you will be!

It's already time to mail this, and I want to send it out right away.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Good-bye, my daughter. Be happy.

Maria Luisa Josefa del Santisimo Sacramento, C.D.T.

Approximate date: 1932.

Letter 229

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(no date)

For Maria del Refugio.

My very dear daughter,

God's peace! From the bottom of my heart, I'm asking Him to give His peace to you.

You give me great joy by telling me you are better. Blessed be God! Just see how well you are going to be!

Many children have already gone home well from Santa Teresita [Sanatorium]. Complete rest, good meals, fresh air and no problems to think about is good for them. Pray to God that He gives us a house in Tapalpa, so that you will be able to go there and breathe in the fresh air and the scent of the pine trees.

I'd like to see you and for you to spend a little time with me. May God our Lord grant me that grace.

I passed (*crossed the border*) via El Paso and I wanted to see Brothers Guadalupe and Carlos (*Sister Refugio's brother, Father Guadalupe Navarro S.J. was a novice and lived near the border*), but it wasn't possible. We don't get everything we want in this life.

Good-bye, daughter. May you continue improving and may we see each other soon.

Maria

Approximate date: 1932. (In 1932 Mother Luisita visited the United States and she is referring in this letter to the girls who were recovering from T.B. at Santa Teresita Sanatorium in Duarte, California.)

Letter 230

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(no date)

For Cuquita.

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with a mother's love, and wishing that your health continue to improve. I'm so happy you are already in your house, and now I'm going to give you a few little rules used over here (*Mother Luisita was staying with the sisters in the United States at Santa Teresita Sanatorium in Duarte, California*) for that kind of illness, and you are going to obey me--Don't worry. Try not to get excited about anything for that will be very harmful to you. Much hygiene. Take a simple bath only twice a week using lukewarm water. Don't stay too long in the sun, but remain in the sun just long enough. Use paper towels for your handkerchiefs and burn them the same day you use them. You'll need to put them in sawdust so they'll burn well. When you have to expectorate, do so into little boxes of wax paper which you yourself can make, and always cover your mouth with the paper towels as you cough. I want you to go over to Chabelita's (*Isabel*) house so that you will be able to live in a very good climate. Drink hot milk and I'm hoping that they can give you donkey's milk in addition to cow's milk. Just remain over there so you won't be having any sad thoughts as you did in the Chapel (*the town of Guadalupe Chapel*).

Did you receive my letter yet? I addressed it to the Chapel right after you wrote me, and I wrote about the little girls that want to

enter our boarding house (*novitiate*). I'm very willing to accept them, and when I go over there, we'll arrange it. Now that the new school year is beginning, tell Mr. Morales (*Father Morales was the pastor in Guadalupe Chapel during the time that Sister Refugio stayed there for health reasons*) about that, and please greet him for me.

I'm hoping to go there soon because I'm worried about you all. The schools are opening early, and I need to arrange the places (*assignments*) for the girls (*sisters*).

I finished my retreat last Thursday and was very happy. I almost forgot to tell you not to kneel down because that posture is very harmful [for those with that particular illness].

As I go through (*cross the border through*) El Paso, if possible, I'll try to see Brother Guadalupe (*Father Guadalupe Navarro, S.J., the brother of Sister Refugio*).

Give my regards to all my daughters. Good-bye.

Josefa

P.S. We have a lot of work to do. Please pray for us [so that Our Lord] will help us to do it and still remain very observant, besides. My affectionate regards to the sisters and tell them that the next letter will be for them. Good-bye. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria Luisa J. del Santisimo Sacramento, C.D.T.

Approximate date: 1931.

Letter 231

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito,

You've done nothing which would be a reason for you to worry. It's your state of mind which is causing you to see everything through a magnifying glass. Don't worry, and be at peace; it's only natural for you to cry, but that's not a sin.

Father Urdanivia (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) told me that he thinks it will be good for you to go to Mexico City. Lupe Castaneda leaves tomorrow and I'd like very much for you to go with her on the train and stay at Carmen Romo's or with Lupe Lomeli while Maria de C. (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) gets there which should be very soon. I'm not saying she will leave tomorrow, but as soon as she can, in order to fix the little house in Mexico City.

I know that you want to get out of that house. Why? Be frank with me.

Good-bye, my daughter.

Maria

Approximate Date: 1932. (At the end of 1932 Mother Luisita began preparations for the foundation in Mexico City.)

Letter 232
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito:

I'm enclosing the answer from *papacito* ("our dear father", i.e., *God our Father*) so that you may read it and then remain very serene while awaiting God's will. In the meantime, be at peace placing yourself in the hands of God and offering acts of confidence in His Divine Majesty. Be like a servant watching for the master to make known his desires in order to carry them out. Don't be afraid. We shouldn't pay too much attention to our nerves, but keep them under control, and with the utmost calmness, totally ignore them. Still, it would help you to see the doctor so that he can prescribe something to get rid of the bile and some tonic to restore your strength.

If you sense any danger for the children (*novices and postulants*) as I see it for the girls (*sisters*), move with both of them to the second floor of Don Gregorio's house. Let Cecilia go too, until such time as the gentleman decides what should be done. You need to take

every precaution-- much prudence. Let the children go with Don Gregorio's children, first one and then the other. You will be able to go at night when no one is outside. Let Maria go with you. Once there, don't come out of the house, and don't chant or pray out loud.

(no signature)

Approximate Date: 1932. (Mother Luisita possibly insisted on so many precautions in this letter because five sisters had been taken to jail in 1932, and one of them was Mother Socorro. (Chronicle, p. 96+)

Letter 233
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito,

After greeting you, I want first of all to give you the good news that today our papa, Abundio, (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) gave his permission for Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) to get married. She may begin her retreat tomorrow and on Monday the twenty-first, the wedding (*Profession of Vows*) may take place. We'll soon know which priest will witness it. On second thought, let it take place on Sunday during Mass.

He also authorized the formation of another group with an assistant for you so no one may lose employment. Tomorrow there will be a meeting with Maria de C. (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) presiding. They'll take Beatriz (*Mother Beatriz of Jesus Ochoa Lopez*) to substitute for Guadalupe Teresa. Have everything ready.

Mary of the Holy Spirit's (*Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit Ruiz*) mother has passed away. Write to her offering your condolences and have the triduum of prayers for the repose of her soul.

Maria de C. will go and advise her of the customs and devotions you do so she will be able to do the same.

I'll try to see that either a Jesuit Priest or Pastor Huerta (*Father Eduardo Huerta, pastor in Atotonilco*) goes, although I don't know if I'll be able to get either one.

Good-bye. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

Maria

Probable date: 1932. (Profession of Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco was on November 21, 1932. Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 6.)

Letter 234

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorro,

I've been very worried about you. Have you already moved? Are you happy and is the little house all right? Tell me every detail of how the house is set up and about your new neighborhood, also. Last night I couldn't sleep thinking about such a large family. Now I'm anxious to transfer Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*), and I'm determined to look for a little house downtown for all of you to live. Perhaps a family could live with you. Let's ask Our Lord.

Please tell Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) not to let anyone know why I told her aunt she was not going to go. Also ask her not even to mention Advent or Mr. Anaya (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) or myself. Nothing that would even hint of community because I don't trust some of the employees you have, nor their families or friends. Work to the contrary--as if there were no community any longer. This entire business also worries me very much.

I'm also ready to move into another house, but you can send still your messages to this address and from here they will forward them to me.

In what parish are you now? Is Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the*

Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez) really that fearful? Have you learned anything about the sons of Ignatius (*the Jesuits*)? Have any of them written to you? Let it be all for God!

Try to confide in me as things come up; otherwise, your keeping quiet will be detrimental to your health.

I've just learned that there were ill feelings with Carmen Teresa's transfer. Is that true? How did this happen because she didn't leave after all. Tell me everything.

Maria

Approximate Date: 1932. (Testimony of Mother Rosa Maria of the Incarnation Hernandez)

Letter 235

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito,

I praise Our Lord because I'm so glad you are happy and with your daughters. Now I'm sending Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*) who will be the last one I can send you until Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) gets married (*makes profession of vows*). After that she'll be able to go and substitute for Beatriz (*Mother Beatriz of Jesus Ochoa Lopez*).

Instruct the family to notice very carefully if anyone seems to be lingering outside or observing the house because at the least sign of danger I want you out of there. Don't let them find you by remaining there.

I think that Mariquita or her son can inform Father Huerta (*Father Eduardo Huerta*), in my name, that you are there in that house and it will be up to him to dispense you from attending Holy Mass on feastdays or to make arrangements for a priest to go there to celebrate, staying over night with the family. If he is able to celebrate Mass for our intention, it can be in thanksgiving to God for protecting us in the face of so many and such great dangers. I'll

send you the two pesos (*stipend*).

I repeat for you to eat and sleep well. Don't stay up late. Go to sleep at 9 p.m.

I sent word to Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) letting him know of your address. I notified him myself, directly; otherwise, he will think there's no head in our family. If he comes to visit you, please tell him that I asked you to inquire about the copybook and papers that we sent to him. I think you took them, didn't you? Please ask him if he liked them and if we may already pick them up.

Stop that nonsense, and don't worry about anything. Think of useful things, get some recreation and above all, abandon yourself into the hands of God.

Good-bye.

Maria

Date: 1932. (See reference in letter #230.)

Letter 236

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito

My beloved daughter,

Pobrecita! I haven't answered you because I was waiting for a time when I could do so slowly. Did Tomas (*Father Tomas Ramirez, S.J.*) come up with a solution? I'm a little concerned.

My daughter, don't worry about facing a lifetime of humiliations. Rather, thank God infinitely for choosing you to follow Him in this manner since you aren't worthy of such an honor. Let's praise Him in everything because all that happens is for our own good. Try to fulfill your duties the best you can and for God alone and always remain happy and serene in all the vicissitudes of life.

What do your little doves (*novices*) have to say? Feed them well. They are so beautiful and deserve the utmost care. See to it that Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) goes to visit them once in a while because he knows exactly what will help them most. Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) was happy to learn that Albert will be seeing them and he thinks that's just fine. You can tell how much he trusts Alberto.

Only God knows what is going to happen to me. The weather is so cold that it even goes to my bones, but let everything be according to God's will.

Write long letters to me as often as you are able. Your letters make me very happy. You have my permission to do for the Holy Spirit whatever Tomas permits you to do.

Pray for me very much because I'm encountering difficulties which I did not foresee, although I trust that they will be overcome with the help of Our Lord Who alone can help me.

Take care of your health. Taking a bath and exercising will help your sadness to go away.

Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you. Please give my affectionate greetings to my daughters and tell them I greatly appreciated their letters which I shall answer little by little. Tell Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) that the recommended young girl she is telling me about can be accepted; of course, taking into consideration the regulations and such, but not the money, though.

Maria Luisa

Letter 237

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Dear daughter of mine, Socorrito,

Josefa just arrived and she tells me of the difficulties they're experiencing. Let it be for God. You'll be able to go out to look for a

house wherever you can find it. I leave you free to decide. Teresita Estrada is willing to let us borrow the big house with an orchard, but it's very far away in a neighborhood I don't like, and we would have to wait a month or two because she has current tenants. On Morelos Street there are two big houses, as well as a small one behind San Miguel, and another one a little farther which I think would suit you and your family. It belongs to Gonzalo Orozco and they are asking \$40.00. Ask Adelaida to take two lay persons with her instead of you so nobody will see you and you won't be in any danger. After all is said and done, do what you can. Let Teresita Estrada accompany you or her niece, or some other lay person. Leave at 6:00 a.m. and then spend the day either with the ones (*sisters*) in the school, with Tona, or here. Have your breakfast at Tona's or here, but if Adelaida invites you to eat, accept and come afterwards.

I overlooked sending you five more pesos from Andrea's father, so that makes twenty-five pesos that belong to her. You do everything for her. Don't send the money.

Let Delfina run the errands and I wish she could do the *nixtamal* (*corn half-cooked in lime water to make tortillas*) at her house.

Don't come after all. Just write to me and I'll answer you. I'll also send you the answer from papa "A" (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*). You'll have to see what to do, and maybe it would be good if Conchita consults with Father "H" (*Father Eduardo Huerta*) telling him how many they are and if he would excuse the "M" (*Mass*) or you can go and ask him yourself.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1932. (The situation discussed in this letter is a continuation of the previous letters.)

Letter 238
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorro

My beloved daughter,

I know that you'll be very happy when you read what I'm going to tell you. I asked grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) if he would give us permission to have a little house in the Villa (*in Mexico City near the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe*), and he said yes. He did say for us to wait a little while, but since he said this a little time has already passed. In case my Uncle Abundio (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) gives you permission to go to Mexico City, I give you the permission also. It's just for a few days, anyway. Take Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) with you and pray that our Blessed Mother will cure her. Take someone else, also, but have a raffle and whoever wins, goes. Of course, only if you can get passes as you mentioned in your last letter. This opportunity could be used to look at houses to find out how much they cost and in what way we could work to be able to support ourselves there. Go to Mr. Diaz and find out from him. Also ask Vincente. Since he lives there, he might know whether it would be possible or not. Ask Toribio (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) what he thinks about it. **The situation has become very serious and it looks very difficult, but if our Blessed Mother helps us, it will be easy.**

Now, don't you worry. As you know, worrying never accomplishes any good. Think of something that will be helpful to you, instead, and don't be foolish.

Inform Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*), Maria Ana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) and Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*), in my name, about the trip to Mexico City and that I want part of the family to go.

I hope I can go with you. May God our Lord grant my wish.

Good-bye. My regards to the family (*the sisters*) and tell them I'm hoping to write to them.

Josefa

Possible Date: 1932. (This year the foundation in Mexico City was begun. Chronicle, p. 103.)

Letter 239

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez
J.M. + J.T

(no date)

My beloved daughter, Socorrito,

With all my affection in Our Lord I greet you and my other daughters, wishing all of you from the bottom of my heart, the peace of God.

Try to see to it that everything concerning the oratory will be in agreement with the pastor and put yourself at his service by means of a letter, or let Maria Estella go in your name to thank him for celebrating the Mass for you on the twenty-fourth. The same to the priest who will be celebrating, always making sure you have the permission of the pastor.

I'm very happy you received the present of the "*bunuelos*" (*Christmas pastry*). You, in turn, give them a little something.

I'll see how I can acquire some money to send you. I don't think we could be poorer. Blessed be God!

I'll write to you a little longer at a later time, and I'll also send your raffle ticket.

Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) and Maria de C. (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) left for Mexico City yesterday. **Pray that everything will happen according to God' will.**

Regarding the Mass, don't specify any time because that would be more costly--just have it celebrated at a convenient hour for them.

Has it already been a complete month since you've been sewing for the Merced (*a parish church*)? Let's hope that by the first they will

send you whatever they can.

Good-bye daughter. May Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Approximate date: 1932. (The foundation of Mexico City was begun at the end of 1932. Chronicle, p.103.)

Letter 240
Sister Soledad of Saint Teresa Valle Ibarra

J.M.+J.T.

(no date)

Sister Maria de la Soledad

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul, my beloved daughter.

I bless God our Lord for having given us the means for you to receive the medical attention you need, so you can get well. I bless Him, also, for having given you the strength to undergo the surgery. How good our God is! He is always "on the lookout" regarding [the needs of] these, His poor daughters. You should try to eat and sleep well and be happy in whatever circumstances God is permitting for you, accepting joyfully your illness as well as the other happenings in your life, as the holy will of God. Make your sisters happy at recreation, acting as a submissive daughter would, seeing God in everything that happens to you.

God willing, I'll soon have the pleasure of seeing all of you at the Sisters' profession ceremony, which will be held two months from today. Time passes very rapidly. When I go, I'll be so happy to see the gardens, that is, the gardens of your souls, and the flowers that you are fixing for the occasion, too! Being over there with you sisters and helping you in whatever little way I can will be a great consolation for me.

Thanks be to God, I'm well in spite of the very cold weather we're undergoing, and you know how bad this cold weather is for me.

God is life. There is no doubt. My fingers are swollen and spotted, and I'm told it is because of the cold temperature.

Josefa

Letter 241

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

October, 1932

Margarita, what a joy to receive your letter!

Conchita (*Mother Margarita Maria's mother*) brought it to me immediately. She is so good to me and never evades any work on our behalf. May God our Lord repay her. She is well, and so are Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) and Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*). Conchita received your letter.

With much pleasure we thank you for the gift you are going to send us. It is an inspiration from God our Lord. We have had so many expenses and so much sickness among the girls (*sisters*) and now we're urgently in need of essential things. Of course, I approve Conchita taking care of the check. She knows about that already.

Don't be a foolish little girl, my daughter, and don't be worrying because you are the head of the house (*Mother Margarita had been appointed local superior in Duarte, California*). God our Lord will help you and you have the great support of Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*), which is the main thing. I can only tell you what I've read: That to pray is to govern. Also, that the characteristic virtues of a good superior are prudence, vigilance, and, I would add, abnegation and humility. In fact, a multitude of virtues because patience is indispensable.

Thanks be to God, the little girls are well, according to medical opinion. I would be delighted to send them to you immediately, if the trip were not so costly. We simply don't have the money. On the contrary, we have debts. May it be for the love of God. I thank God for the improvement you made in that house. It was urgent to do what you did. Good-bye, daughter, and pray for us.

Maria

Letter 242

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

October, 1932

My very beloved daughter, Margie,

I greet you with all affection. I had the joy of receiving your last letter dated the seventh of the current month. Maybe we'll have to suffer many little things to obtain the graces we wish so very much. As St. Ignatius, the martyr, said, "The wheat needs to be ground before it becomes altar bread." Let's praise our good God in everything that happens to us and pray that we'll never commit sin. Read the letter that I wrote to Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and do as I've indicated in it. Be calm and act with serenity after you've prayed and sought the advice of Father Ring.

Because I want to mail this letter today, I'm closing now. From Guadalajara, I'll write to you more extensively.

Good-bye. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 243
Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez

(no date)

For Margarita.

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with much love, hoping that you are well. For the reasons that you mentioned in your last letter, I see that it's impossible for you to come and that you aren't able to send Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) either. Let it be for God! Kindly send me the details so that I can forward this information to grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) as soon as possible.

Yesterday, the seventeenth, one of Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) daughters was married (*Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman*). Tell Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and the rest of the family (*community*) so that they can pray for her that she be a good wife. Better for her that she die than to become unfaithful to her Spouse!

I hope that you'll use some of the money you told me about to pay for that house. God our Lord will not leave you alone. He will provide.

Regarding the removal of those patients, may everything come out according to God's will. He'll dispose of everything for our good and no one will know the reason for their removal. **We have to detach ourselves a little, trust in God alone, and do God's holy will with joy.**

My eyes are better, blessed be God! In the morning I wake up with a very swollen face. That same rice must be causing this swelling.

I wrote to Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) asking her to send the regulations she is using in the novitiate here. Ignatius's sons (*Jesuit priests*) helped her with them because this type of thing is difficult to put into writing. I hope you'll receive them soon and that they'll help you take care of the girls (*postulants and novices*) up there. May God our Lord bless you and please pray for me.

Maria

Approximate date: 1932. (Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face professed on March 28, 1932)

Letter 244

Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino

(no date)

Trini, my daughter,

With great joy I greet you, hoping that you are well and happy.

Your letter arrived. I thank you for it, and I'd like very much for you to continue writing to me.

How happy I'm that you are already in your house with your family (*with the other sisters in a religious house in community*) because to be in some one else's home is martyrdom (*the sisters had to live in private homes during the religious persecution*). We suffer so much, and despite the fact that we're treated well and lacking in nothing, still, it is better to be with one's own family even if everything is poor there.

It's a good thing that you are working now because you can get some money to cover your expenses and life will become more bearable for you. Work is a good means of becoming happy, both in this life and in the next.

As for myself I can only tell you that, all things considered, I'm a little better. Things are different than before because I'm eating better, getting up at the regular hour, and I'm with the girls (*sisters*) all the time. The swelling in the legs seems to be increasing. Let it be for God! You have to consider that I've already lived many years. Pray for me that I may use my last days well and that I may have a holy death.

My loving regards to all the family (*sisters*) and you, my daughter, receive an embrace from your mother who wishes to see you.

Josefa

Approximate year: 1932. (In 1932 the sisters were dispersed and lived in private homes with various families.)

Letter 245

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

January 5, 1933

My never-forgotten and beloved daughter,

I received the valuable gift that God our Lord sent through you, together with your affectionate letter. May He be blessed! We would

like to give all of you a well-deserved vote of thanks. May God our Lord bless you all. I certainly understand how much you've been suffering from the cold weather. Let's hope that you don't get sick. I repeat, cover yourself as much as you can.

We appreciate what the people of Long Beach did for you at Christmas. Please thank them on my behalf and give them my greetings. **It pleases me very much and is very gratifying to learn that you share gifts among the two families (*between two local communities*). This means that there is unity and that is very good. In this way, you'll draw down the blessing of God. It is necessary for you to try for the family to become inflamed, so to speak, with affection toward their sisters. See that your daughters have this virtue as the distinctive mark of their life and that humility, submission, unity and charity reign in their souls.**

I agree with you that to build the wall at the present time, and under the present circumstances, would be costly and that it would be difficult to meet that expense. We'll have to postpone it for a little while. Above all because you sisters are helping us at least until the month of June with that need we currently have, we would be grateful for any amount of money that you can possibly send. We were behind in the rent and that worried us, but with the money you gave us we paid that debt and were so relieved! Blessed be God! Now we have pending bills for food, in addition, so we would certainly welcome the money.

I hope that you liked the material. Did it arrive in good order? I can imagine how happy you are with your new dresses (*habits*). **How beautiful your little house (*new convent in Duarte, California*) must look conveying at the same time an air of simplicity and austerity, sublimely elevating to the soul and helping each one of you to live entirely for God.**

My health is still improving. Doctor Arechiga says that I'm better than I was before. I'm living with my sister Concha. Socorrito is with her large family of nine. Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) is with her family in a little house they rented. Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) lives in a small apartment within the

Becerra family's home. Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) is with Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) in her brother Antonio's home.

My grandmother (*the condition of the persecuted church*) is better and some believe that she will even get well. Let's hope that her health continues improving. Now we're only missing grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*). Teresita and Mary of C. (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) are in Mexico City, and Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is delighted to be there. She says that when she visited our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe, she felt such happiness at being a Mexican and being in Mexico that she wished to be a man, with one of those sombreros (*Mexican hat*) that end in a high point so she could throw it all the way up to the ceiling of the Basilica crying, "*Viva Mexico!*" ("*Long live Mexico,*") and even "*Viva Juan Diego!*" ("*Long live Juan Diego!*"). She became quite excited and with good reason. May God grant that you also go to that blessed place.

Good-bye, daughter. Be good and stay happy.
My greetings to all my daughters. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria

P.S. Please convey my regards to Mr. Ring and Mr. Callahan.

Letter 246
Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez
Ortega

Guadalajara, January 17, 1933

Miss Jesus Teresa

My beloved daughter,

Now you can freely and truthfully say, "Our Father Who art in heaven." You no longer have anything on this earth that can hinder you. Your affections, goals, and hopes should be focused only in

heaven. Your parents can still see you now and from there [heaven], they love you. Let's bless our good God Who has prepared a place of rest where, as St. Augustine says, united together, we'll love each other and enjoy ourselves! Your parents have arrived there, and sooner or later we'll arrive there, too. Don't doubt it. Your parents are already in heaven, or very close to it. They were very good persons and we're praying for their eternal repose.

My daughter, how are you feeling? Right now, I'm more concerned about you. Take good care of your health. You are aware that it has been quite delicate lately, and you are weak, so please go and see the doctor and do whatever he prescribes for you.

I wish I could be with you in your sorrow, but you know that I'm making your sorrow my own, and I am with you in spirit.

My health is as well as it can be, in spite of my age and aches and pains. I can walk well and I am eating well. I can tolerate tortillas and beans. I am only afraid of the meat. Pray to God that I'll avail myself of this truce that the Lord gives me.

May God our Lord bless you my daughter and may He be your consolation.

Good-bye, and my regards to your mother (*superior*) and sisters.
Maria

Letter 247
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, January 26, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles

My very beloved daughter,

The peace of God be in your soul.

I was anxiously awaiting your letter, hoping that you would send

grandfather's (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) answer. Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is also waiting in Mexico City for my answer so that she can visit my uncle (*Archbishop Pascual Diaz, Archbishop of Mexico City*) and take care of the business of the school. **Now, we must leave everything in the hands of God. If He wants us to live in Mexico City, He will remove all the difficulties.**

I am deeply sorry to learn that you are sick. Please keep me informed on how you are feeling because I am worried. Follow the doctor's orders and obey him. Let it be for God!

Over here we have been well, thanks be to God. Maria de Jesus (*Sister Maria de Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament Garcia*) almost died from what they are calling "malignant chills" but I'm told she is doing better now. She already wrote to me but *la pobrecita* is still in bed.

The girls are all enthused about the upcoming wedding. No doubt we would all be eating turkey at their wedding reception if we could afford it. They are going to get married anyway! Pray for them and for me.

It is a good thing that you'll be spending some time at Santa Teresita (*Santa Teresita Sanatorium in Duarte, California*). The climate will be good for you.

I agree with grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) that Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez's*) family (*the novitiate*) should live here. How could we even think of leaving him? Impossible. He is our father. Give him my regards and tell him we're very anxiously awaiting his return. (*Mother Luisita is referring to the situation of the government not allowing the archbishop to return to Mexico*). I hope he will be able to acquire enough money to return as this is what we're asking of Our Lord. Fortunately, as far as we can see, grandmother (*the religious persecution*) has improved very much. We've had good nights and the girls have been able to go out to work, and as for myself, I'm using this opportunity to spend a few days with Socorro. So, for the time being, we're all right. Please tell this to grandfather in my name and ask him that since he is my

grandfather to bless me.

May God our Lord repay you for all of the help which you've sent to us, the most recent being the \$60.00 (pesos). You can't begin to imagine how useful it's been to us!

My best regards to my family whom I love so much.

Good-bye, my daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 248

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, February 4, 1933

Miss Margarita Hernandez

My beloved and never-forgotten daughter,

I greet you, my daughter, embracing you in the Heart of Jesus. How have you been? I bless Our Lord because Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) is better. Take very good care of her. Thanks be to God, we're well and happy in the new house. It is a comfortable chalet with plenty of ventilation. I think it has fifteen rooms in addition to the kitchen, pantry, and bathrooms. Next month we're going to have another apartment. We're living on one of those very beautiful avenues near the school of the Holy Spirit. Let's bless God our Lord for everything! I am happy that you received the material (*coarse brown material for bedspreads*). How I can imagine the way you decorated your bedrooms! I am happy that you are able to enjoy something that we sisters can't (*traditional Carmelite bedspreads*).

I imagine you've learned through the letter I wrote to Mariquita, that I received the check you sent to purchase a book for Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) and the five dollars to buy something for me. Sisters, don't worry. I lack nothing. I have so many things that it seems to me they haven't stolen anything from us. I'm fine, but that doesn't mean that I don't appreciate how careful you are regarding me personally. May God our Lord repay my good and loving daughters for all that they do for their old mother who loves

them so tenderly. I hear from Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) and Mary of Christ (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) and they are quite well. We'll have a definite answer very soon and I'll let you know. Ask Our Lord to grant us this grace which is so necessary under the present circumstances. In case we do make arrangements for my daughters to work there (*in Mexico City*), I'll have to go with them for a while until they fix up the house. Teresita and Mary are wearing hats because if they wear shawls they will be too noticeable. Nobody wears a shawl in Mexico City anymore, and the ones who do attract too much attention. Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) is in mourning. Her mother died. It would be a good idea for you to write a condolence letter. You can direct your letters to Miss Lola Huerta because Marianita lives close to her with part of the family. The little girls are in the College Oriental, property of Lupita Vazquez (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez was the principal of that school*). The little house is on Jarauta Street, near Teresita's house (*the original convent in Guadalajara, on the same block as the school*). They are able to communicate with one another and that is very convenient. You will be able to also send letters to the school. Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) showed me a picture that you sent to her. We were very happy to see you all so plump and smiling. Everyone is well. Conchita looks fine. Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) and Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) are working. Just imagine, when we were without any money, Conchita lends it to us. I told her that she is our safety deposit box. Blessed be God!

Give my greetings to Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*). Please take very good care of him and tell him that we're all waiting to see him at home. Tell him also everything I've shared with you about the house and Marianita. Greetings to all the family (*religious community*) and to the good gentlemen Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*) and Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*). Good-bye, my daughter. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 249
Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

February 13, 1933

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez

My very beloved daughter,

I had the joy of receiving your affectionate letter. May God our Lord repay you. Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) will tell you how the arrangements have now been made for Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) to have her school. The permission from grandfather is all that's still needed. Uncle Pascal (*Archbishop Pascual Diaz from Mexico City*) says that it would be necessary to have it before we can work in Mexico City. We're very anxious for Teresita to establish herself there because grandmother has become grievously ill (*the religious persecution of the Church is much worse*). We want to change her climate, and in Mexico City there seems to be better means of providing care for her. It appears to me from one moment to the next that she will surely die and that we shall die with her because we are so united. Go immediately with Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*), for the life of you, and get that permission for me. If possible with your own hands drop off a letter at the post office before grandmother dies and we have the regret of not having tried to do the last possible thing for her. Because of what I am telling you (*the condition of the Church*), it is necessary for you to avoid anything which may cause her any commotion. Read the letter you mention, the one grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) wrote to Lorenzo (*Monsignor Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) and give me the points. I'll give them to Lorenzo as messages and they must be exact. To show him the letter would only cause him worry when he sees grandfather's handwriting, and this would be very detrimental.

I'll be sending you the maxim you asked for. Let me know the other things that you had wanted me to do for you, since I've forgotten them and haven't taken care of them yet. On Sunday, the twelfth, there was a party for the girls, Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*), Maria, and Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who subsequently left the Congregation*). Just imagine Amparo (*Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez*

Gutierrez) will be married (*profess her vows*) on the twentieth. If only you could see her! She looks very beautiful and is such a good girl. Where are the new boarding girls (*postulants*)? In Los Angeles or in Duarte? Are they happy? I am very happy that their boarding home (*postulancy*) has prospered. Blessed be God! Are they Mexican or American? I hope that it will be possible for us to at least see them in a picture. I'll send you the regulations for the boarding home very soon. Your former boss, Eduardo (*Father Edward Huerta, pastor in Guadalajara*) came to visit me. He asked for you and I told him that you were the head of the family (*local superior in Duarte, California*). It seems to me that he asked me to give you his greetings.

As always,

(no signature)

Letter 250

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, February 25, 1933

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with all motherly affection, wishing you the very best of everything. Today I happily received your letter together with the money order. God reward all of you! You can imagine how consoling it was for us to receive the permission from Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) for the girls (*sisters*) to go to Mexico City. Both the girls and I wanted that very much. I write such a short letter because grandmother is grievously ill. I've taken note of what you wrote about poor Miss "X" (*a postulant*). So, she isn't happy? All right. I'll talk with Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*). Don't you sisters worry. You've done well in telling me everything.

I haven't gone to Mexico City as I would have liked to do because of the lack of money. I went to the bank to find out if it would be possible to borrow some but I was told that it would be very difficult

to do so at this time. It seems to me that people who formerly were happy to lend money are now in circumstances which are hard to believe, and that they themselves are now very poor. Do you think that you could borrow \$100.00 (dollars) up there? It would convert to about \$400.00 (pesos) here (*because of the foreign exchange*). We must cover the cost of the indispensable items, put the house in order, and provide our transportation expenses, even if we travel second class. At the same time, everything must be set into motion so that the school can open. Please answer me as soon as possible on this matter.

Affectionate greetings to grandfather and to all the family (*sisters*). Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 251
Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Ave. Guatemala No. 117
Mexico, D.F., March 9, 1933

Miss Maria Ana Ramirez

My dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. May all be well with you.

Thanks be to God, all of us arrived safely even though we were a little behind our schedule. The very afternoon of our arrival we had the great joy of visiting our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe, and I prayed with all my heart for all of you. I was very happy. Blessed be God!

My own health isn't so good now. My eyes are quite swollen, but perhaps I'll start feeling better once the weather improves and gets a little warmer.

God is providing financial help as our different needs come up. *Papa grande* (*Archbishop Pascual Diaz, Archbishop of Mexico City*) gave us permission to live here. Now we have to give a month's rent in advance, but the houses here are so expensive! The next

thing will be to furnish it, so I know you'll understand how necessary it is for us to have the money that Antonio gave you. Please send it right away to Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) and give thanks to God that we have the permission to live in this Capital. I'll give you our address later. Right now we have to look for a house.

I am so very glad that you are all well now. Pray to God to help us and give my regards to all the family (*community*).

Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 252

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Mexico, March 15, 1933

Miss Maria Ana Ramirez

My beloved daughter,

Thanks be to God! Right now, I joyfully received both your letter and the money order. The money order is a great consolation to me because we can't obtain a house to live in without some money. God will provide! I was also worrying about you because I was afraid that you hadn't written because of some serious reason, but now I'm at peace.

An embroidery job is being offered to us and tag labeling. We need to be able to rely on some source of income, so I want to take these jobs, but it would be necessary for Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa*) and Ines (*Mother Ines of Jesus Gonzalez*) to come. Consuelo should bring with her the necessary materials for cloth-cutting classes. I'm hoping they would be able to come next Monday. Ines could wait for Consuelo in Ocotlan and she could pay her own way. Please find out if Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) could contribute something financially. Perhaps Ines' brother, Heliodoro, has covered some of the debt. We have to arrange some way for her to come because we need to have that work offered to us.

I agree that you should do what Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Gonzalez*) is suggesting. Go ahead and look for another person to do the work you need, since Mr. Reynoso is unable to do so.

We spent the twelfth at the Villa (*of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City*). There was such a huge crowd. Pilgrims from Colima came and, of course, I prayed for you all. We still don't know where we're going to live. I hope that by next week everything will be decided, and then I'll let you know. It seems to me that I've an eye infection, so I had better finish this now so it won't get worse.

Good-bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 253
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Mexico, March 21, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

Today I had the pleasure of receiving your loving letter. May God our Lord reward you.

I bless the Lord because of His mercy to us in protecting you from being buried among the ruins (*the 1933 Long Beach earthquake*). How terrible God's justice is! I hope that you've put your parents at ease by notifying them that you're all right.

I've been having eye problems, which is the reason why I am writing just a few lines on such a small sheet of paper. And already a few days have already passed since I've written anything, but today I am feeling better.

Here I am in Mexico City. There's a lot of traffic here, very much like Los Angeles. As always, each time we move from one place to another, it's only with much difficulty and a lot of patience. Well,

that's the way it's here right now, and fortunately, I'm not surprised. In fact, I had rather expected it! We have been here nineteen days and, in conscience I can say, we have put every single day to good use. The people are very willing to help us, but we won't know anything until tomorrow because the person who was going to help us establish our shop (*school*) here is out of town. Ask Our Lord to help us.

It would be my pleasure and consolation if you would give preference to the Sacred Heart by having the celebration for the girls (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez's reception of the Habit*) on that feast of His love. I hope it will come about as I've suggested.

It would be better not to change Luisa G. (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso*), and Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*). It seems to me that she's too young to take on such position of so much authority and importance. The only one we like is Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). Over here in our shop (*novitiate*) there has been no change. We are following the same rule that was approved by papa and without his consent we'll not change one iota. As for the Regulations from Spain, I've never seen them again!

From my heart I tell you how very glad I am to learn that you are feeling better. Blessed be God! Take care of yourself so you will totally regain your health. I'll answer your other points later. Good-bye, and may Jesus bless you.

Maria

Letter 254

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Mexico, March 23, 1933

Miss Maria Ana Ramirez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with much affection wishing for you to be in good health.

Your little letter was received yesterday and I am hurrying to answer it. You may allow the young girl who makes candies to come into your house in order to teach you, but you need to have the consent of my Uncle Abundio (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) and Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*). Feel free to go ahead and ask them not only for that, but for everything else, too. My *papacito* (*either the pastor or the bishop*) wants me to rest this summer [somewhere] and I don't have the courage to say no. Now that I know you are all right, I'll go in peace. United among yourselves, you all can take good care of the house and act as you see fit. Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) will go to help you out and don't be worrying about anything. When I come back from the trip, I'll go see you right away.

Send Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa*) and Guadalupe T. (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco*) right away and you can pay for their travel expenses from the \$50.00 (pesos) that you were going to send me. Consuelo may make whatever arrangements she needs, and Tona can make the chocolate for us. My daughter here will be waiting for her soon.

I am glad you happily enjoyed your little celebration, for that's the way I'd like all of you to be--very happy and peaceful. Please arrange the celebration for Lola, also .

I'll let you know when I am back from my trip.

Good-bye, and give my regards to all the family (*community*).

Tomasa

Letter 255

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Mexico, March 25, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles

My beloved daughter,

Yesterday I had the pleasure of receiving your letter and, thanks be to God, my eyes are better now, so I am able to answer you personally.

Blessed be God because He is bestowing His infinite mercy upon us, His little daughters, the littlest in His Church. I've read and re-read your letter and because of my lack of knowledge regarding that kind of work, I can't foresee what difficulties we might encounter in it. Still, I see it as acceptable for us because of the reasons that Father Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*) has explained. I do hope that this kind of work won't harm the children (*the sisters in the novitiate*) in any way, and that it will become a means of supporting yourselves. The economic situation everywhere is an alarming one if we look at it in that light, but it can also be very useful to us. May God our Lord work out everything and if grandfather approves it, then I accept, also. It would be wise if you visited the clinic before you do anything else, observing very carefully how the work has to be done, looking at the house and taking specific notes of exactly what is acceptable to us and what isn't, and then later on you should stipulate all your well thought-out conditions in writing, consulting as needed with Father Ring. To summarize, we have to both prevent and foresee any consequences which may result from our taking on this work, so that we can either avoid or rearrange them. (*The sisters didn't take over the work in this clinic, after all.*)

As always, I am very grateful to good Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) for being the initiator of this new enterprise for our poor family (*community*). May God reward him for everything he is doing for us, and please thank him in my name. Let him also know that I hope in God that I'll never be ungrateful for all that he's done for us but, rather the contrary, always letting him know of our gratitude. Give both Father Callahan and Father Ring my best regards and ask them to pray for me.

The world has fallen apart for Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*). She has had very serious difficulties and *la pobrecita* has chosen St. Joseph as her intercessor. The little school was taken away from her but, thanks be to God, she is teaching again. I, too, have had immense cause for worry because whenever anything happens to my family, I feel as though it were

happening to me. To me, it's as if the shots were being fired directly at my person. Let's continue to bless Our Lord for everything and, full of confidence, ask Him to help us. We have to pray very much. It's up to papa Juanito (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles*) to say whether it would be a good or bad thing to move the little girls, or as you call them "*palomitas*" (*little doves--a name for the novices*) to where the clinic is located. As far as I am concerned it's all right with me, but it would have to be done with his approval. Everything, including the acceptance of employment in the clinic, should be done in writing. (*Mother was discussing here the possibility of changing the new novitiate to the clinic location.*) Regarding the boarders (*orphan girls being cared for in the house across from St. Patrick's Church*) --yes, they should stay at Saint Patrick's because of the school and so that our house will not be abandoned.

Get well soon, but apply all the necessary means to do it.

Good-bye, and give my regards to grandfather and to my daughters.

Maria Castellanos

P.S. Please tell Maria de Jesus (*Sister Maria Angela of the Blessed Sacrament Huerta*), that as soon as we received the telegram, we immediately sent a letter notifying her little mother that she was all right. We told her mother to be at peace, and that nothing had happened to her daughter during the earthquake.

Letter 256

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

March 29, 1933

Mexico City, D.F.

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez

My never-forgotten and beloved daughter,

How much you must have sacrificed yourselves to be able to send

us a check for \$200.00! May God our Lord repay you. **The family (sisters) in Guadalajara has also deprived themselves, even of indispensable things, in order to help us. This house should be called, "The House of Sacrifice," but it's the only way that things get done. Nothing would ever be accomplished if we waited until we were able to live in comfortable circumstances or even with the necessary things. We poor people must walk from sacrifice to sacrifice in all things and for everything.**

The exact location of the little factory (*the school in Mexico City*) is still under consideration. Daddy (*Archbishop Pascual Diaz, Archbishop of Mexico City*) appointed a gentleman to help us find the best location for our school, and he promised to let's know by Friday. Meanwhile, we're living in Trinita's (*the mother of Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) house.

I hope that Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) received my last letter, in which I mentioned about the clinic. Now, what I want to tell you is what I think you should do with the boarding girls (*postulants*). It seems to me that Lourditas (*Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba*) could take care of them. If you don't form those girls properly from the very beginning, the boarding home (*postulancy*) will be a failure. The first ones that we train will be the foundation for the rest. Only the older ones should be with Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). We think that this will be the best plan and that Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was later changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and of St. Martin of Porres*) could be the helper. In that way, she would be learning herself.

Serenita is bringing a report to grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) regarding the boarding home of Socorro (*the novitiate in Guadalajara*) and explaining everything that's done in it. Ask grandfather for it and keep a copy for yourself, as it is very well done, according to Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*). It seems to me that Manuelita, and anyone else who is able, should come for at least a month to observe how Socorro's boarding home is run. The expense wouldn't be so much with the two free round-trip passes you obtained and they could come from the border to Guadalajara through El Paso in

second class. You could take advantage of the work which renowned persons in the field of education have done. What a great joy it would be for me, if you or Mariquita could accompany her! You could leave her (*Mother Manuela*) in Guadalajara, visit with your relatives, and then come to see Our Lady of Guadalupe and spend a few days with me waiting for Manuelita. Then you could return through either El Paso or Laredo which are closer from here.

Maybe we'll be left in greater poverty, even poorer than we are now. Pray to Our Lord for our own, very great needs. May He be blessed! You did not mention anything about the earthquakes and I didn't receive the newspaper you mentioned. Did anything happen to our friends in Long Beach?

Mrs. Huerta, the mother of Maria de Jesus (*Sister Mary Angela of the Blessed Sacrament Huerta*), and her brother came to visit us last Sunday with Victoria and the girls. They are all well and Mrs. Huerta looks happy and seems to be in good health.

I imagine you already know that your brother, Luis, is planning on getting married. Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) gave her some advice. Give thanks to Our Lord and be good, so that you will correspond to the many graces which have been given to you.

Good-bye, my daughter. I've missed your letters as much as I have rejoice whenever I received them.

Give my greetings to the family whom I love with all my heart.
Maria Castellanos

Letter 257

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Mexico City, April 1, 1933

Miss Carmen Chavez

Dear cousin,

Today I received your consoling letter. Blessed be God. How good He is!

I'm very happy with Nacha's (*Sister Alicia of the Divine Love Aguilar who left the Congregation*) behavior. Help her in any way you can, and if it's possible, she can give monthly payments of \$10.00 (pesos) and then \$500.00 (pesos), as she is now offering to do, and another \$500.00 (pesos) later, whenever [her father] is financially able to pay that amount, and for him to consider taking care of the rent. Try to find some way to make it easy for that child to come in the boarding house (*postulancy*) and the same for Carmen Estrada (*Sister Mary Guadalupe of Christ Estrada*).

I'm very grateful for having received your congratulations. The letters arrived just on time. Please tell that to all the other girls (*sisters*) and give them my regards.

There's work here for Ines (*Mother Ines of the Sorrowful Mother Rivas Magallon*), Amparo (*Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez*), Maria I. (*Sister Mary Ines of Carmel Chavez*), Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who left the Congregation*) and Carmen T. (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*). The difficulty will be acquiring enough money for their traveling expenses, but tell their mothers (*their superiors*) to start sending them in two's, as finances allow.

Carmela (*Mother Carmen*), I'm going to ask you for a favor. When one of the children (*sisters*) comes, please have her bring me the Infant Jesus that was given to Cata (*Mother Catalina of the Cross*).

Joseph is right. Domingo paid until the last of March. He gave me \$5.30.

Our Blessed Mother improved my health a little. I was feeling very badly, and one day, despite my fear of the dizzy spells I had been suffering, leaning on one of the girls I went to Mass over there (*the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City*) and from that day on, I've been feeling much better. Blessed be God!

Good-bye, Carmela. Your cousin, who loves you very much wishes for you to be in good health.

Josefina Castellanos

P.S. I know that Lupita and Juanita aren't being taken care of

properly because the girls (*sisters*) don't have time to look after them. It would be good if one of the children (*possibly postulants*) could go and do it, at least during the time of exams.

Letter 258

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Mexico, April 4, 1933

Miss Maria del Socorro Cholico

My unforgettable and beloved daughter,

As always, I was very happy to receive your letter and in reading it I perceived that you are uneasy--thinking you had made me suffer. I don't remember what you did nor why you did it. Really, I don't understand what you meant. Besides, whatever reason it was, you said I did it so I may better know the family. Again, I don't know what you're talking about. You'd better explain what it is, so I'll be able to know what is worrying you.

May God make you a saint, my little one. It's strange that you got sick because a doctor went to see you. I think you must be very weak. Maybe you haven't been eating or sleeping. Add to all that, the fact that you haven't gone out at all. Try to go out in the sun, breathe fresh air, eat and sleep well, and look for some distraction that will take your mind away from all these problems. You might really get really sick and that wouldn't be funny. Obey me.

Yesterday I received a letter from Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and she is extremely happy because grandfather (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell*) wanted information from me about our workshop (*postulancy*) here and the possibility of securing by patent in the U.S. what we're producing here. (*The Archbishop is officially interested in establishing the work of the Congregation in the United States.*) It's exactly what we have been praying for all this time, and having obtained this, I can die in peace. Blessed be God! For this reason, tell Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) that in accord with Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) she may accept more operators (*postulants*) because

with only Pachita (*Sister Francisca Teresa who changed her name to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin of Porres*) and Jovita (*Jovita Ochoa who entered in 1935 and left before Profession*) there's not enough personnel to do a good job. With at least ten more, they can produce beautiful work and grandfather, knowing this, won't become discouraged. If he thinks we don't have enough personnel (*postulants*), it will be natural for him to become discouraged. Ana Maria is in Ocotlan and Miss Aurora, a relative of the Vizcaino family, is also in Octolan. The godfather of the Garcia girls who stayed with you knows Aurora. Mr. Plancarte (*Father Jose Villasenor Plancarte*) knows Matilde. Teresa Margarita (*Sister Teresa Margarita of the Sacred Heart Padilla*) has already recommended Matilde, and says that, in addition, she's very adept at making sweets. Pray to the Sacred Heart that this project really goes into effect, and in this way, the family (*community*) will be able to support itself very well. See to it that it happens, my daughter. There are only two sisters now, but with ten more things will get better. Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) is a very-hard working and ingenious person. Tell her to put "*all the irons in the fire*" but to be sure that they are girls (*with vocations*) who will be able to carry on with this work.

It appears that Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) is already making arrangements to set up the school and the academy. She is looking for an adequate house. My other daughters at the Villa (*La Villa de Guadalupe in Mexico City*) are waiting to be hired. As for myself, I'm still with my ups and downs. This climate, or maybe it's the altitude above sea level, doesn't seem to agree with me. But what can we do? Let it be for God!

I invited Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) to come see your machines, so she will be able to set up some like them in Los Angeles. In case she's able to come, it will be soon and you'll have to teach her how to run all the machines (*the sisters learned to make stockings and taught the girls in the orphanage this skill as a means of support*), so the stockings will all be the same.

I greatly appreciate the loving letters that your daughters send me. Tell them I've done what they have requested, that I'm praying to

Our Blessed Mother on their behalf, and that they are always in my thoughts. Give them my best regards.

When you see Albert (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) and Thomas (*Father Tomas Ramirez, S.J.*) ask them to pray that the project (*of the canonical establishment of the community in the United States*) may be realized as grandfather (*the Archbishop*) wants it.

Good-bye, my daughter, and take care of yourself so you will be able to always be healthy.

Maria Castellanos

Please give me the address of Elvirita and give her my best regards.

Letter 259

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Mexico, April 7, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

With much affection I greet you, wishing you the peace of God. I'm glad the sisters have happily accepted Manuelita's (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) appointment (*as Directress of Novices*). Over here the same thing happened. In general, all the family accepted it. Therefore, it's the will of God. Let's bless Him.

In response to the question you asked, it seems to me that Manuelita shouldn't have another responsibility and only attend the council meeting when it's a matter of giving an account of whatever pertains to her duty. But in any case, look at the canons and abide by them. Could Luisa G. (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) be her substitute? Or the person that you think would be the best one. Just let me know.

I deeply appreciate your kindness in inviting me to go spend some time with you, and knowing the great love I feel toward you, you will understand how happy I would be to spend a couple of months with

you, but I think it would be better if Manuelita and one of you would come over here instead. I wish that it could be either you or Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and together we'll do what grandfather (*the Archbishop*) is asking for and you'll be able to take it back. Try to come very soon. Margarita must have told you already the particulars I mentioned in her letter.

Yesterday, your "papacito" (*Archbishop Pascual Diaz, Archbishop of Mexico City*) gave permission for us to live here and establish a school. Blessed be God! How beautiful it is to do everything always in agreement with one's parents (*ecclesiastical superiors*). Besides giving us a great sense of accomplishment, there's no doubt whatsoever that they are God's representatives for us here on earth. Notify my never-to-be-forgotten grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Rivera, Archbishop of Guadalajara*), in my name, about this permission. Let him also know that the school will be located in the neighborhood of Popotla because there are no private schools there and it's a safe environment for the girls and me to enjoy relative peace and tranquillity. Give him my regards and ask him to bless us every day. It would give me so much joy to see him again! Tell him verbally everything we have already gone through and also what we're going through now. I hope that Our Lord will bring him soon! Please tell him that we do not forget him. Do you think he received already his feastday present? Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) made it.

I think that it would be very good for you to make the spiritual exercises (*retreat*) together. You would be much happier and the cost will be less. My hope is that you'll derive as much profit from them as much as you did from the days of recollection.

I give thanks to God for giving you the grace of recovering your health. I hope you'll soon be perfectly well. Don't worry about anything and obey your doctor.

What can you tell me about Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott, who had been transferred to the San Diego Diocese*)? No one mentions him and it's lamentable that after being so kind to us he is already forgotten. Kindly pay him a visit, in my name, and tell him that when

I am in the presence of God, I pray for him.

Good-bye, daughter. Be according to the Heart of God our Lord.
Remember me to my unforgettable daughters.

Maria Navarro

Letter 260
Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez,, Archbishop of
Guadalajara

Francisco I. Madero 31
Interior 13
Villa of Guadalupe, April 23, 1933

Illustrious Excellency
D. Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez
Los Angeles, California

My very respected and beloved Father:

With true daughterly affection I have the honor of greeting Your Excellency and wishing you from my heart a very happy Easter!

What a joy, my Father, to have received such an interesting letter from you because it regards nothing less than the welfare of my family (*community*), which I love so much.

I accept with submission and joy your decision that the Mothers (*Superiors*) not come.

I understand and I am thankful for all the good Your Excellency has done on behalf of our Congregation in that place (*California*) because we belong to you, and it's only natural that you would take an interest in us, your daughters. No one else would have done what You Excellency has done for us. What can we do [in return]? God our Lord has given us to you, and we hope that we will be your crown in heaven.

Really and truly they are very good sisters. I, too, know the spirit of the ones here and the ones over there. Blessed be God! Father Urdanivia (*Father Albert Urdanivia, S.J.*) says that this Community

belongs to the Sacred Heart; therefore, let everything be for His glory.

Illustrious Excellency, I am continually praying for you, and even more so when I go to the Basilica (*of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City*) because I have an obligation to do so for you are my father and we're indebted to you. I hope that the little prayers offered for you'll obtain for us the grace of seeing you back very soon (*back in Mexico*) among your daughters who love you and miss you very much.

We're on a pilgrimage to Jalisco, together with a great number of other people, but that's to be expected. You Excellency already knows how the people are.

On my part, I'm still struggling with the arrangements regarding [the new foundation of] this house (*in Mexico City*). Even though everything is going well, it's rather slow, but that's to be expected. Hopefully everything will be arranged shortly. Pray for your daughters.

Your affectionate daughter who humbly kisses your hand.

Maria Luisa

Letter 261

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Mexico City, May 25, 1933

Miss Maria Ana Ramirez

My beloved daughter,

With great joy I received your little letter. May God reward you, daughter.

After suffering some swelling in my neck and a high fever, I'm now feeling a little better. I was afraid it was the same sickness that Ines had. However, it went away after applying linseed plasters together with hot water bags, and in that way the inflammation finally went down. Blessed be God!

How is Juanita doing, or is she already dead? I have a great desire to know about this little girl, and naturally I've already cried very much for her, even though I know that for her to die at such young age and with such a beautiful soul is like winning the lottery, especially now that the world outside is so ugly and dangerous.

I don't agree that Lupita should be away from the house. I want her there even if she pays less than Candida. Take good care of her soul and her education. Let her spend a few days back in her home, which can serve as her vacation, and then let her come back.

How have you all been? What can you tell me about the exams? When are they going to take place? We're concerned about you because of the examinations and we're praying to God very much for you so they turn out successfully. Don't be afraid.

Chayito (*little Rosario*) is going to need her little drink to gather courage. You may give it to her. *Pobrecita!* Let me know how you all came out.

Last night I had a little fever again and got up this morning, but now I'm unable to get out of the room. Only God knows what is wrong with me. Pray for me.

The school is now opened. We fear that we won't have a large attendance because the school year is so far advanced already, but it just wasn't possible for us to open it on time. We had to look for furniture and had a mountain of difficulties to overcome, and, as of now, we still don't know if we're going to get the license to operate it. **May God our Lord do everything. May He be blessed!**

Take care of yourself, daughter, and don't be worrying about anything. **See everything with serenity.**

I learned that Santiago is already working. I am very happy. Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria Castellanos

Letter 262

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Mexico, May 27, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles

My beloved daughter,

I've just read your letter, and I bless God our Lord because you are now well.

Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Conception Rodriguez Ortega*), by responsibly fulfilling every position assigned to her, has earned all my confidence. So, I give thanks to God that she will be continuing in the same position. **There's no doubt that God exalts the humble.**

I'm entirely in agreement regarding the celebration of both Virginia (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*) and her companion. **May God our Lord bless them and give them zeal.**

I really like grandfather's (*the Archbishop's*) choice of Saint Joseph as the Patron Saint for that house. From this moment on his name will be "Senor" (*a respectful title showing ownership*) San Jose (*Saint Joseph*) and we'll begin a novena asking for his intercession and placing the house in his hands. Give my best regards to my very beloved grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) and tell him that each and every one of the decisions that he makes for us is a great consolation and joy to me. May God our Lord keep him [among us]!

One of these days you'll be receiving something grandfather has requested. I'm looking forward with pleasure to sending it to him. In fact, it's already finished but I was afraid of what could happen to it in the mail, which is why I'm delaying sending it to you. Please give it to him in my name. I wouldn't even want to think that there could be even the slightest possibility that it might get lost! Let it be for God!

My loving regards to the family--so much loved by me, my poor self,

and whom I humbly bless, praying with all my heart for them to obtain and correspond to God's grace during their retreat.

Maria Castellanos

P.S. I'll write soon to Chole (*Mother Maria Soledad of St. Teresa Valle Ibarra*) and to Maria de las Victorias (*Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel Rodriguez*).

Letter 263

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Mexico City, June 5, 1933

My dear daughter, Carmelita,

I've finally received your last letter, thanks be to God, but I haven't yet received the one you sent to the wrong address. At least I know now that you don't have any bad news. Blessed be God!

I agree that Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) should go to the little town (*Atotonilco*). I would also like you to try and take Lupita (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) for a little vacation so that she might enjoy the sunshine and change of environment, and breathe some fresh air--in other words, for her to rest because she needs this rest badly. But in order for her to enjoy all this, you'll have to go with her so she may be happy. It seems to me that the best plan would be if you would travel to Jocotepec and go in the boats in Chapala, and then take the train in Ocotlan. Of course, only if it can be worked out according to your circumstances there.

Yesterday I received a letter from Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) and she told me what has been going on in the little house they had to leave. If the house that you have found is suitable, take it even if the rent is higher. At least it's near the shop (*school*), but you'll need to take a good look at the neighbors, see how high the walls of the enclosure are, and if there's a nice room available for Manuel (*Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament...Manuel is for "Emmanuel"*) with good sturdy doors. As you know, these conditions are a "must."

I assume you've already discussed with Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) that matter you told me about in your last letter. Now we need to wait until the girls are out of school. I'm told they look very tired after the exams. For that reason, perhaps it would be better for them to wait until they come back from vacation, closer to the beginning of school.

It's all right with me if you don't take the piano now, and let Anita give the piano lessons.

Maybe Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*) will have to come. If it turns out that this is so, I'll let you know with time so you may send her with Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) at the end of the month. Get all the information you can from her about the Normal School, and then let me know about it.

If you go with Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) and someone else on vacation, leave Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) as you did last time.

May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 264

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Mexico City, June 8, 1933

My dear Margarita, my daughter,

I greet you and congratulate you on the immense grace of making this retreat. Let's bless God our Lord! May all of you profit from these graces which you've received.

Thanks be to God, I've been relatively well considering my age. Because I have something like bronchitis, I've been in my room most of the time, only leaving when absolutely necessary. Lately, I've been feeling better.

I hope you've received the message from grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) which I

mailed on May 29. I still don't know if it has reached you yet. I'm preoccupied wondering whether or not you are going to like it. May God grant me peace!

We're here in Mexico City and are finally a little bit more settled. Jesus (*Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament*) lives with us and at least we now have some chairs to sit on. Before we only had two! The girls (*sisters*) have been sitting on the floor. Their clothes didn't last and their knees suffered but thanks to the charity of the people we now have the necessities. We have furnished two rooms in the school, but we didn't have much help because it was the beginning of the school year. Blessed be God that it was necessary for us to pass through this Calvary.

If you only knew my great desires to have part of the family go to live in Rome. You will see agencies bring this desire of mine to fulfillment. Still, no matter where you work or what you suffer, it is all to go to *la Ciudad eternal* (the Eternal City).

Many of my granddaughters (*sisters*) are going to study for teaching certificates in the Normal School in Mexico City and some others will be studying in Guadalajara. Do you like it?

The following daughters of Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) are already married. Pray for them--Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez*), Genevieve (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascencio Bautista who changed her name back to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa of the Holy Face Ascencio Bautista*), Beatriz (*Mother Beatriz of Jesus Ochoa who was Superior General of the Congregation*), and Tona (*Sister Maria Antonia of the Guardian Angels Ramirez Rizo who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria of the Angels Ramirez Rizo*).

Good-bye, my daughter. Greetings to Maria (*Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and the rest of the family (*community*). God our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Greetings to grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*), Mr. Ring (*Father Harold*

Ring, S.J.) and Callahan (Father Leroy Callahan). After writing this letter I had the pleasure of receiving Maria's letter and she tells me that she received the message from grandfather. Blessed be God! Thank you for your efficiency. Greetings to all.

Letter 265

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Mexico, June 13, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

May the peace of God be in your soul.

Yesterday I had the joy of receiving your letter and I'm hurrying to answer you. The proposed renovation to the house would be just fine. I understand how the family's growth is now bringing more demands.

As I said in my last letter, I like and trust Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). Perhaps a dispensation of that canon might be possible, but I don't know. I just don't find anyone more suitable than she is. She is respectful, experienced and virtuous, and very discreet besides. Above all, she is a person of integrity.

I'd like to name the twins Teresita de la Santa Faz (*Sister Therese of the Holy Face*) because St. Therese is the patroness of that house and Patricia del Carmelo (*Sister Patricia of Carmel*) because St. Patrick is venerated very much in that country and you are residing in St. Patrick's parish. The people over there would love it. However, feel free to choose other names.

Have you established the Court yet? (*The Court of Love of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament was founded by Mother Luisita.*) Has it been approved by the Archbishop? This would be the right time to obtain such approval and the indulgences [attached to it.] I wish you would be the one to put the golden seal on that association. (*Mother Mary was one of the founders of the society.*)

How you have been feeling lately? I'd like to hear more from you about your health. **By the way, has the devil given you any more trouble? He is very astute, infiltrating in such a manner that he isn't even noticeable, and we know that he can be like an angel of light. We must always be on the alert so as not to become one of his victims and then suffer the consequences. May God our Lord protect us!**

I'd like the girls (*sisters*) to wear tan-colored aprons when they are working in the kitchen so they will not get their brown uniforms (*holy habits*) soiled or begin to look like maids. I'm sending a sample to you.

I thank God because grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) is happy. Now that he is going to travel I'd like you to offer to help him pack his things. Kindly give him medicine he could use, some fruit for him to enjoy on the way, and make an inventory of the things in his suitcase. In other words, treat him as his true daughters--which you are. God our Lord will reward you for it.

As for me, I can only tell you that every day you can see my advancing age, which is understandable since my end is very near. Pray to Our Lord for me. Blessed be God that my life is following its natural course.

My regards to all the family and may God our Lord bless them all.
Maria

Letter 266

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Mexico, June 22, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

With prayerful gratitude I thank you and all my daughters from the bottom of my heart, asking God our Lord to bless you and beautify

your souls more and more each day. I'm asking that He be the One to repay you for all your goodness toward me.

Yesterday I received a letter from Mercedes Villasenor from Ocotlan inviting two or three of my daughters to establish an academy there. They would be teaching shorthand, typing, English, cooking, and also giving piano lessons. Her aim is to open a boarding school but the circumstances are so difficult that she is forced to begin with an academy only. At any rate, the sisters are full of enthusiasm to go and help her. For more specific information I'm enclosing her letter. You ask for the permission (*from Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) and then let me know what the answer is. I'll be very happy for my aunt (*the community*) if this becomes a reality.

I've some good news to give you! Your sisters are going to take a course in secondary school beginning on July 1 and ending in January. It's the only way they can continue working here because they need to already be certified or working toward certification, and the institution [where they'll be studying] must be on the government's list or else they won't receive credit. So, they'll be working in the mornings and attending school in the afternoons. Then we'll be qualified to establish our school. This arrangement will be to our benefit because some friends will also be taking that same course with us. (*Some sisters from another community will also be attending*). Ask your father (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) if he will give them permission because as I told you, they won't be permitted to work in any school, otherwise. Let me know by return mail.

I'll answer all the feastday letters soon, but I want this letter to go out today. So, for now I'll limit myself to simply greeting all in the family so dear to me. Regards to grandfather. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 267
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Mexico, June 26, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez

Duarte, California

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in the soul of my beloved daughter.

I've just received your latest letter of the nineteenth. It seems to me its delivery was a little delayed, but at least it arrived sealed. Another letter from Bernardita (*Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos*) arrived already opened, and not because she had forgotten to seal it! It was opened on one side and this worries me. The letters from Guadalajara haven't arrived yet either. I don't know what's going on because all our other correspondence has gone through just fine. We've only had this kind of trouble with our mail during these last two weeks.

Blessed be God that the information we sent will be of some use to you (*regarding the Pontifical Approbation of the Congregation*). Let's hope that this business will have a satisfactory result. We'll be petitioning our Lord earnestly [for that intention] because the welfare of our family hinges on what happens now.

Lately I haven't received any letters from Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). The one she sent along with Manuelita's (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) was the last one we received, but since you tell me she's been overworked, I understand why she can't write.

I'd like you to arrange with grandfather so that it will not be \$4,000.00 (pesos) (*they were determining the amount of the dowry brought by those entering the convent*) because with things the way they are, no one will be able to afford it. We would be happy if they could bring half of it, and to me even that seems impossible. We're living in the conditions of the Magnificat-- the rich are left empty. Ask grandfather how much would be reasonable.

This is my reply to the question you asked regarding how the money from my uncle Luis ("*Luisa*"--*Mother Luisita is referring to herself*) was spent. Tell grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) that we used that money to buy the little house from Mr. Gutierrez; a thousand (pesos) went

toward the house that Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of the Sacred Heart Reynoso*) had in Los Altos; we paid the travel expenses for my trip to Los Angeles with Margarita and Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*); we changed the deeds of Mr. Garivay and of Castanedas which was a very expensive transaction; some of the money was used for other emergencies we have had. But we still have some of the money left. We put up the minimum because the company (*the government*) requires that amount, so much so, that a man who didn't was forced to pay with his ranch and only God knows how he is going to make it now because they (*the government*) demanded payment and his assets were confiscated. All of these expenditures were done with the consent of Abundio (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) on an emergency basis. The amount I mentioned to grandfather was the value of the ranch according to the tax list, which means that the value is actually greater and it's in three parts for each of my Uncle Luis's daughters: Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*), Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) and Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*). It seems to me that my uncle (*Mother Luisita is still referring to herself*) is in danger because of the money that the company (*the government*) is demanding, and besides, the company has the books that Mariano was keeping for my uncle. Pray for him very much. Only God knows if he will spend his last days in jail because of that money.

I don't remember precisely if perhaps some expenses that I mentioned were paid from that money. (*Mother Luisita was deliberately vague regarding this just in case this letter got into the wrong hands.*)

My regards to all the family (*community*) and especially grandfather.
Maria

Letter 268
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Mexico City, June 28, 1933

Miss Carmen Chavez

My beloved daughter,

After such a long period of silence because I didn't even know where you were or heard anything at all from you, I have the great joy of greeting you and putting you at peace. Today Carmen T. (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) and Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*) arrived here after spending some days with Rosa Maria's family, where they were very well-treated by the household. Blessed be God! I didn't know that they had already arrived in the city. It was over an hour before I finally saw them because Josefina Castellanos told me she had trouble picking them up. It seems that the address you sent to Josefina was incorrect. Thanks be to God, that the address you sent to Carmela was correct so they finally arrived here all right, after all. I also now have in my possession the letters that were in the post office. They weren't delivered because they, too, had the wrong address. I received the presents, also, and am most grateful. May God reward you. They are beautiful. To avoid any more problems with the correspondence, address the letters to Miss Josefina Castellanos, Ave. Guatemala 117, Mexico, D.F., and even if they are money orders or special delivery, she takes them out and sends them to us. She already knows.

What a joy you gave me in telling me the good news about Cuca's (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) health. How I hope that she will get entirely well! Blessed be God! I've been asking our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe for that grace. In case it's necessary for her and Chabela (*Sister Isabel of St. Pascal Fonseca*) to go to Guadalajara, let them do it as soon as possible in the way you've indicated. You have my permission.

It will be a consolation for me to have Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) go to that house. I only hope that it will be soon.

Poor Chemitito! He must be very worried. You help him to get over it as much as you can and when there's money, please send me a little because we haven't paid the rent and we still owe \$60.00 (pesos). We don't even eat well from what earnings the girls (*sisters*) receive, but we do eat. Our Lord is very good to us.

It seems to me that this house is already under way and now I want

to go back. Give my regards to everyone.

Maria

Letter 269

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Mexico City, June 30, 1933
Miss Maria Ana Ramirez

My very beloved daughter,

Thanks be to God, your letters are already in my possession. They were at the post office for a long time because they had the wrong address. Send your letters to: Calzada Mexico Tacuba, 550, D.F. and they'll arrive all right.

I like your beautiful present very much. At the same time, it was a great consolation for me to learn that Juanita received her First Communion. Those moments of prayer go directly to Our Lord and He will not deny her anything! May she never lose any of those graces! Saint Louis (*Saint Aloysius Gonzaga*) should be the patron saint of that lively creature. Instill in her great devotion to that saint, and tell her to ask him to intercede before Our Lord so that she may never lose the graces she received in her soul on that day.

I can imagine your present house as very picturesque. The rent isn't as expensive, and yet it's still very near where you were staying before, and your moving expenses were not as much either. May God grant us the grace of being all right in that location.

Daughter, will you be happy without working? If your answer is yes, tell me so frankly, so you may not have that kind of work again this year. I'm only asking you because you are asking for a rest, and I know that you've been working hard for a very, very, long time, already.

Blessed be God! I'm feeling a little better and longing to see you all. May He grant me this grace soon. Ask Juanita to ask Him for this grace if it would be good for our souls to have it.

God willing, the girls (*sisters*) will begin their secondary studies on the first of next month. I'm counting on the precious prayers of all of you, so that their studies will be a success.

Don't forget to give your mother a novena of your prayers, Masses, and Communion as a present on the occasion of her feastday.

God our Lord permitted that Maria de C. (*Mother Maria of Christ Castellanos*) obtain her certificate. Only He knows why it happened the way it did, but He disposes of everything very well. Let's bless Him for everything!

Please remind Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) about the certificate for Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*) because it's urgent that she get it.

Try to find distraction in something--anything. Take some classes with Magdalena R. Velazco. I know you'd like that and it would be something profitable for you, or go to someone else other than Magdalena if you wish.

Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 270

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

Mexico, July 1, 1933

My dear daughter, Maria Ana,

Today I received your letter and I'm hurrying up to answer you.

First of all you should speak with Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholino Rodriguez*). Tell her frankly what you wrote about in your letter to me. Then both of you speak to Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) sincerely and simply, so that the three of you will be able to find the remedy to the evils you tell me exist. I'm ordering you to do this. My Uncle Abundio (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) will be able to tell you when the vacations (*retreats*) are over if that part of the family could move to the little house where you live. Lastly, all of you come to a

common agreement about how to avoid being so overcrowded, lest you and Teresa become ill. If it comes out that you will be living in the same house, make sure you agree on everything. Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) is able to stay alone with the little children in that little house in case you decide to divide the house. She is used to living with them and already knows their ways.

Don't receive any employees until you hear from me. However, if my uncle decides something else, then do whatever he says. Encourage those girls (*sisters*). Tell them I'll be there shortly and we can arrange anything you wish. Wait for me and I'll try to come as soon as I can.

We have to practice prudence and more prudence, and above all else, charity. Don't speak when you feel you are angry. Wait until the next day when you've calmed down. Allow your family (*community*) to see that they can count on you and to feel happy being with you. That's the best way to govern without difficulties. Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Get Maria de C.'s (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) certificate and send it immediately.

Letter 271

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

Mexico City, July 1, 1933

For Josefina.

My very dear daughter,

Thank you so very, very much for your letter. I appreciate it even more because you must have written it with a lot of effort because of your eye disease. Let it be for God, daughter! So, you are still sick? Well then, you must do whatever the doctor tells you.

I am well, blessed be God. I've been thinking of you and wondering why you haven't written, but we do have to

remember that you are in this world. We all should learn not to give much attention to what is happening around us. I understand that we'll see each other in heaven. I'm curious to know if you are going to recognize me and vice versa. We shall see.

I'm going to pray with all my heart that Our Blessed Mother will cure your eyes, if it's good for your soul. If not, may you suffer it, then, for as long as Our Lord permits it.

Good-bye, daughter. **Practice virtue and do everything for the love of God.** My regards to all my daughters, and please ask them to pray for me.

Maria

Letter 272

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Mexico City, July 1, 1933

My very dear and never-forgotten daughter,

At this very moment I received your letter dated on the twenty-fifth of last month and I'm answering it immediately. Whatever grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) orders will be done with much pleasure, and it would be a very good idea if you would send the work to Enrique Luna (*to print the Congregation's Ceremonial*). Regarding the money from my mother, it's intact and at the disposal of grandfather. I explained the rest to Mariquita Nuenz (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and told her the reason why it was mentioned as it was. Since there is more money than what we need, Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) will go to Guadalajara and send the exact amount with someone when they go up there. What I put into writing was not very exact because we're very fearful about giving out such information and a doctor told me that our way of communication isn't very safe. Sometimes they (*the government*) censor the correspondence, and right after he told me this, I received a letter which had already been opened. You can easily understand my great fear.

I'm truly grateful for the valuable gift (*a spiritual bouquet on the occasion of Mother Luisita's birthday*) from the very dear sick girls (*patients at Santa Teresita T.B. Sanatorium in Duarte, California*). May God our Lord repay them. Please express to them my gratitude, give them my thanks, and assure them of my poor prayers on their behalf which I'll offer with much pleasure.

We must take the best possible care of Mariquita. I'm sorry she's sick. Give her my best.

I almost forgot to tell you that I received your letter of congratulations, together with the one from Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). To both of you, I give thanks and ask Our Lord to repay your expressions of affection which you sent me. I also received the telegram from Mariquita and the other telegram from you. May God be blessed for everything!

I imagine that you already know about the beautiful party they had honoring Mary of the Angels (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) on the twenty-third in the little town (*Atotonilco*). They tell me that she was so dazed by such great joy that she even got sick, perhaps because of all the commotion. Her relatives accompanied her and Papa Maco (*Father Macario Velazquez, pastor in Atotonilco*) presided and gave a speech. Her sisters who were on vacation in the country house also attended (*the sisters in Atotonilco*). There was a great attendance of people whom she loves. Socorrito had a daughter (*a girl entered the Congregation*) on the twenty-first. Her name is Juana Berkman, and on that very day Maria de Jesus Estrada (*Sister Luisa Maria Josefa of the Child Jesus Estrada*) who is the sister of Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) went with the girls. She is a precious little bud, only fourteen years old (*on the twenty-third she was one of the fourteen girls who entered the postulancy*). She was received very favorably by Uncle Abundio (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*). She made all of the arrangements for herself, getting her documents, and the ten dollars a month tuition. When she had no hope of getting it, she was ready to cry. They are hard-working girls. Please pray for that factory (*the school*). I recommend that you sisters read *Una Fuente de Energia (A Fountain of Energy)* by Father Heredia,

S.J. It's a beautiful book. My daughters in Guadalajara have been very busy with celebrations, both in Socorro's house (*novitiate in Guadalajara*) and the school. I can't write anymore. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Daughters, you may arrange the ceremony as you deem convenient with grandfather's approval.

Letter 273

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Mexico, July 4, 1933

My beloved daughter, Maria,

I have just read your little letter stating that permission to go to Ocotlan has been granted. May God our Lord reward you! I also understand that grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) also has granted permission for the girls (*sisters*) to attend secondary school, blessed be God. They will be: Maria de C. (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*), Ines (*Mother Ines of the Sorrowful Mother Rivas Magallon*), Amparito (*Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez*) Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*) and Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*). The cousins (*sisters*) living in Guadalajara will attend, also.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of receiving your previous letter and I thank God our Lord that grandfather (*the Archbishop*) is interested in us, his poor daughters. The only thing we have to do, then, is to obey him. Grandfather is exactly the instrument placed in our path by Our Lord so that we will be able to know God's Divine Will and our only joy should consist in fulfilling God's Will.

I hope that a period of rest over in Duarte will help you recuperate the strength you lost preparing for the beautiful celebration that has just passed. Take care of yourself. Do everything within your means to help you recover completely. Our novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which we'll be beginning soon, will be for you.

The amount of the children's tuition is \$30.00. It really should be \$56.00, but because of the recommendations of "*papa grande*" ("*big daddy*" i.e. *Archbishop Pascual Diaz, Archbishop of Mexico City*), the tuition is going to be less. For this month only, though, it will be \$64.00 because we're including the registration fee. Is there any possible way that your house could safely send us your monthly payment every fifteen days. For now, it will be \$59.00, and after that, only \$30.00, with the exchange. It would be a small amount on your part, and only until the school opens because once we have some money coming in, we'll be able to cover our expenses.

You will see that the girls (*sisters*) are invited to open a school in Ameca and also another one in a little town near Mexico City in the State of Hidalgo. We have been invited to a pathetic place where there are so many little Indians who are totally ignorant. They have a picture of Our Blessed Mother, but can you guess what they call her? They call her "*Senorita*" (*Miss*) and they ask, "Who is '*Don Santisimo*' (*Mr. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament*)?" But they are willing to learn, *pobrecitos*. I'm interested in helping them because the Protestants are already planning to set up an orphanage there. The pastor has asked that my daughters go there. He will be coming to speak with me about it, even if we only set up an academy. There are little towns where there is no priest, right where Maria de C.'s (*Mother Mary of Christ Catellanos's*) sisters live. Her sister, Trinita, is the person the pastor recommended to help us because he lives in another town. I hope that he does come to see me to present his proposals. Then we'll send them on to grandfather and to Ameca. They are waiting for me to return to Guadalajara where he will speak personally with me. God will provide. Lupe Escoto (*a teacher who was a friend of Mother Luisita and the Community from Atotonilco*) wants to come with us.

God willing, by the sixteenth I'll be going back to Guadalajara. This place where I currently am living is more or less standing. I'll soon be able to leave to make all the arrangements regarding our going to Ocotlan. Right now my return is indispensable and my daughters are going to start their retreat in two weeks, both in Guadalajara as well as in the little town (*Atotonilco*).

Affectionate regards to all the family (*community*) so dear to me.

My greetings, also, to Father Penamil (*an illegible word*) and to Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*).

Maria

Letter 275

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, July 20, 1933

My beloved daughter,

How great a joy it is to greet you, daughter, and I wish you everything that's good! We were having our lunch when your telegram arrived. I would have answered it immediately, as you wanted, except that we did not have the money. So, I'm answering you through this present letter.

Leave Mary (*Mother Mary of the Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) free to decide what she wants to do. I would be very sorry if I gave the positive answer to go ahead with the operation and the result turned out badly. On the other hand, if I say no, and the operation would have had good results so that she could indeed get well, then I would also regret that. Therefore, whatever she decides is all right with me. I beg of your kindness to continue updating me regarding her. If she makes up her mind, we'll start a novena to St Therese, all together, asking for help.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, I left Mexico City last Sunday evening and arrived in Guadalajara on Monday morning and now I remain here to be of service to all of you. You sisters pray for us very much; we do have great need for prayers. Please tell grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) that we agree the dowry should be \$2,000.00 (pesos), but if one who wants to enter doesn't have that amount, we will be able to lower it a little. What do you think? For the lay sisters, \$400.00 (pesos). This will be left up to the approval of grandfather.

Because I wish to send this off to you immediately, I'll stop now, with very affectionate greetings to all. May God our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, August 10, 1933

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez

My very dear daughter,

What great joy your letter gave me! May God our Lord repay you. I'm very sorry to hear of the illness of Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*). Together we made a novena to St. Therese for her recovery. Let's hope she will obtain that grace for us. I bless God for the twins (*two postulants who entered the postulancy in the United States*). Let's hope they'll grow strong. When you possibly can, take a picture of them and send it so we can at least meet them in that way. What about a picture showing the new family (*community*) together?

Only with age does one come to understand both the providence of God and the human heart, but in God alone. When I see some sort of prosperity, honor, affection, and attachments, oh, daughter, I foresee that you are going to suffer very many disappointments. At the same time, however, I see a grace from Our Lord; otherwise, it would be very risky. Our salvation would be at stake. In our case, it is clearly seen that God our Lord gives us the means to help us in His projects. When these means are harmful to us, He takes them away from us because it's very easy for one to get too attached to them and to consider them as ends in themselves and not as means. We totally convert what was a blessing into poison for our souls and above all, we women who are so light-headed. I tell you this because you've told me that you have had tricks played on you. That's because you haven't known the world, and are now starting to know it. Only God knows how much you'll have to suffer in the future if you don't apply the remedy, which isn't to get too attached to creatures. Get hold of God alone, with all of your might.

My will is that you Sisters don't lose the spirit that God our

Lord has been pleased to give our family. That you will always keep the spirit of zeal, silence, charity, and recollection. I wish to repeat once again, and please listen, these lines are for all of you. Take very much care when in contact with the T.B. patients so that you won't become contaminated. This is an order. Don't remain in the wards (*wards of the T.B. girls*) more than absolutely necessary. Be very kind to them, but no conversations with them, and no familiarities under any pretext. I hope you will obey me. If you act otherwise, you will not act as religious, and I'll consider you as seculars. May God our Lord never permit me to suffer such sorrow.

May God reward you for sending the money every month for our student sisters. To educate the sisters properly is really a big venture. They tell me that this college they are attending is one of the best in Mexico City.

Please give my congratulations to Patricia and little Jenny (*the two novices*) and **tell them that I wish and ask Our Lord to grant the graces they will need to sanctify their souls. Ask them to pray for me.** Good-bye, daughter. **Be what God our Lord wants you to be.**

Maria

Letter 277

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

VERY IMPORTANT!

Guadalajara, August 17, 1933

My very beloved daughter in the Divine Heart, [Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez],

Thank God that the certified package (*the ritual book of the Congregation which was corrected in the United States under the guidance of Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez who was in exile there*) you sent through Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) reached me and is in accord with the modifications made. Blessed be God! The place you mention for the little girls seems advantageous and in the way you sisters have planned. I think you must follow the indications of grandfather and repeat to him

whatever you've done. It's fine with me if you send these things through Conchita, and although sometimes she can't bring them as soon as she would like, I know they are always in safe hands and I'm at peace.

How is Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Gonzalez*) getting along? I'm concerned about her and so is Aurelio (*Mother Mary's father*). He asks that you write to him once a week telling him how she is. Please let me know periodically how she is coming along, and please let him know also because, naturally, he is worried.

Teresa's family (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro and the community in Atotonilco*), now in the little town, was about to lose their house. As usual, our good God helped us and they say now that it (*the house in Atotonilco*) is safe. I hope so. Tomorrow, God willing, your cousin Conchita Gonzalez is coming to give lessons in shorthand and typing to the girls (*sisters*). I want them to finish these two subjects. I like the young girl very much and Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) tells me that she is "thoughtful" (*inclined to the religious life*). I hope she will join us! Now, everything is in God's hands!

Please forward the letter which I'm enclosing to the person mentioned there. Tell him, in whatever way God our Lord inspires you, that someday, if he would honor me with his answer, to write to me using your mother's name and her address.

We must be courageous to suffer whatever Our Lord is pleased to send us. If the business of grandfather comes to a happy conclusion, blessed be God. If Our Lord doesn't grant us this favor, then we'll also bless Him, continuing to do so until He chooses to grant us a favor (*Mother Luisita is referring to the Canonical establishment of the Congregation in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles because the sisters were still classified as refugees*). Furthermore, you should prepare yourself by prayer for the very painful and great sorrows and difficulties you'll have to bear in the work you are doing. The responsibility that you have is distinctive as well as a form of martyrdom. It seems that crosses fall from every angle and, indeed, this is a long procedure. It's not a matter of dying.

Rather, it's a matter of living with contradiction and difficulties. Sometimes heaven itself will turn into bronze, but let nothing disturb you and nothing frighten you.

Greetings to all of the family (*sisters*) and especially to our very dear sick girls and ask them to please pray for me.

Maria G. Franco

Letter 278

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, September 11, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

May the grace of God be in your soul. I had hoped that you would be receiving your feastday greeting from me on the twelfth, congratulating you on your very day, but it just wasn't possible for me to write it in time, so please forgive my delay and receive my most cordial, belated good wishes together with my poor prayers, which I'm offering for your eternal happiness.

I bless the good Lord for your improving health and I hope that it will get even better and that you'll have big, rosy cheeks!

In just one day the family is leaving for Ocotlan. Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) will go as their mother (*local superior*). They'll be living in the house where you used to live. The whole house will be available for them. Their rooms will be on the second floor, and the rooms on the first floor will be turned into classrooms. The companions will be Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Ibarra*), Maria de San Jose (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*), Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*), Lolita (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez*) and Beatriz (*Mother Beatriz of Jesus Ochoa Lopez*). Pray earnestly to Our Lord, and ask Him to bless them and help them do well. Elenita doesn't want the responsibility of the family (*local community*), and she cries like a child and begs not to be given that position. It seems to her that it's beyond her strength, but all of that

has been in vain. *Pobrecita*, God our Lord will help her. They are going to teach shorthand, typing, cloth-cutting, accounting, piano, sewing, cooking, as well as arts and crafts, including working with wax.

On the fifth, at dusk, we finished our retreat. Blessed be God! We were happy and it has left deep and pleasant impressions in our souls.

We have been having earthquakes, some relatively strong and others less so, but it's God Who is moving us and warning us to be alert for the hour when He will call us to give an account.

Take good care of yourself and follow the prescriptions of the doctor exactly. Try not to worry about anything so you will be able to continue getting better.

Affectionate greetings to the family, wishing them from my heart, the blessing of God our Lord. Good-bye.

Maria

**Letter 279
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

Guadalajara, September 18, 1933

My dear daughter,

Thanks be to God! I've finally obtained some information about all of you. Just now I have happily received your letters! Congratulations upon your arrival in the "carp town" (*Ocotlan, Jalisco, a fishing community*). Don't be afraid. The lion isn't like it's depicted. Just see how happy you are going to be. Try to be very discreet, and I suggest that your family (*the community*) do likewise. Keep yourselves independent from anyone there. Welcome all in the best manner you can, but avoid any familiarity, and it goes without saying that you should never say anything about someone else, either good or bad, and don't tolerate any gossip. The moment they start saying that so and so said this, and so and so said that,

change the conversation immediately. That's the way that dissensions among families begin and unrest among yourselves. Pay attention to this recommendation, Nena. It's very important; so much so, that I've learned that in that little town there are not only cliques, but that the population itself is divided, and I understand that for these reasons it's very difficult to remain there. But without visiting anyone or confiding in anyone, you'll inspire respect, especially if you dedicate yourselves only to the fulfillment of your duty. Trust in God our Lord. Ask Him to help you every morning before you start your work and have the aspiration: "Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in You," constantly in your heart. Let me know about all the difficulties you encounter, but never share these with any of the people there.

Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Christ Ibarra*) and Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) agreed to go there at the end of this week, but you need to send them the money for their tickets, and arrange to have Miss Espinoza's sisters meet them at the station.

I understand that you want the cradle that I offered you, but I don't know which cradle you are talking about. Could it be the one with the metal frame? If so, I'll be happy to send it to you along with the two mantillas that I have for Manuelito (*the Christ Child*).

I'll see to it that Beatriz (*Mother Beatriz of Jesus Ochoa*) leaves right away and I hope Pachita (*Francisca Rivera lived with the de la Pena family for many years and was a life-long friend of Mother Luisita and helped Mother Luisita's mother during her final years before her death.*) will accompany her. If there's enough time, I'll try to make up the recipes you are asking for. Please send Beatriz's travel fare, if you can. If you can't, then with much sacrifice, we'll send her to you.

We have to respect papa's (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) opinion. Ask him if it would be at all possible for your cousins (*the sisters' confessor*) to come at an hour that's convenient. Or if you have to go out, then you'll go at a time when the p. ("*parroquia*" or church) is unoccupied. Whoever is watching the little ones (*school children*) while the others are gone, can take

one of those same pupils as a companion afterwards so she won't be "playing hookey" when your cousins come to visit.

I'll surprise you one of these days by showing up for a fish dinner!

We have to be very calm to be able to think. What I mean to say is that we shouldn't come to any important decision right away. Learn to let some time pass. Take time to pray. Let the sun go down, and then make the decision the following day or even later.

Good things are starting to happen in that house. I have complete confidence in you. Therefore, I'm at peace.

Write to me as often as you can. You know my character. I'm only at peace if I know how you are getting along. Please have patience with me because that's simply the way I am.

I sent the little paper to Beatriz and asked her to return it, indicating the colors she wants and listing the other things Maria (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*) would like to have for the pantry. Beatriz will go to the "*portal*" (*shopping center*) to get whatever would be of use to you.

May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 280

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, September 22, 1933

My very loving daughter, Margarita Maria,

I've received your letters. God reward you for the *pensiones* (*financial help for the sisters attending college*) that you sent to Mexico City. I was told that it has already reached them. May God our Lord bless you for the all of the good you are doing in helping these girls (*sisters*). With the sound formation they are receiving, much can be expected. They have already made their apologies for registering so late for their classes. Now the girls have made up for

the lost time and are already on the same level as their classmates who started on time, but it has come at a cost. They studied very much to catch up.

I don't recall having told you that Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) moved to Ocotlan on the fourteenth. Her new address is A. Obregon, 140, and when you were last over there it was called Minerva. In your Novena to St. Therese pray for them.

Regarding the ring, don't worry about it. I wanted you to know how delicate these things are. With good reason, grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) was telling you to communicate with me first. I hope that something like this won't happen again. I understand that grandfather prefers if with all respect and submission you propose this to him before bringing it here, but this time I will excuse it because of the good intention you had. I see the urgent necessity that we have of learning the laws of the Church regarding our state of life. It seems to me that not obeying the laws of the Church would be cause for me to accuse myself to the father (*the priest in the confessional*). The Church has great wisdom and prudence and studies its laws well, and not to comply with them has its own consequences. As to the wearing of the ring, don't worry. One or more competent persons will study this matter and let you know what you should do in this particular case.

Telling you all this has caused me pain, but as always you've been good with me and, really and truly, I still have all confidence and love in you, my dear daughter. May I give and you receive this correction with the same spirit of faith. As far as I am concerned, I try not to think of my own person, but rather that I am the mother who is teaching her children. I have the responsibility and will have to give an account to God about all of you. I want whatever we do to be done correctly so that we'll have stability and for that it's necessary to have respect for the Council (*General Council*) and do nothing, absolutely nothing, without its approval so that no one can interfere with the Congregation except the Church. The Church has ordained it that way, and the constitutions tell us who governs the Congregation and rightly so. If one could always be changing things, introducing new customs and leaving the Council aside, who

would be able to live in a Congregation which functions that way? You are well aware that the answer is no one and that's the reason the Church doesn't permit it.

I hope that you'll make the novenas to St. Therese and Our Holy Mother St. Teresa prayerfully.

How is Maria (*Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*)?

Greetings to each and every one of my daughters (*sisters*).

Good-bye and may God bless you.

Maria

Letter 281
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

Guadalajara, September 25, 1933

My dear daughter, Elenita,

May God give you a good day. How have you been?

God our Lord will be sending Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) over there to help you in the kitchen, but she will have to come back over here to take some classes for a number of days. She will be exchanging places with Maria de San Jose (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*) who will be going to Atotonilco to help Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez*). Teresita, in addition to being the principal, is also teaching the fourth, fifth and sixth grades and she is looking very tired. I hope that as soon as you receive this letter you'll send Maria de San Jose to the little town (*Atotonilco*) to take care of whatever grade Teresita asks her to teach. Her mother or one of her own sisters could bring her, or you could send her with some other trustworthy person who can then return with Maria Amada who is now completing her retreat. I'll send her, as you say for a month, and I hope that she will be all ready because I think that cooking is easy for her. See, how our merciful God has granted her

to you. Love Him very much and commend yourself to Him.

Is Jesusita with you already?

Your sisters over here think of you very often and I was told they want to write to you. But in "*el juego de Juan Pirulero, que cada quien atiende su juego*"--("in the game of Juan Pirulero, each takes care of his/her own"), but eventually they'll write. (*The sisters were familiar with this children's game which has a lot of movement and constantly changing activities. In the same way, changes in assignments have moved all the sisters around--but eventually they'll write when things slow down a bit.*)

Very soon now, you'll be receiving the textbook and blackboard that Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) wants. Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) has already recommended a very good religion book, one with clear explanations by Father Daniel Juarez, S.J. Let me know when you want it and I'll send it. It will be good for all the sisters to study it well.

You asked about having daily sewing classes. If your "*Tata*" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) says it would be beneficial, do whatever you deem prudent, and that goes for everything else. Only those who are working in that environment can determine what is best there. (However, you have to be careful and not get into the habit of doing only what everyone likes).

Don't forget to make the novena to St. Therese. To whom (*what patron saint*) did you dedicate your house?

Try to see to it that your "*Tata*" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) is pleased with you. It should be that way. Otherwise, it's like paddling against the current. Keep that in mind.

I'm enclosing a letter for Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*). See to it that Maria de San Jose takes it to her. Yes, you may send your clothing to be washed, but only for the time being.

Maria

Letter 282
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, September 30, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez
Duarte, California

My very dear daughter,

I had the joy of receiving both your letter and the picture. God reward you. Orion is very big and beautiful. He's really grown very much in little more than a year. That little animal can be of use to you in some way. (*Mother had received a picture of their watchdog, Orion.*)

Victoria and Clementina Padilla came and told me that you've gained some weight. They gave me the ring you did the favor of sending to me. It's pretty. Thank you. How have you been? Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) was telling me you were exhausted, but without any fever. I think worries probably caused this to happen, and I hope you are well again.

There is going to be a wedding, or rather, we're going to approve the engagement (*the reception of the Holy Habit*) of Nacha (*Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar*) and Paula (*Sister Benigna of Jesus Salas*) on the thirtieth of this month. Therefore, we're going to have a little "*fiesta*" (*General Council Meeting*). Pray for both of these little ones, for they really do want to get married, and in spite of all the difficulties they have had, they both remain firm in their commitment.

Finally, Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) went to Ocotlan on October 14, and I'm taking it for granted that Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) has already told this to you and given you her address. I've learned they are very happy and that the little house is very nice.

Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) and all her family just ended their retreat. They are happy and peaceful. A Father of the Company (*Jesuit priest*) gave it. Our Lord grants us always so many

graces. May He be blessed!

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) came to live in Guadalajara. One of these days she will also be moving to another house. We'll send you the new address. She is living with her daughters who are working in a school located by *La Concepcion (a Church)*. I see her frequently. She comes to see us and we have had the pleasure to having her over for lunch. Teresa and Nena come once in a while. I expect to see them again on the first Saturday. (*The General Council Meetings were held on the first Saturday every two months.*)

The people here in Guadalajara are showing their love for Saint Therese. People from all walks of life are praying to her with great enthusiasm and trying to please her. What a little Saint! She's really made herself loved!

I want to recommend a religious book that you should purchase. It was written by a Jesuit Priest. I think his name is Daniel Juarez, S.J. It will be very useful to you. The explanations are in the same book.

My regards to that family (*community*) whom I love so much and ask them to pray for me. May God our Lord bless you all.

Maria

P.S. The girls who are attending school in Mexico City are going to have exams at the end of this month. Please keep them in your prayers so they'll be able to pass the course.

I have just finished this letter on October fifth.

Letter 283

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, October 10, 1933

My very beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,

I greet you with all my affection, wishing from my heart blessings

from heaven on your day of days (*Mother Margarita's feastday*) and hoping you'll be able to spend it happily!

I had the joy of receiving your letter. May God reward you.

Tell Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) that Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is in the little town (*Atotonilco*) and that both she and Josefa de C. (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*) have come down with fever, but that it doesn't seem to be anything very serious.

I understand how much you've suffered because I know your character and how you are. As your mother, it hurts me too. I promise you, daughter, I'll consent to wearing the ring.

I've written to the little ones. How have they been behaving? **Ah, Margarita, belong only to God. Prove your love and loyalty to Him through the purity of your own soul. Always keep it detached from creatures, places, honors, in a word.....from everything! Do not ask what is your will, or if you like or not like to do whatever has been ordered or what your duties demand of you. Don't talk about yourself. Our Lord is the One Who passes His judgement. Whatever you are in His presence, then that is what you are. I permit myself to give you this little counseling, remembering that you've always been a true daughter to me.**

On the thirtieth of this month, Socorro's twins will be baptized (*will enter the novitiate*). They'll receive the names of Alice (*Sister Mary Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar who subsequently left the Congregation*) and Benigna of Jesus (*Sister Benigna of Jesus Salas*). Ask Our Lord that these girls will be saints.

How cute Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) is as the mother of the family (*as the local superior of the community*). You certainly would have a good laugh if you could see her. It's been very hard for her to be the lady of the house. She's cried and sometimes she even hides from the girls. In fact, it's really very, very funny. Nevertheless, a great deal is expected of her because she's a good head and a delicate

conscience. In the midst of all her playful ways, she has a heart of gold. She is only playful with her own sisters and not with the outsiders. With them, she is rather formal. She came with Teresita to spend the First Saturday here (*General Council Meetings were held on the first Saturday of every month*).

We'll need the ritual for the thirtieth. I hope you'll be able to send it.

The examinations of the girls will take place in Mexico City the last week of this month. Pray to Our Lord that they'll make the grade. It will be very hard for them as they have only studied about four months. The work has been very hard but Ines wants to continue her studies in summer school. She wants to finish her college in the near future. Cecilia is here studying the piano with a very good teacher. It's very easy for her and we can hope she will obtain her diploma. Genevieve (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascensio Bautista who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa Ascensio Bautista*) is studying shorthand and typing. Maybe she'll be receiving her diploma next January. Then she will go on to Mexico City to teach those two subjects and to continue studying. I would certainly like very much to see you sisters get more and more education so that you'll be able to work and do good.

Maria

Letter 284
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

October 13, (1933)

My dear daughter,

I laughed when I read your letter. I hope that we'll be able to see each other soon. Meanwhile, ask Our Lord to give you the necessary patience and wisdom to deal with "those women," as you say. Mrs. Leon in her school uses the bulletin board to communicate information. She simply posts a bulletin. She doesn't communicate any announcement personally. You do the same. Put a sign up saying, "Please bring your payments in advance." When it becomes necessary you can also write something like, "Whoever has not brought in the payment,

please do so." You did the right thing by not allowing the ladies to talk to the pupils about this. This type of thing should be done when the ladies have their meetings and through the committees. I repeat that it shouldn't be done within the school, and whenever there is the opportunity politely introduce the other procedure. When your "Tata" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) comes he will help you very much. In the meantime, treat the ladies courteously but without slipping into any familiarity so that they won't feel that they can be giving out orders in the convent and the chapel. God our Lord will help you. Don't doubt this.

Papa Maco (*Father Macario Velasquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*) begged us not to transfer Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*), giving us very weighty reasons, and so, Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) will remain there. Teresita is at peace now. She arranged everything with the those who will be helping in the other grades and, thanks be to God, I know they are working with much enthusiasm.

Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*) will come to take cooking classes as soon as you arrange for her transportation expenses and a companion. Nacha (*Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar*) agreed to teach her well.

Pachita Rivera (*Francisca Rivera lived with the de la Pena family since she was a little girl and stayed with Mother Luisita's mother in the months before her death. She also was the close companion of Mother Luisita after the death of Dr. Rojas*) left yesterday for the little town (*Atotonilco*) and is determined to stop at your house upon her return which will be in eight days. By telegraph or telephone I'll let you know precisely what day, so you will be able to send someone to the station to pick her up, but send someone who knows her.

Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) will send you C.O.D. the material for the blackboard.

Accompanied by the pupil, walk to Maria's house to give the piano lesson.

Right now, I just received the permission for Lupe Escoto (*a life-long friend of Mother Luisita and the Congregation, a teacher from Atotonilco*). May whatever God our Lord desires happen now.

Don't worry about anything that's going on in this world. Concern yourself with the next. In all of your difficulties and fears, turn to your good Jesus. He will help you and inspire you as to what you should do. He will give you strength and all the other virtues you need as well. Therefore, be happy and filled with confidence wherever Our Lord places you and however He wants you.

My regards to the girls (*sisters*). May they spend the feast of Our Holy Mother, filled with the Holy Spirit. Pray for that intention.

Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

**Letter 285
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

October 21, 1933

My dear daughter,

I have received both of your letters. May God our Lord reward you because you are well aware that I'm never at peace until I know that the sisters who are away are all right.

I'm very happy, naturally, knowing through your letters that you are receiving some support, and that you've even received some presents and flowers. Blessed be God! How good He is!

I agree that you should approve, whenever possible, the proposals the people make. Try to offer the classes that they are asking for, and if you think that Lolin (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Crucified Jimenez Alba*) can help you with one of the classes, then let her prepare herself and teach it. If not, you teach it. All things considered, that would probably be the better way. Regarding the

classes for the little girls, we'll resolve this problem when you come over, but if you think it's necessary to offer those classes sooner than that, then take over and God our Lord will help you. I'm assuming there aren't too many of them.

Yes, we need to take care of the poor. We should, but if we were living in a financially solvent manner we wouldn't have to be asking for money. You, yourself, are a witness to the fact that we need to work in order to eat, and this requires that we ask for payment for the work we do. The only thing I can do to help you is to make sure that you have enough personnel. Perhaps it would be better if you discussed this matter with your "*Tata*" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*), but confidentially. Let him see our good will to help, but be sure that he also sees the financial difficulties we're going through. Of course, you don't have to go into all the details with him. Mention Mercedes's (*Miss Mercedes Villasenor, representative of the group of ladies who asked Mother Luisita to start a school in Octolan*) suggestion to him.

At a time when you least expect it, I'll be over there greeting you and admiring your little house. Without seeing it yet, I already like it.

Pachita (Francisca Rivera had lived many years with the de la Pena family and was a close friend of Mother Luisita) and I haven't discussed anything about her financial arrangements. I think that giving her room and board and a gift will be sufficient. She is useful and I don't think you'll be losing anything by having her. I know she was sick after the car trip to Arandas, and the same thing might happen again after her return because of her illnesses.

As I like sweets very much, I'm really looking forward to what you say you'll be preparing for me in addition to the carp or another fish. Braulita must really know how to prepare that dish very well because she surely has had a lot of practice by now.

How wonderful for you that you were able to have a celebration on the fifteenth. Blessed be God! I rejoice with you.

I'm feeling a little dizzy. I'll try to write a longer letter on another occasion. May God our Lord bless you all.
Good-bye. Regards to all the family (*sisters*) and "*Jesucito*" (*Our*

Lord in the Blessed Sacrament), too.

Maria

Letter 286

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, October 23, 1933

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

I affectionately greet you wishing for you, from my heart, the peace of God.

What joy it gives me to learn that you are much better and already back in Los Angeles. It seems to me that you'll be experiencing more tranquility there. To me, tranquillity surpasses any other good. Body and the soul are united, so try not to pay attention even to the street noises. Just take care of the interior of your house because family (*the community*) and other things require so much of your attention.

We have to think about what you were told about Papa Juanito (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*). It appears strange to me because Francisco, the gentleman who used to visit us every week when I was there, (*Father Francis Redman, O.F.M., confessor for that community*) told me that he had made satisfactory arrangements regarding the business of the girls who lived with him (*Mother Luisita is referring to the community of Franciscan sisters who helped out at San Toribio Parish where Father Redman lived*). He had asked the permission from Rome to establish the N. (*novitiate*) canonically. It will be good to ask "*al Senor*" (*His Excellency*) lest there will be no validity. These matters are very delicate. But let's not become worried. In peace, let's wait for Our Lord to manifest His will, and in case that you can't find some way to establish it, there is sufficient work here for everyone. Therefore, ask, and let me know the answer. This doesn't mean that I want you to come over. Come over only if you aren't able to remain there.

Thanks be to God we're all relatively well. Josefita (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*) is much better now. Tere's (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro's*) family is working with lots of difficulties in the little town (*Atotonilco*). Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) and the girls are also working well. I'm told they look happy and that their little house is like a fruit and flower garden because they have been given so many flowers and so much fruit--squash, *chayotes* (*a pear-shaped fruit*), corn-on-the-cob and many, many others and even some fish. **The girls (sisters) in Mexico City will soon be taking their end-of-the-year examinations. They're beginning now and will be ending on Thursday. I believe that they are difficult exams. Pobrecitas! May God our Lord help them to pass the year because they actually attended classes for only three months and some days. They haven't received adequate nourishment, they have endured walking so far to school in even in the torrential rain, and they are killing themselves with work on top of all that. Let it be for God! This is the life of we poor people and may God be blessed!** Regarding Francisca's property (*Sister Francisca Teresa who later changed her name to Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*), let her continue writing to her mother and you write to her too, urging her to take care of that business. It's a matter of conscience, and it would be better for her to sell the property and then turn in the money. Regarding Jesus Teresa (*Sister Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*), I don't know if she will be able to arrange anything, and only God knows how we're going to fare in the other world for not taking care of business on time. I beg you not to take your finger away from the writing line until that problem is solved. You be the one to do it. Take immediate action. I can't do anything to help you because grandmother (*the religious persecution in Mexico*) is so ill. Therefore, I must rely entirely on you.

I hope you'll send our little books very soon so we may start using them. (*The community's ritual books were being printed in California.*)

I had some other business to talk to you about, but right now I can't remember what it was.

Take good care of yourself and do whatever the doctor tells

you. Try not to worry. Everything in life has its ups and downs, yet above everything else, we must live a life of faith, seeing all things as coming from the hand of God and for our own good.

Affectionate regards to all the family and the Lara family (*a family residing in Los Angeles*). May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. It's really too bad that Maria Gutierrez is ill. (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Teresa Gutierrez Holman who recovered*). Let's ask the Sacred Heart that if it is for her own good, He will grant our prayers. That she is well taken care of is a fact. But what kind of illness does she have?

Letter 287
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

October 26, 1933

My beloved daughter,

I just read your letter and I'm replying immediately as you've asked.

I bless God our Lord because I can see that He is blessing your efforts with the children and the parents. Keeping this group of women (*the group of women under the leadership of Mercedes Villasenor who had asked the Carmelites to have a school in Ocotlan*) happy will enable them to give very much glory to God because once you've gained the confidence and sympathy of those around you, you can do anything you want.

You did the right thing in not limiting yourself to a school program which accepts only little girls. It's not a school. It's an academy. You also did the right thing in keeping the people happy by making the proposed classes available to them, but don't let the number of pupils in those classes exceed the total number of smaller girls because I assure you, the smaller children are the ones who will profit more from the instruction.

Please send Lolin (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Crucified Jimenez Alba*)

over to me or you could bring her with you when you come on the First Friday because on Saturday we have to do a little job that you'll like very much--a surprise that God our Father has in store for you.

Don't pay attention to your dreams. What a girl! You'll kill yourself if you continue going on that way. Try to work toward becoming calm. I've told you before that before you decide anything, you should always think about it and at the very minimum, let one night pass before you try to solve anything. Don't tell anything else to Lolin (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*). Both of you be at peace.

The money arrived safely and I thank you for it. I'm going to use it for the postage stamps to send this letter to you. I'm afraid that it will be noticed if you send us cash. It would be better if you would save the money and then bring it over whenever you come, even if it's only a few cents.

The other day I became very ill and Dr. Gonzalez Arechiga prescribed some injections and a laxative. I've been a little better. Blessed be God!

Nacha (*Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar who left the Congregation*) and Paulita (*Sister Pauline of Jesus*) are going into retreat this evening. They are very happy and I hope that it will be a good one. Pray to God for them. Both of them are beautiful lilies.

I want to send this right away so I'll stop now. For the same reason, I'm not answering the other letters I received from the girls (*sisters*). In the meantime, greet them for me. May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 288
Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

November of 1933

For Lupita (Guadalupe).

My dear daughter,

I greet you with much affection, wishing you to be in good health.

I've received your letters. Please don't worry. I've been careful to destroy them after reading them.

Cecilia (*Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman*) has a magnificent piano teacher (*Miss Aurea Corona*), the best in Guadalajara, and I'd like you to have her, too. Besides, now we even have two pianos at our disposal! Cecilia studies for three hours daily, and you can do the same and become an accomplished pianist. I'll wait for you. In that way you'll spend some time over here, which I hope will be useful to you in more ways than one. **See how much patience the Lord has toward you because of the love He has for you.**

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 289
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

November 9, 1933

My dear daughter,

May you all be well and working very hard, but never to the detriment of your spiritual life.

It seems to me that when you wrote to Maria you left room for them to understand what they understood, and the manner in which the poor things have answered has saddened me, and it looks as if there was some violence involved. If they would have reflected a little, they would have cleared things up in a better way. Let this be a lesson for us. Before we say anything we have to think it out very carefully beforehand, and not the other way around--saying something and then thinking it over after it is already been said because the results are disastrous. Let it be all for God! I hope that this painful incident will help

our souls. We have already consulted the canons and whatever you approve over there from now on will need to be confirmed from over here.

Don't tell Maria that I'm angry. What I'm really feeling is sadness because of what has happened.

How are all of you? How are those classes going? Are both teachers and pupils happy? Commend yourselves to Our Lord. Don't forget what you are and teach more with your example than with your words. How sad it would be to scandalize anyone because of any lack of modesty or violent behavior. That would be most detrimental, more so than if you had never even gone there in the first place. It would be defeating your own purpose in the souls of those persons. Therefore, be very careful, Elenita. Measure your words, your movements and your attire. You are the center of that little group of people. They expect to see in you a saintly religious, and they don't miss a thing because they are always watching you.

I finish this right now because I want to send it right away. I commend myself to your prayers.

May God our Lord bless you all. Good-bye.

Maria

**Letter 290
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

November 14, 1933

My dear daughter, Elenita,

With much pleasure I've received your letter. How are you feeling? Did you get a fever or was it only tiredness because of the new school year, registrations and so many other little things and difficulties which present themselves at this time? Try to sleep and rest well and leave everything in the hands of our good Lord. He will take care of everything for you. Because He was the One Who put you in that place and gave you that load to carry, He will give you His grace and everything will be all right.

If I don't die, we'll soon see each other there. Meanwhile, you just look, listen and keep quiet when the ladies talk to you. As far as Angel is concerned, use very few words and only speak whenever it's necessary.

What you said about fasting to the children seems very appropriate to me. We have to recognize that fasting is a duty that we have and that permission is needed not to fast.

I tore up the letter you were sending to Maria because I didn't want you to tell her about my being upset. The rest of the things you shared with her are all right for her to know, except what you have to say about Josephine. Keep that to yourself until you are able to tell me first. Finally, everything is cleared up about your office and, as it turned out, you were right. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) went to see Alberto (*Father Albert Urdanivia, S.J.*) and I think you can be at peace. Don't mention when I'll answer.

The order in which you are going to start the classes seems to be all right, and I'm sorry to hear about the poor condition of the house and its lack of cleanliness as well. That will be bad for the sewing you do. But how can anyone keep a house clean when it's completely surrounded by dirt? Go ahead and teach them anyway. Teach them to try to have everything clean and orderly. To achieve this you are going to need to build a little hallway and construct some shelves in it for storage, and then begin cleaning out the rooms. All of this should be included in the training of the girls. They should learn to have everything clean and stored in a orderly manner. Tell that to Angel and I hope that great problem will soon be solved.

Would any visitor be impressed upon entering such an unfavorable atmosphere? To see the sewing all dirty and the flowers without care would make a bad first impression on anyone. How different it would be if everything were clean and in order, if the kitchen were perfectly spotless and all of the kitchen utensils, the dishes as well as anything else that pertains to the kitchen, including the towels, were all properly

labeled. Taking care of all these things is educating the girls, and this kind of education isn't finished in a couple of days. Rather, it's a day-by-day learning experience. You'll also need to check weekly to follow-up to see if all this is really being done, but go on a different day and different hour each time. Check that all the girls are very clean. Allow no make-up nor any immodesty in their dress. It would be advisable to have a conference on this at Maria's house.

You are doing all right, but please think things out before you do or say anything. Always talk things over with Our Lord before you take action. Tell me everything so I will be able to be able to help you, and I'm always happy to do so. Courage, my daughter, courage and onward. Remember that God's blessings are given to you through your superiors.

Now I am answering your other letter which I received today while I was writing this one.

Blessed be God that He helped you to stand firm regarding the sisters going out. They should go out only when it's strictly necessary. Then, if possible, they could go to the lake during Christmastide.

With pleasure I give you permission to talk to your mother, but be prepared because you are going to be very emotional and will manifest your feelings before the people. Reflect a little so that you will be moderate.

Treat the girl you wrote me about with charity, keeping the dignity proper to your position but without being snobbish. We'll pray for her and don't talk to her directly about religion. God will help you. Ask for His help and pray to our Blessed Mother for her.

Show very good will toward Gabriela's (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) father, but tell him that there are really no accommodations to receive the lady. Besides, she wouldn't be very happy with so many girls around.

I can't do it any more. (*She can't write anymore.*)

Maria Toledo

Letter 291
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

November 16, 1933

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

Your letter arrived yesterday, and because of it I'm writing to you before Saturday which is the day that Agapita goes over to give her cooking classes. I feel a kind of repugnance to think that one of you is sitting with the other students in the classroom attending a class given by a secular teacher. What is the reason for the attendance? For any sister to show up and be mixed among the pupils doesn't seem very wise to me. You might lose respect for your authority. It's an awkward situation for all concerned. We have to preserve some kind of independence and you have to assert your authority in everything, keeping your distance and your dignity so you may be respected by both teacher and the pupils. This should never be done out of pride, but if you start with familiarities, considering yourselves the same as the students, they will not have any faith in you and you will not be able to do as much good as you should. No, my daughter. The sisters should be present only when they go to teach their classes, and that's all. In a very natural manner, blending seriousness and sweetness, your presence will be perceived by the students as somehow different from the others. This decorum isn't something to be tried for only a day or two, but should always be maintained.

Don't omit your prayer time. You have to pray in the afternoon. Make sure that the pupils see that you are firm about keeping the rule. If some day it's very necessary that you remain with the seculars, make up your prayer at another time. You can take care of it before, and then it will serve you as a preparation to be with people.

Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) says that you should take advantage of the enthusiasm that exists now. I told him about the one that's a Mason and he says you should be kind and do good to

her. I just thought of something. Perhaps, although right now doesn't seem to be the opportune time, but later when the opportunity presents itself, encourage them to make a five day retreat with a Jesuit. It would be good experience for them. With Mr. Flores (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) being there, I wouldn't dare to suggest some other good man but himself. Pray to Our Lord about it because I think it would be very beneficial for those souls.

The lady who is giving cooking classes to Cecilia, the one who made the chicken in the form of a frog, is offering to go to Ocotlan to teach some cooking classes, as long as there is a group who would like to learn. When you come on the First Friday, we'll see what we can do about it. I'm told that Coronita (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*) is quite adept at cooking. She was determined to learn when she went to the classes with Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*). She showed me that she can learn and it would be good for you to send her to take the classes. The lady is a very good teacher and I think the dishes she prepares are better than the dishes prepared by the classes directed by Miss Magdalena.

Tell Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) to send Cuca (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) soon and for Coronita not to waste any time.

You might remember that today we begin the novena to St. John of the Cross. I would like you to make it with much fervor and try to read the life of St. Francis Xavier. Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) has it. She can lend it to you. Entrust yourselves to that great saint who converted so many souls. His feast is on the third of next month. Francis Xavier and St. Therese are the patrons of the missions. Pray to them so they can intercede to gain souls for Our Lord.

I wrote to you yesterday, and I'm hoping that you've already received my letter. I wrote to Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Christ Ibarra*) also.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 292
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

November 24, 1933

My dear daughter,

I greet you with affection in Our Lord, wishing you well.

Regarding Merceditas (*Miss Mercedes Villasenor was the representative of the ladies of Ocotlan who petitioned Mother Luisita to open a house there*), you did the right thing. Now you'll need to be consistent and deal with all the other people in the same manner, so that no one will notice any inequality in treatment. Otherwise, you'll only end up with hurt feelings all around. Continue stressing to all of them the importance of coming to see you only at the time you specify, so that you can be of service to them during the period you've allotted for that in your schedule.

I bless Our Lord for granting you the grace of having a piano, and a good one at that, as you say. Would it be possible that at least once a month you could have lessons? I'm going to propose this to Miss Aurea (*Aurea Corona, piano teacher*) and see if she is willing, and if she is, you could receive the first lesson the next time you come.

We received the vegetables and they were perfect for us, blessed be God! May He reward those who donated them, and you, too, for sending them to us.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) went to Mexico City to make the arrangements for the school. We have to open right away, and it might be necessary for her to remain there as principal because we have no one else, and she is certified. Pray to God that it can become a reality.

It's essential that you come on Friday. There is some business to be resolved and you are the only one who can do it. We need your signature to be able to rent the field.

I'm sorry about Gabriela's (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) illness. I hope that she will get well. I'm asking Our Lord to heal her so that she will be able to continue giving her classes. God will provide.

Don't forget to place yourself in the hands of God every day. Commend yourself to Him. Offer Him each little thing that you do and trust only in Him.

Only God knows if Albertito (*Father Albert Urdanivia, S.J.*) will have to leave us. It shouldn't be too difficult for us if his *papacito* (*Jesuit superiors*) moves him if only we can learn to say, "God's will be done." God our Lord will take care of everything so that what happens will be the best for all concerned. May He be blessed for everything!

It was wonderful that you spent a day with Jesus. I hope that you'll not miss any month being with Him. He is so good to us and we have to please Him always.

I was just starting this sentence when your letter arrived. **Ay, my little one! You worry so much over nothing. Think a little and you'll come to see that it's all nothing. If the piano is taken away, so be it! That the piano classes worry you, go buy some books that will help you and consult with Aurora (*who gives the piano lessons*). I think that she will be able to teach you once a month. If they take the piano away, well, how can you give piano lessons when there is no piano? You can't. That's all there is to it. *Punto* (*Period*). Regarding Mrs. Cortez's niece? Go ahead and accept her with the conditions you have stipulated. At the same time, it's to our advantage that she isn't in our house. And she was from such an honorable family. That the girls are gossiping about it..... don't say anything and don't pay any attention to them. Just keep on doing your work. But I repeat, without saying anything, and in that way you won't give them any room to get you involved. And if you do allow yourself to get involved in all of this, you'll be lowering yourself. What they are doing isn't acceptable to well-educated and serious people. You are really dealing with the uneducated. That Maria (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*) is sick..... she's been sick all her life. Make her take her medicine**

and keep her occupied. What I'm recommending to you is that you don't relinquish your prayer time. If you don't omit prayer, then you'll find all your answers there.

Refugio hasn't gone yet because she doesn't have any clothing, and they don't have any means to buy it. Did Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who left the convent*) leave yet? If not, please send her right away to help in the house.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 293
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

November 25, 1933

For Teresita.

My very dear daughter,

It's with great joy that I greet you with all my heart, hoping you are well and happy.

How can I tell you, my daughter, about how my memory is behaving right now? Something is happening that has never happened to me before--I don't remember if I wrote to you telling you that it's urgent that you come over on the first with Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*). There is something here that needs your signature. Therefore, I'll be expecting you next Friday.

About that celebration that papa (*one of the priests*) wants you to have, I can't remember if I told you to go ahead, always with papa's (*the local pastor in Atotonilco*) approval because you know how cautious he is. I leave it up to the prudence of both of you, and in case you decide to have it, arrange everything in whatever manner you think would be best. I give you permission to do whatever needs to be done.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) is now in Mexico City. She went with the first group of sisters, and my sister,

Refugio, went with them. Carmelita arrived safely and the eye doctor has already seen her. He received her right away and told her that the cataract is ready to be taken out. He said that if the house is all right, then he will perform the surgery right there. She is also making arrangements for a school there in Mexico City. She went in my place and was able to see the eye doctor in the same trip. Besides, the cold weather there isn't very good for me.

I'll be very happy to see you here. I'll be waiting for you with great excitement. Until Friday, then.

Try to be happy. You've the gift of adapting very well to any circumstance surrounding you. You can also get along with the people in the same house with you and that's a great blessing. Anyway, we suffer or enjoy ourselves wherever we may happen to be. Everything has its bad and good side, and we have to see the good.

Good-bye, daughter. If you bring me *gorditas de horno* (oven-baked sweet corn patties) or *pinole* (ground corn with sugar) I'll take them with *gusto* (much enjoyment). May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 294

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

November 25, 1933

My beloved daughter, Carmelita [Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez],

Blessed be God that you arrived safely and that you had the joy of visiting our Blessed Mother and Queen, "*La Morenita*" (with the dark complexion). I hope that you really get to enjoy her.

I was notified that Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who left the Congregation*) arrived safely in Ocotlan. So, don't worry.

It seems to me that the engineer has a weighty reason for not wanting to build the school in that place. So, we'll have to look for another location. Mariquita (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*), who knows that area very well, is well-known by the persons who

can help you.

About the little children (*the various young sisters who were studying in Mexico City*) wanting to continue their studies, it's an urgent necessity and I hope that Mariquita can continue, too, so that they will be able to all obtain their certificates. Just make sure that the girls behave very well and instruct them how to report right away if they perceive even the slightest danger to their souls. Show them to protect one another and notify you if they see any danger for any of their sisters. Ask them, also, to return via the street car. Since they belong to the school, perhaps they could also use the same transportation to get to school. I wish they could arrange with Mrs. Leon to have their classes earlier in the day, even though I see that as an impossibility. (*Mother Luisita is alluding to the danger surrounding them as religious sisters because of these times of open religious persecution.*)

I'm so glad to know that you are being given vegetables and milk. Blessed be God because those foods contain some of the essential nutrients which you all need. How good God is, for He takes such good care of His daughters.

Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) wrote to me. She is well. She traveled to Ocotlan and stayed two days. She told me that her stay was very happy and that she is working with regularity. Teresita mentioned also that the girls are doing very well, and that they would like to know where you are.

We're well here, and I, with my desire to go see you all. I really love you as if you were my daughters because I have really raised you.

My regards to the little ones and tell them I want to know how they did on their exams. I would be so happy if I could see them or hear from them, but I think that there's a need to leave them there.

Good-bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Give my regards to the little ones and to the engineer and his wife. The little card of St. Therese is for them.

Maria

Letter 295
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

December 14, 1933

My beloved daughter, Carmelita,

I received your letter. May God reward you for the joy you give me in letting me know how everyone is.

I wanted to tell you about the surgery through Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*), in order to leave you free to go through with it or not. In case you decide to go through with it, let me know what day it will be, and we'll offer our prayers and be with you in spirit. Ask them to let me know the results right away.

We'll leave God's hands free to make happen whatever is most pleasing to Him--a grammar school or an academy. You've already done all that you could. Now, we have to pray for whatever is more convenient for Him.

It would be a very great help, if possible, for you to teach some algebra classes to the girls (*sisters*), and in that way, they will be a little ahead and the classes they are going to take will not be as hard for them.

God willing, I'm planning to go back to Guadalajara next Monday. I hope I'll get to see Crucito (*Father Cruz Hernandez, the brother of Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart and helped the Congregation in Mexico City very much. He spent his final years in Pedro Loza Hospital.*). Over here, Elenita and the girls (*sisters*) are well. They are appreciated and their classes are full. Right now they are "riding the wind" because everything is going along so well. God knows what lies ahead, but for now the pupils seem to be responding very well in every sense. Pray for this family, for the children, and for the Congregation to continue as enthusiastically as they are now.

Lupita Vazquez (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) and her companions are going on an outing (*making their yearly retreat*) now that they are on vacation and either Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J*) or one of his brothers (*another Jesuit priest*) will accompany them. I hope they will be very happy. Pray to God everything will go well for them.

On the afternoon of the twenty-ninth we'll be having the celebration of the reception (*of the habit*) of three of Socorrito's daughters. One of them is gracious Engracia (*Engracia Cordero Cosio who took the name of Sister Eulalia of the Child Jesus, but who left the Congregation*)--"gracious" (*Engracia means "gracious"*) because she is so short.

Regards to all the family (*community*) and tell them I join them in their sorrow for Crucito's departure. You are all going to miss him. You may go wherever you think is best until he comes back.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Letter 296

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, December 20, 1933

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in the soul of my dear daughter, Margarita Maria.

Merry Christmas and a new year filled with heavenly merit for you, for the rest of the family so dear to me, and for the sick girls. May the peace of God be with you.

I've received your last two letters. God reward you. It's a good idea for you to try to do everything within your power to build the house for Jesus (*chapel at Santa Teresita Sanatorium in Duarte, California*). It's the best thing you can do. They say raffles with progressive numbers have very good results. Try it.

I've just returned from Ocotlan where I spent a few days. It was most consoling for me to see the good they are doing there. The

pupils seem to be happy and are using their time very well in every sense of the word after school is over. Because the school building is small, they don't have many pupils. There are two schools, one for the very poor and one for the better class. All the girls are very good. They are making their own uniforms, all white with a band at the waist and initials of the school in blue. **Pray that Our Lord will be pleased with their efforts because, otherwise, everything is good for nothing.**

Lupita Vazquez (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) and her companions will go on vacation in the afternoon of the twenty-fifth with one of the sons of Ignatius (*will be making an eight-day Ignatian retreat led by a Jesuit priest*). I want you to pray for them.

Because of what you say about Maria (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman*) and Leonor (*Sister Cecilia of the Child Jesus Hernandez*) it will be beneficial to arrange for their celebration (*profession of vows*) to take place as soon as possible. Please send the approval of that Council (*Provincial Council in the United States*) so that this Council (*General Council*) can confirm it. **May God our Lord keep you well and sanctify you more and more every day.**

Good-bye. Our good God bless you all.

Maria

Letter 297
Mother Beatrice of Jesus Ochoa Lopez

(no date)
For Beatrice.

My very dear daughter,

I've had the pleasure of receiving your kind letters. May God our Lord reward you.

I bless our Lord God when I see that you are so happy in His service. Try to be faithful to Him always, taking into consideration even the smallest things. Love Him with all your

soul and show Him your love by the exact fulfillment of your obligations, doing everything out of love for Him. Your prayer should be continual by uplifting your soul to God. Don't neglect your religious modesty and let it be without affectation. Try to make virtue pleasing in the eyes of those around you, so that with your prayer and good example, you will be able to bring many souls to God our Lord.

Write to your mother letting her know about your transfer and give her your address, and you may write to Father Urdanivia (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*).

Remember to take good care of your health, to eat well enough that you'll be able to work, and try to sleep well in order to regain the strength that you lose.

Good bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Let me know later to whom you have entrusted your class.

Maria

**Letter 298
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez**

(no date)

Carmelita,

I think it would be a very good idea for you to go to the little town (*Atotonilco*) to attend the celebration for Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*). Besides, Lupita Botello (*Sister Maria Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez*) wrote to me and I sense that she is kind of worried. Go with her. After all, you already went to see that family and could see what their present needs are and you could help them to solve their problems.

Either Monday or Tuesday of next week Gertru's (*Sister Gertrude of the Heart of Mary Ruiz*) brother and his wife are coming. It would be good if you send Elena's (*Sister Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) patterns with them when they return, and if

there's an extra copy of "Month of the Sacred Heart," please send it also.

I didn't receive the letter you sent us with the wrong address. We looked at the post office but it we couldn't find it.

Cuquita (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) wrote to me, also. She's still sick.

Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who left the Congregation*) is suffering from many pus-filled boils. I'm hoping that Malena (*Mother Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) can send something over to help cure that condition.

My cough is better, but it seems to have been bronchitis.

In case you didn't receive the letters I sent without a number, addressed to Teresa, I want to repeat something that was in them. I had written you to ask you to please take Lupita (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) and Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) to the little town for vacation and to take everyone from the school who would like to go.

Let me know if the letter was found.

Leave Teresa (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Oroczo G.*) as she is while I go, and let them give you an account of everything.

Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is all right.

Good-bye. My regards to all the family (*sisters*).

If the girls (*sisters*) go to the little town (*Atotonilco*), and if you see there is no inconvenience, Rosa (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*), Genoveva (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascencio Bautista who returned later to her baptismal name of Maria Luisa Ascencio Bautista*), Ceci (*Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman*) and Beatriz (*Mother Maria Beatriz of Jesus Ochoa Lopez*) can go to Marianita's (*Mother*

Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez). If that isn't possible, then let them stay as they are.

Good-bye.

Maria Castellanos

Approximate date: 1933. (The perpetual profession of Sister Mary of the Angels Villarruel of the Eucharistic Heart was celebrated in Atotonilco. Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 5, #55.) Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez became the Vicar General in 1930.)

Letter 299

Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez

(no date)

For Carmen Hernandez.

My very dear granddaughter,

I have you very present in my mind right now because your feastday is fast-approaching, and I want to greet you with much affection, wishing for you to spend it very happily. I'll be glad to pray for you, and my prayers will be your gift.

How have you been? How is Esperancita? Study English and have your little brothers study, also, and then perhaps someday you'll take a little trip to this part of the world, where beautiful flowers and very good fruit can be found.

Try to do your very best every day and to please our Blessed Mother with all your soul.

My loving regards to your little sisters, Lupita, Chole del Rio, Victorita and Luisita Gonzalez. Tell them all that I don't forget them, that I saw their families and that they are well.

Good-bye, Carmelita, and may you be a good religious.

Your grandmother who loves you,

Josefa

Approximate date: 1933. (Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament left for the United States in 1934. Testimony of Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez)

Letter 300
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

(no date)

For Elenita.

My very dear daughter,

I order you to go to the hospital and at critical moments to stay at Leonor's (*Mrs. Leonor Cervantes, mother of Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ Cervantes*) house. She's already done us a big favor done by coming to pick you up.

It's very kind of you to do the applications for me. May God our Lord reward you, daughter.

I hope I'll be going to Mexico City soon. Get the \$100.00 (pesos).

Don't overlook giving Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) the letters from Jesus Teresa (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) that I gave you. They'll be very useful to her in resolving that problem.

Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*), Amparo (*Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez*), and you should dedicate yourself to your studies, as well as whoever else is able, but especially you three.

Try to keep peace in your soul. Take good care that you aren't seen. Don't let the people know that you are there. Let papa (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) know you and Carmen T. (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) are there, so they themselves will be able to become more vigilant.

Don't displese Leonor. Use much prudence.

Go in peace. We'll see each other again sometime. Good-bye.
May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Let Tona (*Sister Antonia of the Guardian Angels Ramirez Rizo who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Mary of the Angels*) bring Conchita (*Sister Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*).

Approximate date: 1933. (In 1933 Mother Luisita was in Mexico City establishing the foundation there. She sent many letters from there.)

Letter 301

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

(no date)
Miss Guadalupe Botello

My very dear daughter,

Your letter has arrived finally. It had the wrong address on it.

Your frankness and sincerity in sharing your worries with me is exactly the right thing for you to do because in that way I'll be able to give you my opinion. Don't be concerned about what you are confiding to me. These are things that are really unimportant, and you don't have to worry about them nor lose your peace of soul. All you have to do is to fulfill your duties and "adelante" (onward)!

It's necessary for Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) to be at the ceremony of Maria de los Angeles (*Mother Maria of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*), and in case she hasn't received my letter yet concerning this, you write to her and tell her to represent me. So then she will have to go back, and it will turn out just fine because in that way she can spend her feastday there and you'll still be able to celebrate it with the comedy you will prepare for her. It's only just for her to have some entertainment.

When I visit Our Blessed Mother (*the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City*), I pray very earnestly for all of you. I hope she listens to my prayers, and I don't give up my hope that you'll be able to come and visit her whenever possible. That would make me very happy.

I think that this coming Monday, Ignatius, Getru's (*Sister Gertrude of the Heart of Mary Ruiz*) brother will come with his wife to visit us. This will be a very good opportunity for you to send Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) the patterns and some medicine for Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who left the congregation*), who is very sick. She is suffering from deep boils which have become infected.

Take care of yourself, daughter. It's a duty of conscience for us to look after our health.

My regards to all the family (*sisters*) whom I love so much and to our *papa grande* (*probably the local pastor because the Archbishop was still in exile in California*).

Maria Castellanos

Date: 1933. (Sr. M. of the Angels made her final vows in Atotonilco in 1933.)

Letter 302

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

November 18 (*no year was given*)

For Lupita B.

My very beloved daughter,

I greet you with much affection, wishing for you to be in good health.

You do very well in being so frank with me, as you were telling me in your letter before last. Now, don't you be so foolish. I'm very concerned about you and you don't bother me when you write me long letters. On the contrary, I like it.

It would be better if Mr. Velazquez, (*Father Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*) would decide what to do with "*el chamaquito*" (*the little boy*). On my part, I already tried to find a place for him while I was in Mexico City, but just couldn't succeed. We can't make ourselves responsible for the little boy, but Mr. Velazquez should be the one to get involved in this.

I suppose you are keeping the resolutions which you made the last time you were here. They were very necessary for you. May God protect you from being unfaithful.

May you become better in both soul and body every day.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1932. (Mother Luisita was staying in Mexico City in 1932. Chronicle, p. 103 and following)

Letter 303
Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

(no date)

My beloved daughter, Lupita,

How is your health? Conchita Gonzalez told me that she had seen you and that you didn't look very well. Take good care of yourself. Don't stay up late. Don't overwork and try to eat well. That illness which you suffered was not a simple one and, naturally, it left you very weak. You'll be needing some time to regain what you lost.

I think it's a very good idea for you to invite those children you told me about to sing, especially now when there's someone in the family (*the community*) who is able to organize it.

Maybe Padre Bracho (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) will be going over. I know that he is in Tepatitlan giving missions at the present time and perhaps he would accept an invitation to go over there. I wrote to him expressing my desire for him to go there, so that you

will be able to have the opportunity to consult him. I don't know if he will accept or not, but you be prepared just in case, and don't tell anyone. Word has it that he is coming on here on Monday.

You [sisters] already have the permission to make scapulars (*Brown Scapulars of Our Lady of Mount Carmel*) for the patients in the hospital and also for the little orphans.

Affectionate regards to all and to the sick.

Good-bye, and pray very much for me and for everyone in this family (*community*).

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1933. (It is possible that Mother Luisita is referring to the fever which Sister Guadalupe suffered in 1931.)

Letter 304
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

(no date)

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. How have you been? What can you tell me about your illnesses? Is your hospital stay helpful to you? I'm anxious to know about your well-being, and even though Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) has kept in communication with me about your condition, those letters take too long to arrive because of the distance, and in the meantime I'm worried, but I suppose we can't do anything else.

I thought it prudent to let Aurelio (*Mother Mary's father*) know about your condition and I asked Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) to let him know, leaving it up to him to tell Conchita (*Mother Mary's mother*) and Narcism (*Mother Mary's sister*). I also told him what the doctor's opinion is--that you will get well. I let them

know through Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*). I shared that I want to keep them informed so they'll be able to write to you-- that this will be a consolation for you. I also added that you hadn't told them because you didn't want to worry them, understanding how much they would suffer.

We have been relatively well over here, blessed be God! I appeared worn-out to the people I met, but that might be because of my age. I'm feeling well, although I suffer a little complication here and there, but nothing serious.

Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) went to work at the Pueblito and Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) is here. She's living at Jarauta 295, so you will be able to write to her to that address. The girls (*sisters*) who are studying in Mexico City are very studious and trying to compensate for the sacrifices their good sisters are making to be able to send them their monthly help. They were going to have their exams in the coming days. Blessed be God that they could study in such an excellent school, where the best professors can be found. Pray to God they will profit by it.

Ma. Ignacia (*Sister Mary Ignatius of Jesus*) was married (*professed her vows*) the last day of July, and Ma. Asuncion (*Sister Maria Assumpta of the Sacred Wounds Herrera*) is getting ready to marry (*profess her vows*) on the twenty-eighth of this month. [August]. These daughters of Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) only think about marriage (*professing their vows*), and as for Socorro, you always see her plump and happy. There's no doubt that she's a good soul. She has integrity, also.

Try not to worry about anything. For you, worries are poison. Perhaps all that you suffered while making the arrangements for grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orocozo y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) has made you sick. In my opinion, you should seek rest for your spirit.

It's probable that Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) and Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) will go to work in Ocotlan. We're arranging that. **Pray to God that whatever is more**

convenient for Him will be done, and for Him to help us out because truly, we need much prayer. Our prayer should be continuous among us.

May God our Lord bless you all.

Maria Navarro

Date: 1933. (Sister Mary Ignatius of Jesus and Sister Mary Assumpta of the Sacred Wounds Herrera professed their vows in 1933. Book of Admissions and Professions p.7)

Letter 305

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Maria Ana

My very dear daughter,

Today I arrived at the Villa (*near the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe*) where I thought very much about you because of your great desire to come and visit our Blessed Mother. I stayed a few days. Blessed be God Who granted me such a great joy!

How are all of you? I felt somewhat sick for a few days, but now I feel better. Our Blessed Mother was my doctor.

Daughter, take good care of everything. Some things I'm entrusting to Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) because I understand you are very busy preparing for the exams.

Alleluia! Papa (*the Archbishop*) already asked for the report to send to Rome for approval. Pray to God our Lord to grant us such great grace. Tell Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) that's the reason why I wanted the report Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) requested. I need to send it off immediately.

[The sisters] from the United States are insisting that I go see them. I'm already asking Teresa for my passport.

Carmen (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*), yourself, and Teresa should try to agree in everything (*These sisters were all on the General Council*). Much prayer and foresee things.

Take care of yourself and try to eat and sleep well.

My regards to everyone and tell them to pray daily to the Sacred Heart for my intentions which, in reality, are your intentions.

Keep "under your hat" what I'm telling you about Rome. Just mention it to your companions so they may pray. May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Year: 1933. Mother Luisita stayed in Mexico City to establish the house there.

Letter 306

Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

(no date)

For Maria de Lourdes.

My daughter,

How happy it makes me to greet and thank you for your loving little letters and for asking me to go up there to visit you. How happy it would make me to be able to see you again, but for the time being, it's impossible for me to make the trip. After a little time, perhaps I'll go and spend delightful moments with my good daughters and forget for a little while the sorrows that God our Lord has deigned to send us at this time.

I bless God our Lord for having saved you from those dangerous earthquakes. It must have been a horrible experience, and I heard that after shocks continue even now. Is it true? For the love of God, daughter, take all the necessary precautions as much as you can.

It's probable that Dolores of Jesus (*Mother Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba, the sister of Mother Lourdes*) will come to work at the

school that Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez*) is going to establish in this Capital [Mexico City]. Pray to our good God to help them! I'm told that she [Dolores de Jesus] is very chubby and with rosy cheeks, which makes me happy.

The basilica [Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City] is turning out to be just beautiful! It's so impressive to see such large crowds there. So many flowers are given to our Blessed Mother that they even served as a rail bordering the sanctuary. It's impossible to put them in vases because there are so many of them. You [sisters] love her so very much. Give her as many gifts as you are able, even if you are in another country now. Be faithful to such a loving mother and queen of our nation.

Blessed be God for the great grace you received from Him-- giving you a guide (*spiritual director*). It's truly indispensable [to have spiritual direction]. One can't function otherwise, and more so, having such sacred duties to perform. Don't waste the opportunity and be very obedient to him. Every morning and night, consecrate your family to the Sacred Heart and you'll get very good results.

Pray for me, and don't be forgetting me when you are before Our Lord. May God our Lord bless you. My regards to the family (*community*).

Maria

Date: 1933.

Letter 307

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(no date)

For Maria del Refugio.
My very dear daughter,

It gave me great joy to learn that you are a little better. I've been asking our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe, with all my heart, for your recovery of good health. As for myself, ever since I attended Mass at the Basilica, I've been very sick with those same dizzy spells I was experiencing before. I'm very afraid of them. When I am feeling better, I'll feel more confident asking her for favors.

In Duarte (*Santa Teresita Sanatorium*) the girls are actually recovering (*from tuberculosis*). Some of them have even gone back to their homes! That encourages me and gives me hope that you'll also get well, but you need to stop worrying about everything. Get out of yourself, so to speak, and don't be mortifying yourself anymore because that's detrimental to your health.

Send me your brother Guadalupe's address. I want to write to Lorencito (*little Lawrence*) because he's written me two letters and I haven't answered him.

Write to Dr. Alvarez and tell him all about your illness, but don't go to see [Doctor] Mercado.

May God our Lord grant me the grace of seeing you very soon because that's what I want very much. Good-bye, Cuquita. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Date: 1933. (In 1933 Mother Luisita remained in Mexico City for several months to establish the religious house there. Chronicle, pp. 103 and following).

Letter 308

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito, my daughter, may God keep you safe.

Today, the twenty-seventh of this month, our good God gave me the great joy of receiving all of my daughters' notes, the presents which I have appreciated so much, and the money which I know took a lot of sacrifice on the part of all of my daughters to save. Oh, my daughter, this touches me deeply. This can't be repaid here on earth, only in heaven where I wish to see you some day. May God bless you and fill you with His love. My regards to your daughters and mine.

I am strongly inclined to go visit and you, if God our Lord permits it. It will be such a great joy if He does. Nevertheless, He will decide according to His pleasure.

Take good care of your health. You become very emotional-- that's why you got sick. Your character lends itself to those moods--we must be calm and not be so sensitive. I wish to send this off right away, so I'll close now. Good-bye, daughter. May God bless you.

Maria Castellanos

Approximate Date: 1933. (Our Mother Luisita wrote many letters from Mexico City with the signature "Maria Castellanos" and she was in Mexico City in 1933.)

Letter 309

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito

My very dear daughter,

May God reward you for all of the joy which your letter and the letters of the girls (*sisters*) brought me, but most of all yours. I am so glad Tomas (*Father Thomas Ramirez, S.J.*) visited you, and I hope that he will continue to do so.

I agree that the marriage should take place on the seventeenth instead of the tenth, but this has to be arranged with my uncle (*Vicar of Religious*) and once he approves, get "Ceci" (*Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman*) ready for her wedding (*profession of vows*). *Pobrecita!* She's done well. Offer her my congratulations and tell her that she's chosen the best part.

Try to be happy and look for some distraction to get rid of that sadness. Don't harbor it in your heart. It won't do you any good; on the contrary, it will only hurt you. Entertain yourself with the little ones for they gladden one's heart. It gives me great joy whenever I am with them.

I'd like you to write to the person you told me about--the one

who gave you the present --and also to Adela. Don't be lazy. We have to keep the friendships of those who are good to us and are good for us.

Take care of your health. Those stomach pains you feel when you get upset about everything won't lead to good results. This is happening to you because of your sensitivity or weakness, temper or current physical condition. You had better go see a homeopathic physician, and perhaps he will order some lab tests for you.

Whenever I go over to see our Blessed Mother, I have you very present in my heart. I'm like a little beggar, and I do hope she will listen to my prayers.

I had trouble with my eyes but am better now, blessed be God! Once I am well, I'll be able to write to the girls (*sisters*). Give them my regards, and the same to Tomas when you see him.

May you be well and happy and may Our Lord bless you.

Tomasa

Approximate date: 1933. Our Mother Luisita remained in Mexico. The profession of Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman was on April 17, 1933. Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 6 #73).

Letter 310

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

For Socorrito.

My unforgettable and dear daughter,

With how much love I greet you and answer your notes, always received with great joy. Don't pay attention to how much time I take to answer them or whether the letters are long or short. It isn't that I don't want to write often, or any other reason. It's only that I have to write to your other sisters, also, asking them to send me one thing or another, and the time passes. Besides, I don't know how to find

the time to write to everyone at once. So, don't be shedding foolish tears nor harboring bitter feelings.

I'll give my reply to Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) through you just as soon as I can.

It's very much to my liking that you are obeying your father so well. And it's even more to my liking what he is making you do. Continue obeying him, and you'll see what happy results you'll have.

For the time being, it's impossible to bring Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) during vacation, even though she is willing and I perceive it would do her good. But to spend \$70.00 dollars on a two-way ticket isn't possible for us, considering the poverty we are all experiencing. We are on the verge of misery, but during the Christmas vacation when we collect some funds from the school, I'll be very happy to bring her or take her depending on where she is. Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*) is coming to start a course in high school beginning on the first of July and ending in January. From there, it will be only a short time for her to complete her teacher training. You know that without her credentials she can't work.

I'm hoping that it will be possible for Ceci (*Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Vazquez*) and Genoveva (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Bautista*) to continue studying at *Colegio Occidental*. Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*), who repeated part of the sixth, will do better. Tell Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) or Carmela that if "Chema" hasn't given any money, to ask for it so you may be able to send it here by the twenty-fifth and in that way we'll have enough for the registration fee. If not, maybe Teresa could borrow enough from her friends. Please ask "Tomasito" who is such a good boy to pray for us. Good-bye and pray for us.

Maria Luisa

Letter 311
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorro

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with much affection. How have you been? Don't worry or become preoccupied, and try to be interiorly at peace. I order you to go to bed ordinarily at 9:00 p.m. and extraordinarily no later than 9:30 p.m.

Regarding your outings, I think it will be prudent to go to Tomas (*Father Tomas Ramirez, S.J.*) every fifteen days and in case it's necessary to see him again within those fifteen days, you may do it once in a while. Just try and make sure that those outings will not be detrimental for you, as I've recommended.

Are your daughters happily looking forward to their feast (*profession of vows*)? I'm eagerly counting the days until their vacation (*retreat*) begins. *Pobrecitas*, they are so good!

How greatly I wish to see them, and with what joy I would go, but I dare not leave this house yet because it's barely starting. And the school has also brought us some difficulties and it's costly, besides because now we have to furnish and pay the rent for two houses. The good news is that for nine and a half pesos we have purchased no more than two cots! We are lacking in everything, but God will provide, and I'll make provisions for leaving when I see them (*the sisters*) on the right track.

I remembered you today, your feastday, and my special prayer for you during Mass is your present.

I saw Toribio (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) only once and I told him about the big-headed boy and he laughed.

The little house in which we are now living is charming, and we are alone. Blessed be God! May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1932. (Our Mother Luisita was in the United States during that time. Letters to Mother Socorro in 1932).

Letter 312
Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez

March, 1933

For Margarita Maria.

Alleluia, my beloved daughter, alleluia!

These are the words which arose to my lips after the good news which you gave me in your previous letter. Let's bless our good God for He's shown His mercy toward His poor daughters. Tell grandfather that, in spite of my worries, my soul overflows with joy. With great pleasure I'll fulfill the order he's given me, just as soon as I possibly can. (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara, had ordered Mother Luisita to write to Rome petitioning the Decree of Praise, which is the first step toward official Pontifical approval of any new religious Congregation in the Church.*) I hope you received my last letter in which I invited you sisters to come down here. Now that you have given me such happy news, I wish more than ever that you would be able to come, so that we can formulate the petition and then you sisters could take it back with you to Los Angeles.

Answer me quickly on this matter. I hope that you do come because you sisters are obedient, and besides, you'll be able to get acquainted with the ceremonial and the corrections that were made in it, now that it's been approved.

Don't preoccupy yourself too much with the financial difficulties or worrying that the construction of the chapel needs to be done promptly. Leave to our good Lord His part and He will dispose of everything to our greatest advantage. Let's be submissive with true joy and fulfill His most holy will. Either in abundance or in poverty, He will take care that we don't die hungry and He will give us the things that are necessary because He loves us and is most powerful. It's a very good idea for you sisters to make your retreat as you told me and it's right for you to ask for the permission from Grandpa Johnny (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*). May

God our Lord bless you and may you profit from it.

Two of the letters that you sent to Guadalajara arrived here, but with great delay--almost a month. No wonder I was surprised not to receive any letters from you. All that remains now is for you to give the money to Tadeo (*Maria of Jesus Tadeo, a postulant who left the Congregation*). According to what has been stipulated, it's really a pity. Poor little one! Mary of the Angels (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) was really anxiously awaiting her marriage (*final profession*). I was the one who postponed her wedding to permit her to think about it more seriously. Besides, she was still working with children in the Kindergarten. God willing, she will have her wedding very soon. Final examinations will be in May, then her retreat, and after that, her wedding. Have you had any news regarding Lucita Sanchez? Is she still in the hospital? Such a good little girl! I wish you could take her to your sanatorium to take the cure. She was so kind toward us. Please go to see her and tell her that I'm thinking of her. I haven't received the "Tidings" (*Archdiocesan Catholic newspaper of Los Angeles*) and so I couldn't read about what happened in Long Beach (*the 1933 Long Beach earthquake*), which I wanted to do so very much. **Pray for us every day so that God will help us in the establishment of our school. He is the only One who can do it. This school will be the result of prayer.**

If only you could see the great amount of traffic in this city (*Mexico City*). In fact, it's very much like Los Angeles. Whenever you walk on the streets, it's necessary to wear a hat. You can always see many little Indians. The flowers are most beautiful, and there are so many different kinds of them to see--poppies, Easter lilies, all sorts of flowers--which, in a word, make the city look like paradise. What about the Basilica of our Queen and Mother (*Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe*)? Oh, daughter, there are no words to express what you feel upon entering. Let's give due thanks to our good God because He has brought us to live where His Blessed Mother is.

Good-bye, daughter. Be good, try to be good. My regards to my daughters. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 313

Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez

(no date)

My very beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,

As always, I greet you with affection, wishing you to have your gaze and your love always fixed in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus!

I've received your letters. May God reward you.

Ah, daughter, if I could see you, how easy it would be for me to tell you many things and no less to offer you some advice. How greatly interested I am in you and how differently we see things when we are old, rather than when we began life. Do you remember the counseling I used to give you Sisters when I was in Santa Maria or in Oakland and to you and Sister Maria del Refugio (*Sister Maria del Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) when you were in Long Beach? I took your youth into consideration and the fact that society would pay very much attention to your way of acting. You sisters in that house now are about the same age, and for this reason you must be most careful with everyone regarding your orders to them. You must weigh your words and actions most carefully so that the results will be good. Even more so because you sisters wear the austere habit of the Carmelites.

It would be very helpful for you sisters to seek advice from Mother Manuela (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) because of her age and the many years she's lived with us in the religious life. She is very worthy of respect, but one thing to remember is that it's up to the Council (*the Provincial Council*) to make the decisions of greater weight and importance. It's quite another thing for you to consider Mother's opinion which is of great value to me and will be of help to you in making decisions with more assurance.

Today we received permission from Uncle Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) for the wedding of the girls to take place on the second of February in the coming

year. Right now, they are delighted and are singing and sharing the happy news. Thanks be to God, they are so good! Since there are some people waiting for me, and since I hope to mail this today, I'll finish here.

Good-bye, my daughter. May you spend this time of Advent devoutly, and pray for me.

Maria Luisa

Approximate Date: November, 1933.

Letter 314
Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez

(no date)

For Paz.

My very dear daughter,

May you always live within the Divine Heart.

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter. May God reward you, daughter.

How have you been? When I left, you were looking so elegant that I don't know how to talk to you now. To see you with a hat, even if it was only loaned to you, and you just looking through one side only, really, that's what I call a three-cent elegance--not very valuable, right? It's better to have an austere religious with a heart of gold. (*In order to blend in with the other people, the sisters in Mexico City wore hats so it wouldn't be discovered that they were religious sisters.*)

I'd like to go and spend a few days with you [sisters]. I hope that our Lord will grant that I will be able to go soon and surprise you. I'll arrive like death, at the hour you least expect it. Pray every day to our Blessed Mother for me.

Maria

Date: 1933.

Letter 315

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)
For Teresita.

My very dear Teresita,

May God reward you for the joy you give me every time I read your letters.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) went to see the doctor, or rather, two eye doctors, and they are both of the opinion that her cataract can't be extracted yet and so they gave her eyeglasses. Now she will be going to Mexico City to see the same eye doctor that Maria (*Mother Maria of Christ Castellanos*) consulted.

How have you been, daughter? Working much and with difficulties? Blessed be God! How many sorrows we encounter! Yet, that's the way God permits it. I can see that dedicated teachers are educating the children in the midst of a suffering so great that perhaps could even be called martyrdom. If only we would see this holocaust with the eyes of faith, we would perceive it as something beautiful, but our most sensitive human nature has the tendency of becoming an obstacle whenever we try to see with the eyes of faith. God our Lord will help you. Don't doubt it. You are obeying. Therefore, you have the grace of God.

Take good care of your health. Our health doesn't belong to us. We have given everything to Our Lord. Keep well so your Beloved may take care of you as He pleases and you'll fulfill what you so spontaneously have given to Him.

Were you happy in Ocotlan? If you were, then I am very happy and it won't be the last time, so start saving your money little by little so that during your Christmas vacation you can return there.

I'm aware that the children like you very much. That's very good and you'll be able to do good to their souls. Once you win their hearts, you can do whatever you wish. And the truth

is, that especially during these times, we have to help those young persons. If we don't win their hearts and help them then the opposite will happen, and they will be worthy of pity.

Cover yourself as much as you can. The cold weather is harmful to you. Good-bye, daughter. **May the Sacred Heart be your refuge and may He bless you.**

Maria

Approximate date: 1933. (Mother Carmelita, the blood sister of Mother Teresita, was in Mexico City at the end of 1933. Testimony of Mother Maria Rosa of Mary Immaculate Hernandez and Letter of Mother Lusicita to Mother Carmelita dated November 25, 1933.)

Letter 316
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

(no date)

Daughter of mine,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls. How is your foot doing?

Please, if it's at all possible, I beg you to send today \$10.00 (pesos) from the [tuition] payments to Maria (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) in Mexico City. Tell her to use it during Holy Week for meals during those days when they will not work.

Greet the girls who have asked to take your picture, and go ahead and answer their respectful letter thanking them in my name for wanting to keep your picture, but ask them in their kindness to forgive me for not granting their wish. I will most gladly allow them to take a picture of the oratory in the hope that there will soon be safer times when they'll be able to take your picture.

(no signature)

Approximate date: 1933. The house in Mexico City experienced great poverty in its beginning: (Chronicle, p. 103 and following)

**Reference List of Persons Mentioned
in Mother Luisita's Letters (Compiled by Editor)**

Abundio	Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar for Religious in Guadalajara
Adelaida Navarro	Miss Adelaida Navarro, who asked the sisters to make a foundation in Ocotlan, Jalisco
Alberto	Most Reverend Father William of St. Albert, OCD, Father General of the Carmelite Order
Alberto	Father Alberto Urdanivia, SJ, confessor and spiritual director
Alfredo	Father Alfredo
Alicia	Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar who left the Congregation (<i>Nacha</i>)
Altamirano	Msgr. Lorenzo Alamirano, Vicar for Religious in Guadalajara (<i>Uncle Lorenzo</i>)
Amada	Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified [Josefina Ruiz Velasco Martinez]
Amparo	Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels [Christina Gonzalez Gutierrez]
Ana	Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family [Maria Asuncion Ramirez Gutierrez] (<i>Marianita</i>)
Ana	Sister Ana of Our Lady of Guadalupe Garcia [Ana Garcia]
Ana Maria	Ana Maria of St. Teresa [Teresa Rubio]
Anaya	Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar for Religious in Guadalajara (<i>Uncle Abundio</i>)

Angela	Sister Mary Angela of the Blessed Sacrament [Maria de Jesus Huerta]
Angelica	Sister Angelica of the Immaculate Heart [Maria del Carmen Gutierrez]
Angelita	Sister Angela of the Cross Nunez Castellanos
Angels	Mother Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel
Angulo	Monsignor Jesus Angulo
Antonia	Sister Mary Antonia of the Guardian Angels who returned to her baptismal name of [Angela Ramirez Rizo] (<i>Tona</i>)
Antonio	Father Antonio Curiel, pastor in Jamay, Jalisco
Arcadio	Father Arcadio Medrano Sanchez, pastor in Atotonilco, Jalisco
Asuncion	Sister Mary Asuncion (Assumpta) of the Sacred Wounds Herrera
Aurelio	Father Aurelio Vidrio, who sent girls with religious vocations to the sisters
Auera	Ms. Auera Corona, piano teacher
Avina	Monsignor Narciso Avina Ruiz
Beatriz	Mother Maria Beatrice of Jesus [Elvira Ochoa Lopez]
Benigna	Sister Benigna of Jesus [Paula Salas]
Benitz	Bishop Benitz who was sent in 1931 from Rome to visit the new community
Bernardita	Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God [Maria Refugio Villalobos Gonzalez]

Bracho	Father Toribio Bracho, SJ
Callahan	Monsignor Leroy Callahan, Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine who was in charge of helping the religious refugees from Mexico residing in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Cantwell	Archbishop John Joseph Cantwell of Los Angeles who received Mother Luisita into the Archdiocese (<i>Papa Juanito</i>)
Carmelita/Carmela	Mother Carmen of Jesus [Maria del Carmen Chavez Martinez]
Carmen Celina	Sister Carmen Celina of the Child Jesus [Clemencia de la Torre Gonzalez]
Carmen “Chiquita”	Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament [Michaela Hernandez]
Carmen Josefa	Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara
Carmen Lucia	Mother Carmen Lucia of the Blessed Sacrament Garcia
Carmen Teresa	Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada
Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament	Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament [Maria del Carmen Hernandez] (<i>Carmen “Chiquita”</i>)
Carmen of Jesus	Mother Carmen of Jesus [Maria del Carmen Chavez Martinez] (<i>Carmela, Carmelita</i>)
Carmen of the Sacred Heart	Mother Carmen of the Sacred Heart Reynoso
Carmen of the Sacred Heart	Sister Carmen of the Sacred Heart [Hilaria Becerra Silva]

Castor	Father Castor Ibarrachevea (<i>Mr. Ibarra</i>)
Cata	Mother Catalina of the Cross
Cata	Catalina Arambula, niece of Mother Luisita, daughter of Mariquita de la Pena
Catalina de la Cruz	Mother Catalina (<i>Cata</i>)
Catarina of St. August.	Sister Catarina of St. Augustine [Refugio]
Ceci/Cecilia	Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face [Maria Ramirez Guzman]
Cecilia	Sister Cecilia of the Child Jesus [Leonor Hernandez]
Celia Teresita	Sister Celia Teresita of the Child Jesus [Esther Garcia]
Chabela/Chabelita	Sister Isabel of San Pascual [Rosario Fonseca]
Chayo/Chayito	Mother Maria Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez (<i>Rosarito</i>)
Cheve (papa)	Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan, Jalisco
Chole	Mother M. Soledad of St. Teresa Valle (<i>Chole</i>)
Chuy	Sister Francis Xavier [Maria de Jesus Flores] (<i>Chuy</i>)
Clara	Sister Clara of Our Lady of Guadalupe (<i>Guadalupe Padilla</i>)
Clara Catalina	Sister Clara Catalina of Christ Hernandez
Columba	Sister Columba of Jesus [Catalina Garcia]
	Mrs. Conception Hernandez, mother of

Concepcion Hernandez	Mother Margarita Maria who helped the sisters, especially during the religious persecution
Concepcion	Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate [Maria Francisca Rodriguez Valdivia] (<i>Conchita, Concha</i>)
Conchita/Concha	see above [Concepcion]
Consuelo	Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa
Consuelo	Sister Maria del Consuelo of Jesus Gonzalez
Crucita	Sister Mary of the Cross [Petra Gutierrez]
Curcito (Cruz)	Father de la Cruz Hernandez, the brother of Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart, who helped the sisters in Mexico City
Coronita de Cristo	Sister Josefa of Christ [Mercedes Anguiano] (<i>Conronita de Cristo</i>)
Cuca	Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez
Curiel	Father Antonio Curiel, pastor in Jamay, Jalisco
Davila	Sister Mary Davila
Delfina	Delfina Galvez, generous woman who helped Mother Luisita for many years
Diaz	Archbishop Pascual Diaz, Archbishop of Mexico City
Diego	Father Diego Santos, St. Mary's College in Moraga, California
Dolores	Sister Dolores of Jesus Crucified [Maria de la Luz Jimenez Alba] (<i>Lola, Lolita, Lolin</i>)

Dolores	Sister Maria Dolores of the Blessed Sacrament [Elvira del Campo]
Dolores	Sister Maria Dolores of St. Teresa [Maria Barrera] (<i>Lola or Lolita</i>)
Duenas	Father Duenas, pastor of Santo Tomas de los Platanos
Elena/Elenita	Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit [Maria del Carmen Heredia Alonzo] (<i>Nena</i>)
Elisa Javier	Sister Elisa Xavier of Christ [Francisca Hernandez Fonseca]
Esperanza	Sister Maria Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds [Maria Luisa Valladolid]
Escoto	Guadalupe (Lupe) Escoto, lifelong friend of Mother Luisita from Atotonilco and second director of the school, " <i>Colegio del Cristobal Colon</i> "
Estela	Sister Maria Estela of the Guardian Angels Carrillo
Eulalia	Sister Eulalia of the Child Jesus [Engracio Cordero Cosio] who left the Congregation
Flores	Father Manuel Flores, pator of Mexticacan, Jalisco
Flores	Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan, Jalisco (<i>Papa Cheve</i>)
Francisca	Sister Maria of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel [Francisca Rodriguez]
Francisca or Francisca Teresa	Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was later changed to Siter Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres (<i>Pachita</i>)
Francisco Orozco y	Archbishop Francisco Orozco y

Jimenez	Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara, who was in exile in the United States for several years during the religious persecution in Mexico. (<i>Papa Panchito</i>)
Fregoso	Dr. Fregoso, a dentist
Gabriela	Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother [Agraz]
Garibi	Archbishop Jose Garibi Rivera, Archbishop of Guadalajara, who became the first Cardinal of Guadalajara (<i>Jose, Josecito</i>)
Gema	Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ [Lionor Cervantes]
Genoveva	Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face who returned to her baptismal name of Sister [Maria Luisa Ascencio Bautista]
Gertrudis	Sister Gertrude of the Heart of Mary Ruiz
Gomez	Father Gomez
Gonzalez	Father Gonzalez, the sisters' confessor in Ocotlan, Jalisco
Gonzalez	Mr. Gonzalez, Luna, a lawyer who helped the sisters in legal matters
Guadalupe	Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez (<i>Lupita, Lupe</i>)
Guadalupe	Sister Maria Guadalupe of the Child Jesus [Maria Concepcion Botello Gonzalez]
Guadalupe	Sister Maria de Guadalupe Meza
Guadalupe Teresa	Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus [Teresa Orozco G.]
Maria Guadalupe	Sister Maria Guadalupe of Christ

	[Carmen Estrada]
Hanna	Archbishop Edward Joseph Hanna of San Francisco, who welcomed our sisters to St. Mary's College in Moraga, California
Heris	Father Pedro Heris, OCD, who died a martyr in Spain
Huerta	Father Eduardo [Edward] Huerta, pastor in Guadalajara, and Father J. Refugio Huerta were brothers and life-long friends of Mother Luisita
Ibarra/Ibarrachevea	Father Castor Ibarrachevea, SJ
Ignacia de Jesus	Siste Mary Ignatius of Jesus
Imelda	Sister Imelda of the Blessed Sacrament [Refugio Nuno] (<i>Cuca</i>)
Ines Angelica	Mother Ines Angelica Olvera (From Tlalpujahua)
Ines/Inesita	Mother Ines of the Sorrowful Mother [Maria Dolores Rivas Magallon]
M. Ines	Mother Ines of Jesus Gonzalez (<i>Inesita</i>)
Isabela de la Pena	Mrs. Isabela de la Pena, wife of Salvador, Mother Luisita's brother
Isidore	Mr. Isidore Cervantes, mayor of Atotonilco and father of Sister Gema of the Passion
Jesus Teresa	Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmen [Maria Amelia Gutierrez Ortega]
Jimenez	Archbishop Franciso Orozco y Jimenez, (<i>Papa Panchito</i>)
Jose Maria Garcia	Mr. Jose Maria Garcia took care of the property of Mother Luisita in Atotonilco

Josefa Anguiano	Sister Josefa of Christ [Mercedes Anguiano]
Josefina	Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus [Aurelia Hernandez Becerra]
Jovita	Jovita Ochoa who entered in 1935 and left before profession
Juan de la Cruz	Sister St. John of the Cross [Maria del Carmen Dominguez]
Juana Maria	Sister Juana Maria Berkman Garcia who left the Congregation
Leonor	Sister Leonor of the Sacred Heart [Veronica Alonzo]
Leonor	Sister Margarita of Tepeyac
Leonor	Sister Cecilia of the Child Jesus [Leonor Hernandez]
Leticia	Sister M. Leticia of Jesus Hostia Cisneros
Lolita/Lolin/Lola	Sister Dolores of Jesus Crucified [Maria de la Luz Jimenez Alba]
Lomeli	Mr. Domingo Lomeli, who loaned the sisters some money when they needed it
Loreto	Sister Maria Loreto of St. Elias Valle
Lorenzo	Monsignor Lorenzo Altamirano, Vicar for Religious in Guadalajara
Lourdes/Lourditas	Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior [Maria Guadalupe Jimenez Alba]
Lucita	Lucita Hernandez Gonzalez, sister of Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart

Lucita	Sister Maria de la Luz Valle
Luna	Mr. Victor Luna, a lawyer
Lupita/Lupe	Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez
Lupe Escoto	Guadalupe Escoto, a life-long friend of Mother Luisita and second director of the school in Atotonilco
Luisa Gonzaga	Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmen [Maria Paz Reynoso Merino]
Luisa Maria Josefa	Sister Luisa Maria Josefa of the Child Jesus [Maria de Jesus Estrada Gonzalez]
Luz	Sister Maria de la Luz Valle
Luz Maria	Sister Luz Maria of St. Therese [Amparo Guevara] who left the Congregation
Macario	Father Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco, Jalisco
Magdalena	Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart [Virginia Martinez]
Magdalena	Sister Magdalen of Mary Immaculate [Maura Castellanos Ramirez]
Manuela/Manuelita	Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception [Pascuala Rodriguez Ortega]
Margarita of Tepeyac	Sister Margarita of Tepeyac [Leonor]
Marianita	Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family [Cristina Gonzalez Ramirez]
Mariquita	Mother Mary of Christ [Maria Cristina Castellanos]
Mariquita	Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist [Maria Teresa Nunez Hernandez]

Margarita Maria	Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart [Maria de la Concepcion Hernandez Gonzalez]
Margarita de Cristo	see Francisca Teresa
Maria de los Angeles Custodios	Sister Mary of the Guardian Angels (<i>Tona</i>) previously known as Sister Antonia of the Guardian Angels [Angela Ramirez]
Maria del Carmen	Mother Carmen of the Sacred Heart [Maria del Carmen] Chavez Martinez (<i>Carmela, Carmelita</i>)
Maria del Carmen	Sister Carmen of the Blesed Sacrament [Michaela Hernandez] (<i>Carmen "Chiquita"</i>)
Maria de la Cruz	Sister Mary of the Cross [Petra Gutierrez] (<i>Crucita</i>)
Maria del Conseulo	Sister Consuelo of Jesus Gonzalez
Maria de C./Maria de Cristo/ or just Maria	Mother Mary of Christ [Maria Cristina Castellanos] (<i>Mariquita</i>)
Maria de la Divina Eucaristia	Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist [Maria Teresa Nunez Hernandez] (<i>Mariquita</i>)
Maria del Espiritu Santo	Sister Maria of the Holy Spirit Ruiz
Maria Francisca Javier	Sister Maria Francisca Xavier [Maria de Jesus Flores] (<i>Chuy</i>)
Maria de Jesus	Mrs. Maria de Jesus Chavez, the mother of Mother Carmen of Jesus and Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus
Maria de Jesus Sacramentado	Sister Mary of the Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament [Francisca Garcia Torres]
Maria Jimenez	Miss Maria Jimenez

María de la Luz	Miss María de la Luz Jiménez Alba who entered and took the name of Sister Dolores of Jesus Crucified
María de la Madre de Dios	Sister Mary of the Mother of God [Melania]
María de los Angeles	Mother Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel
María del Refugio	Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart [María Glafira Navarro González] (<i>Cuca, Cuquita</i>)
María del Sagrado Corazón	Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart [Matilde Flores Rodríguez]
María de San José	Sister Mary of Saint Joseph Espinoza
María de la Santa Faz	Sister Mary of the Holy Face Quintanar
María del Socorro	Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit [María de Jesús Cholico Rodríguez] (<i>Socorríto</i>)
María de la Soledad	Sister Soledad of St. Teresa [María Valle Ibarra] (<i>Chole</i>)
María de la Trinidad	Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart [Pastora Barbosa Patino]
María de las Victorias	Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel [Francisca Rodríguez]
Matilde del Buen Pastor	Sister Matilde of the Good Shepherd [Guadalupe Suárez]
Melania	Sister Melanie of the Mother of God López
Mercedes Villasenor	One of the original ladies from Octotlán who invited the sisters to establish a foundation in that city
Micaela	Sister María del Carmen of the Blessed

	Sacrament [Michaela Hernandez]
Morales	Father Morales, pastor in Guadalupe Chapel, Jalisco
Nacha	Sister Alice of the Divine Love who left the Congregation
Narciso	Monsignor Narciso Alvina Ruiz
Navarette	Archbishop Navarette of Sonora, Mexico
Navarro	Manuel Navarro
Navarro	Father Guadalupe Navarro, brother of Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez
Nena	Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo
Ott	Father Francis P. Ott, pastor of Holy Innocents parish in Long Beach, California, who welcomed the sisters into his parish(es)
Pachita	See Sister Francisca Teresa
Pachita Rivera	Pachita Rivera stayed with and helped the de la Pena family for many years. She also helped Mother Luisita after the death of Dr. Pascual Rojas and took care of Mother Luisita's mother during her final years.
Papa Cheve	Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan, Jalisco
Papa Juanito	Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles
Papa Panchito	Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez of Guadalajara
Pastora	Mother Maria of the Trinity of the

	Eucharistic Heart [Pastora Barbosa Patino]
Paulina	Sister Pauline of Jesus [Rafaela]
Paz de la Flagelacion	Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who left the Congregation
Pedro/Pedrito	Father Pedro Heris who died as a martyr in Spain
Piedad	Sister Piedad of Jesus [Maria del Carmen Arquieta]
Pilarica/Pilar	Sister Mary Pillar Padilla
Portar	Father Portar, SJ
Rafaela	Sister Pauline of Jesus
Ramirez	Father Thomas Ramirez, SJ
Redman	Father Francis Redman, Los Angeles
Refugio	Sister Maria del Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez (<i>Cuca</i>)
Ring	Father Harold Ring, SJ, the spiritual director of Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez
Rita Rodriguez	Rita Rodriguez, a postulant who left the Congregation
Rivera	Cardinal Jose Garibi Rivera, Archbishop of Guadalajara (<i>Jose, Josecito</i>)
Rivera	See Pachita Rivera
Rosa	Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese [Maria Gutierrez Holman]
Rosa Maria	Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate [Josefina Hernandez Vasquez]

Rosalia de St. Teresa	Sister Rosalie of St. Teresa Plascencia
Rosalina	Sister Rosalina of the Infant of Prague Villalobos [Antonia Villalobos] (<i>Tona</i>)
Rosario or Rosarito	Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez [<i>Chayo, Chayito</i>]
Ruiz	Monsigno Narciso Avina Ruiz
Salvador de la Pena	Dr. Salvador de la Pena, the brother of Mother Luisita
Sanchez	Father Arcadio Medrano Sanchez, pastor in Atotonilco, Jalisco
Santos	Father Diego Santos, St. Mary's College, Moraga, California
Seve	Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan, Jalisco (Papa Cheve)
Socorrito	Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit [Maria de Jesus Cholico Rodriguez]
Solarzano	Father Solarzano
Soledad	Sister Maria Soledad of St. Teresa [Maria Valle Ibarra]
Tarcisa	Sister Tarcisa of the Eucharist Orozco
Teresa	Sister Teresa of the Heart of Jesus
Teresita	Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face [Guadalupe Chavez Martinez]
Teresita Guadalupe	Sister Teresita Guadalupe [Vicenta Gonzalez Romo]
Teresita Margarita	Sister Teresa Margarita of the Sacred Heart [Maria de Jesus Padilla]
Tomas/Tomasito	Father Thomas Ramirez, SJ

Tomasito	Former patient and helper/Atotonilco
Tona Hernandez	The sister of Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus, who helped the community
Tona (Antonia)	Sister Rosalina of the Infant of Prague [Antonia Villalobos] (<i>Tona</i>)
Tona	Sister Mary of the Guardian Angels (see Antonia)
Toribio	Father Torribo Bracho, SJ
Tornero	Father Tornero
Tremendo	Monsignor Tremendo, Vicar for Religious in Mexico City
Trinidad (Trini)	Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart (<i>Trini</i>) [Salvadora Barbosa Patino] aka Pastora Barbosa Patino
Turco	Father Turco, confessor who heard the sisters' confessions in Spanish in St. Mary's College in Moraga, California
Ugarte	Ramon Ugarte, brother-in-law of Mother Luisita, husband of her sister, Lupe
Urdanivia	Father Alberto Urdanivia, SJ
Velazquez	Father Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco, Jalisco
Veronica	Sister Veronica of Christ Moreno who left the Congregation
Victor	Victor Gonzalez Luna, a lawyer
Victoria	the first director of the school in Atotonilco
Victorias	Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel [Francisca Rodriguez]

Vidrio	Fathe Aurelio Vidrio
Whelan	Father Edward Whelan, SJ
Zanbrano, SJ	Father Zambrano, SJ, who replaced Father Alberto Urdanivia as confessor and spiritual director