

In Love's Safekeeping

**The Letters
and Spiritual Writings
of
Mother Maria Luisa Josefa
of the Most Blessed Sacrament, O.C.D.
(*Mother Luisita*)**

translated by
Father Basil Frison, C.M.F.
and
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Volume II

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Carmelite Sisters of the



Angeles

Most Sacred Heart of Los

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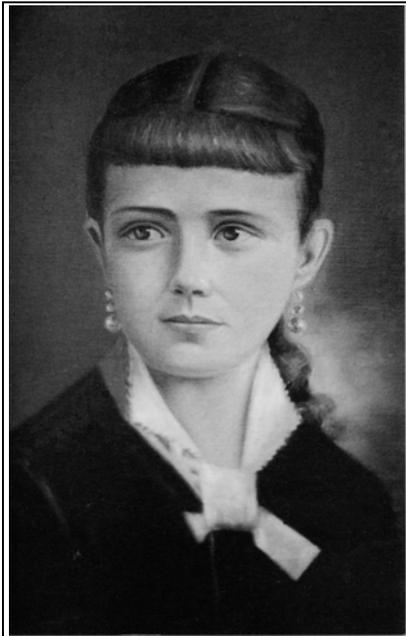
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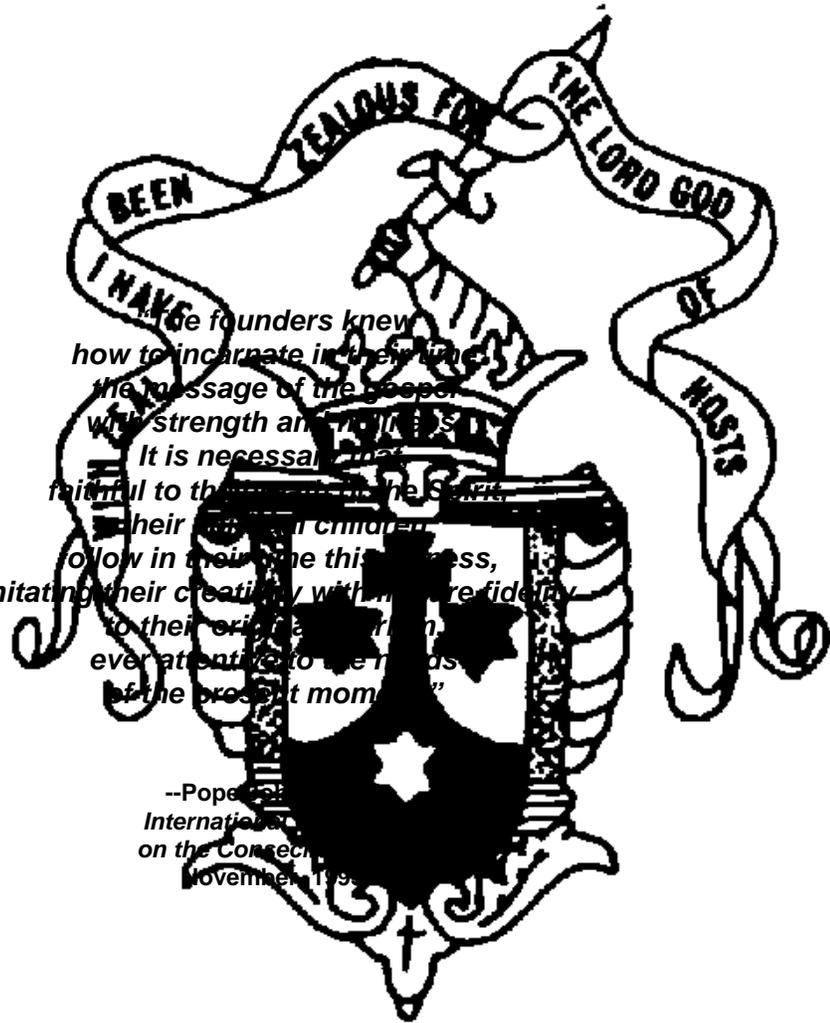
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The founders knew how to incarnate in their time the message of the Gospel with strength and fidelity. It is necessary that their children be faithful to them in the same way. In their children, they follow in their time this process, imitating their creativity with more fidelity to their original work, always attentive to the needs of the present moment."

--Pope John Paul II
International Commission
on the Consecration of
November 1990

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INTRODUCTION

The Letters and Spiritual Writings of Mother Luisita form part of the spiritual patrimony of the Institutes of the ***Carmelitas del Sagrado Corazon*** of Mexico and the **Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles**. They are the primary source *par excellence* of our charism and contain important names, dates, places, and events which have their proper and important place in our archives.

But is it not far more important to place these letters and spiritual writings of Mother Luisita into the hands of our sisters? Each generation of our religious Institute needs to find a quiet spot, ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and prayerfully meditate upon our charism. And each time we think that the study of our charism is exhausted, the Holy Spirit reveals a deeper, fuller meaning or gives us a greater, more profound appreciation as well as the grace to apply it to these times which in which we are living. In the words of Pope John Paul II,

“You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount but also a *great history still to be accomplished!* Look to the future where the Spirit is sending you to do even greater things.”

--Vita Consecrata

Volume II of the **Letters and Spiritual Writings of Mother Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament, O.C.D.** begins with this message in mind.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
The "Code" Used by Mother Luisita in Her letters
During the Religious Persecution in Mexico

Sometimes Mother Luisita wrote in a kind of a code which she developed in order to safeguard her sisters, as well as those who were hiding the sisters. This code gives a unique quality, a startling realism, to these letters. Sometimes she used the same word for different persons or happenings. We must try to understand the context in which such words and phrases are placed. During this time she also signed her letters with various pseudonyms for she used many different signatures to letters written during the persecution. Here is a list of some of the signatures Mother Luisita used in her letters: **Maria, Gertrude, Josefa Navarro, Luisa, Maria Luisa, Tomasa, Conception, Mama Pepa, Ma. Castellanos, Josefina, Antonia**, etc.



Historic Photograph of the Townspeople of Culiacan, Mexico, pleading
for their Church to be opened, 1935.

WORD	CODE WORD USED IN THE LETTERS
Apostolate	Workshop, work
Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez	Grandfather, "Papa Panchito"
Archbishop John J. Cantwell	Grandfather, "Papa Juanito"
Aspirants	Workers
Atotonilco El Alto, Jalisco	The little town
Bishop or a Parish Priest	Grandfather, papa, papacito, tata, daddy
Communities (Local)	Elenita's house, Socorro's house, the family
Council Member	Aunt
Entrance into the Congregation	The birth of a girl
Establishing the Congregation in a given place	To settle
Formation in the Religious Life	To train
General Chapter	A family feast, fiesta, party
God or Christ	Father, Helio, Jesus, Spouse, Papacito, Manuelito (which is for Emmanuel)
Holy Habit	New dress, dress
Jesuits	Sons of Ignatius, sons of Albert

WORD	CODE WORD USED IN THE LETTERS
Make Hosts (Altar Bread)	To make bread
Mother Luisita	Mama, mother, grandmother, and "Mama Pepa"
Novices	Workshop, boarding school
The Pastor	Father Macario Velazquez, Godfather Maco, the pastor in Atotonilco
Postulants	To receive girls
Person in Charge of an Apostolate	Patron, Sir, Priest
Profession of Vows (First and Final)	Matrimony, marriage, to get married, espousal, feast
Religious Persecution in Mexico	Grandmother, mama
Spiritual Exercises or Retreat	Vacation, yearly outing
Sisters in the Congregation	Family, little ones, cousins
Spiritual Director	Guide
Superiors	Mother, the lady of the house
To take over a Sister's Duty	To do another sister's work while she is absent
Vicar General or Vicar for Religious	My uncle, or papa

Letter 317
Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez

January 13, 1934, Guadalajara

Beloved daughter,

I greet you with all affection wishing you many merits for heaven. Thank God we received the books (*the Constitutions*) yesterday. There are ninety-seven. The package arrived already opened. Perhaps it broke on the way or it could have been opened by someone. Be it for the love of God! We're very grateful to you. May God reward you for all that you've done. **These books have cost a great deal of worry and money. Let's hope that the opened package won't bring about the bad results which I fear. There should always be something which we need so that we can ask Our Lord to supply it. May He be blessed!**

Some days Grandmother (*the persecuted Church*) becomes gravely ill and we're not at peace. Then, at other times, she seems to be a little bit better. Still, we can't be certain and we are afraid that at any moment she'll be taking a turn for the worse. We leave her in God's hands.

I bless Him because He rescued you from such a sad death and saved us from such a great sorrow (*a flood in Duarte occurred on December 31, causing much damage and many lost lives*). Both here as well as in Ocotlan we've been experiencing some rather strong earthquakes. When we feel them coming on, we remain at peace because we know it is God Who is causing them. We're not obsessed at all by them, but, on the other hand, whatever comes from men produces quite another reaction.

I'm happy to hear that Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) is getting better. She'll recuperate completely. Would you give her my greetings and tell her that I'll be writing to her in the near future?

I've been wanting to write and let you know what happened to the books. I should have done it before this, but these days have been very difficult and rather abnormal, with boarding girls (*postulants*)

entering and other circumstances which have been keeping me from my duties. Pray for me. There's a beautiful little book which costs very little, and I think it would be profitable for you to read it. Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) bought one for only eighty-five cents. It's called The Virtues of Religious by Father Benito Valuy, S.J.

We're looking for a house for Socorro and her children (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez and the novices*). She has so many children now in the present house that there just isn't enough room for everyone. **Only God knows how we'll be able to pay the rent. Since this is a real need, I'm trusting He will provide the money and perhaps from where we least expect.** I'll be letting you know our new address. In the meantime, I'm staying with my daughters in an apartment which a very kind lady arranged for us.

The vacation (*yearly retreat*) of Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Velazquez*) and her group was very, very beneficial. I was with them and we had a very happy vacation. A young man by the name of Ibarra (*Father Castor Ibarachevea, S.J.*), who lives close to the Church in San Felipe, accompanied us. Blessed be God!

The boarding girls who entered are young, so their training won't be hard. It's easier at that age to adapt to school life (*religious life*). They seem to be happy. Five others from the boarding home have already graduated: Piedad (*Sister Piedad of Jesus Arquieta*), Eulalia, (*Sister Eulalia of the Child Jesus Cordero Cosio who left the congregation at a later date*), Guadalupe (*Sister Mary Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez*), another Guadalupe (*Sister Maria de Guadalupe Mesa*), and Teresita Guadalupe (*Mother Teresita de Guadalupe Gonzalez Romero*).

In Mexico City the girls (*sisters*) have enjoyed their vacation as much as Lupita's group did. They tell me they're very happy and are ready to start school again. We don't want them to give up their college degrees; otherwise, they won't be able to teach. Pray for them. Blessed be God! I'll be writing to the others very soon.

Good-bye and God bless you.

Maria

Letter 318
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

January 16, 1934

My very dear Teresita,

What a reason you give for my not answering you yet! Be patient with me because so many things seem to hinder the fulfillment of my duties. Pray for me, and even if I take time in answering you, never attribute it to lack of affection. No, daughter. Thanks be to God that I'm not lacking in my affection toward you.

Don't be worrying anymore about your sister, Carmelita. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) hasn't had the surgery yet, and I'm still hopeful that Our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe will obtain a miracle so that she'll be all right without needing an operation. Carmelita's been writing to me that she's very happy to be over there [in Mexico City] just in time for the celebrations honoring Our Lady. They made their retreat with the Salesian Fathers, and one of them was Father de la Cruz (*the brother of Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*). I can tell that she's really enjoying herself! She's also busy arranging for an Academy or at least to work with a group of children from Elenita Curiel's family right there in her home. She also went over to Mr. Tremendo's (*Monsignor Tremendo, Vicar of Religious in the Archdiocese of Mexico City*) house to wish him a happy New Year. And I'm supposing she's also giving algebra classes to our sisters. So, she's very busy as well as content. Blessed be God!

And you, how have you been feeling? How's your work with the children (*children in the orphanage*)? May God our Lord help you.

I was very pleased that you're asking to observe your Rules and Regulations more perfectly. Believe me, this news was such a satisfaction for me, and I do believe it was God Who inspired you to do that because He loves you so much. We

have to live and die as religious women. God our Lord will take care of us. He will give us the strength to be faithful to Him. Yes, daughter. Be very observant, and get as close to your good God as you possibly can.

You're doing the right thing in not wanting to acquire more responsibilities but to contribute with your good example for the good of that family (*community*). We have to look after your health, too. Try to eat and sleep enough, and at the same time, leave some time for leisure. And please write to your family. Do it sometime before Lent begins.

Don't feel alone because you're not. Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament wants to be your Confidant, your Friend, your Consoler. He wants to fill your soul with His love. Perhaps that's why He is making you feel the emptiness of creatures. How good our God is and by how many different paths He leads souls! Don't doubt it. You've been very dear to Him and it's only natural that He will be jealous with those souls He loves so much. He wants you all for Himself.

(no signature)

**Letter 319
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

January 17, 1934

May God our Lord be within your soul, my dear daughter, Today, I had the pleasure of receiving your letter dated yesterday, January 16, and I'm happy to reply to your questions. The office book, the apron, and the slip arrived. I put on the slip right away to get warm and then changed the dress that I'd been wearing for a long time. Blessed be God! May He reward my good daughters who care so much for me.

Giving a present to Braulita seems like a very good idea to me. We owe that good lady very much, and I think it's also a good idea to give the rosary to your sister, Concha.

Regarding the invitation you received, you should go. Take one of the older ones (*sisters*) with you, perhaps Maria de San Jose (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*) because she's the oldest. Prepare yourselves with prayer and penance and let Mercedes (*Miss Mercedes Villasenor, the representative of the ladies of Octocla who has petitioned to Mother Luisita to open a school in Ocotlan*) and some mature lady accompany you. By no means should you go alone. **Comport yourself with dignity but without affectation and remain constantly in the presence of God, trying to go back home soon.** Tell Angel what happened, and why you think you should accept, but ask him for his opinion. Find out how Mrs. Cortez, Mercedes (*Miss Mercedes Villasenor*) and Victoria feel about it. Watch for their reaction when you tell them, and maybe they'll suggest some means to free you from such a dilemma. Let society see that you're not attending out of pleasure, that it's not really the custom for our family (*Congregation*) to go to such functions, but make sure they understand why you're doing it in this particular case. But you could also say you're sick and that when you get well, you will accept. Then after a little time passes, you could give a little present to the aunt and to Maria de los Angeles to keep them happy. If possible, I would choose the last solution. You can also say to Mercedes that your mother or some other member of your family whom you love very much is sick. I propose these alternatives so you may use whatever you see fit.

About Miss Rivas (*Dolores Rivas who became Sister Ines of the Sorrowful Mother Rivas*), I'm happy because she's useful, but, nevertheless, we'll have to try her out and wait a little. She's still quite young and this will be a good opportunity to transfer some people from that overcrowded little house. For the same reason, I've been looking for a house, also. We're presently sleeping in an apartment that Elvira loaned to us.

I'm entrusting Genoveva (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa of the Holy Face Ascencio*) to you. She's still very young and we shouldn't let her get away with anything. See to it that she is faithful to all her duties.

Maria Ines's (*Sister Mary Ines of Carmel Chavez*) father was better

yesterday, but I know he's really very ill. I understand he has heart trouble. Tell the "h" ("*hermana*" or *sister*) to write to her father encouraging him.

Carmen Josefa's (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) father died. You must know already. Make sure you offer the suffrages for his eternal rest, and offer the same for Cruz, the brother of Juana Bermas (*Sister Juana Maria Berckmans Garcia who left the Congregation*).

Good-bye, my daughter. **May God our Lord bless you. Try to be better every day. Don't forget to study your religion and make your visit to the Blessed Sacrament before your classes.**

Give my regards to the girls (*sisters*).

Maria

Letter 320

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

January 19, 1934
Garibaldi
Guadalajara, Jalisco

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles, California

My esteemed and never-forgotten daughter,

Please forgive my delay in answering your letter. It seems as though I still don't know how to allow myself enough time for everything that needs to be done, so any little extraordinary thing that occurs during the day delays me from fulfilling my responsibilities. In your charity, please pray for me.

Above all, I'm happy that you're gaining weight. This shows me that you're regaining your good health and that the nourishment you're taking agrees with you. Blessed be God!

I'm happy to learn that there are new vocations coming into our

small family (*community*). In your last letter you wrote about two women wanting to enter. It's too bad they're so old already as it's really difficult for them to change their ways and customs. God our Lord will provide us with young vocations as well as adequate housing for them. Then they can be a little more comfortable, as they should be--not so overcrowded.

How are the little sick girls, Jesus Teresa (*Sister Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) and Carmelita (*Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*)? I think that \$20.00 (pesos) have already been paid on Jesus Teresa's balance of \$100.00 (pesos). Her family has stated that they're going to complete the total \$100.00 (pesos). "Chon" (*the father of Sister Clara Catalina of Christ Hernandez and a relative of Sister Jesus Teresa*) says that it's the amount that belongs to the sister. Regarding Pachita's (*Sister Francisca Teresa who changed her name to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*), it seems to me that she should send the power of attorney to be able to sell her property. I think that I was told the property is worth more than \$1,000.00 (pesos), but the way things are at the present time, it would be very difficult for anyone to give that amount. The money could be given to Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro, the superior of the house in Atotonilco*) who is in the little town (*Atotonilco*).

The house in the little town now includes a pretty bathroom and laundry. They were built next to the orchard, and I'm told that private bathrooms are going to be built for the patients. The only one that I've seen with my own eyes is the new surgery which is well-equipped, plus a laundry for their clothes and a stairway to take the clothes to the roof to dry them. Now I'm being told that if I come to visit again, I won't even recognize the house because it's newly painted, very clean, and quite beautiful. Only God knows how long we'll be able to keep it. Perhaps it'll only be for a short while because grandmother (*the religious persecution*) continues to be very ill and I wouldn't be surprised if are going to have to move again. My uncle Celso and Adelaida are the ones who have made all these renovations possible. **As for ourselves, we're in no financial condition to be building anything, as I've mentioned to you before, but Our Lord moves the hearts of people and without even asking, things happen. Blessed be God!**

Teresa was over here on business and she just left. I asked her about your family and she said that they are well and that Narcisa (*Mother Mary's sister*) has the association (*The Association of Christian Mothers*) under control and the court (*the Court of Love of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament*), also.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and Maria (*Mother Maria of Christ Castellanos*) are still in Mexico City. They've just finished their retreat and seem to be very happy. Maria and the little ones will be continuing their studies at the school. The little Indian girls favor them by providing vegetables every week and they are able to have some of them at every meal.

Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) has a very big family. The poor thing already has thirteen! Then there are the ten granddaughters. All together they total twenty-three, and one of these days there is going to be twenty-four. (*There will soon be a total of twenty-four postulants and novices.*) Pray for this large family because grandmother is hovering between life and death.

My regards to all the family (*community*) and tell them I will be happy to write to them all, little by little.

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

Maria

P.S. One of Sister Juana Berkman's brothers just died. Pray for him, offering the suffrages.

Letter 321
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

January 23, 1934

My dear daughter, Carmela,

With all my affection I greet you. May God's peace be with you.

I can see by your letter that you've decided to go ahead with the surgery. We're all praying to God to help you. In my name, please invite Mariano to be with you at the hour of the surgery, and even though he's very busy, perhaps it will still be possible.

Don't let Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez, who is Mother Carmen's sister*) know that you're going to be operated on because she becomes very afraid. As soon as it's all over, I'll tell her for you, but be sure to let all the rest of us know the day and the time so that we will be able to all be united with you in prayer. Ask others to pray for you as well.

Keep the \$35.00 (pesos) for whatever urgent need arises. Maybe you'll be needing this money for the expenses of your operation. You'd better save it for that purpose. Let your sisters know about the operation so they'll pray and also ask the people to pray for the success of the operation. Ask Toribio (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) to pray.

I'm so very glad to learn that you've been asking the intercession of our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe! I'm hoping that she'll be the one to obtain for you the grace of having your cataracts disappear without an operation, and if it does happen that way--through her intercession--then we'll go ahead and publish the miracle immediately.

Give my regards to Elvira (*Sister Maria Dolores of the Blessed Sacrament Martin del Campo*) and her mother. Tell them I will be very happy to go and meet them.

Are you still giving classes to the girls (*sisters*)? I don't want them to lose any time from those lessons because they are so very helpful in preparing them for their instructor's classes. I would also like the girls (*sisters*) in the United States to help pay their tuition. Please tell them to ask Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) for this favor, and from here we'll try to help by at least sending them their little food. However, if we aren't paid at least a little something, then we simply won't be able to do it. Blessed be

God Who has given us the better part: Poverty.

May God bless you.

(no signature)

Letter 322
Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez

January 27, 1934

My very dear daughter, Margarita Maria,

What a joy it is for me to greet you through these present lines. With my whole heart I pray that God's peace be with you! Have you recovered already from the shock (*serious flooding of the convent*)? How are Josephine (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra*), Maria Esperanza (*Sister Maria Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*) and Crucita (*Sister Maria de la Cruz of the Sacred Heart Gutierrez*)?

How imposing death can be in whatever form it presents itself. May God have mercy on us! Let's hope that the company will pay for the water damage. \$1,000.00 (dollars) is nothing to them, but it's a great deal of money to us, and we did lose all that good soil from the orchard and the wall. Nevertheless, even if they pay nothing, we're happy because no one was hurt.

Last week I was sick and unable to write. I'm continuing this letter on February 7. Blessed be God! Now I'm better, but still not very strong, which is only natural because I'm very old. (*Mother Luisita was sixty-seven years old at the time*).

Permit me to make a recommendation to you which I think will be helpful to your soul and mine. Always try to see that those under you remain humble girls (*religious sisters*), as they have been, without ever asking for their rights. To even think of such a thing is a terrible temptation and one which, unfortunately, seems to be prevalent in our world. Insubordination follows pride and ultimately the great evils which now afflict society. I fear these evils will infiltrate into

our family under the pretext that it's a duty to fight for one's rights. Ah, how cunning the devil is, and how much territory he has gained. Mothers in families don't correct their daughters anymore. Those who govern will not exercise their authority either because strikes are threatened everywhere. Superiors refrain themselves from giving orders because they fear they'll not be obeyed. How sad it is, how sad it is! No doubt the world is falling into an abyss. How much I fear, that after the many extraordinary graces we've received, we too, will fall into it. Our family has been happy as long as it has remained humble, but we'll cease to be happy the day we demand our rights. May God our Lord never permit it!

This, my daughter, I tell you as the best possible proof of the affection and interest I have in you. If I don't tell you these things, who will?

I don't think that I'll be able to visit you next summer, although I'm very grateful for your loving invitation. Let's hope, if I'm still alive next year--in 1935, that it will be possible at that time. Meanwhile, pray for me and in that way you'll be doing me the most good. Greetings to all the family for whom I wish eternal happiness. May God our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Letter 323

Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa

February 9, 1934

Miss Maria de la Trinidad (Mary of the Trinity)

Very dear and unforgettable daughter,

Pobrecita! Did you think that I'd forgotten about you? On the contrary, what happens is that I simply don't give myself enough time to do everything so I seem to end up only writing to the older sisters. Forgive me, daughter, and never see in me any lack of good will toward you.

How are you? I'm longing to see you. Whenever it's possible for you and you've enough money (*literally, a few little cents*), come over. You and Teresita junior (*Sister Teresita of Guadalupe Gonzalez Romo*) come and stay here with us for at least two or three or six days or whatever amount of time your ticket allows you.

What do your little ones (*postulants and novices*) say? How are they? **Take good care of them and teach them to be very humble and observant so that Our Lord will bless them and prepare themselves for such a big grace (*profession of vows*).** Take care of the older ones, too, *pobrecitas*.

I can imagine that you've much work to do in addition to the sewing for the girls. I'm glad. **May God our Lord bless your works that you will be able to win many souls for Him in exchange for the many souls who are now being lost.**

What can you tell me about Father, Isabelita and Carmela (*relatives of Mother Mary of the Trinity*)? Are they still in Tapalpa? I know that Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa, the sister of Mother Mary of the Trinity*) is well, and I hope I'll be able to go see her in April, if I'm still alive by then! I'm thinking of going there to look around a little bit.

A visitor came during the afternoon and so I wasn't able to write any more. I'm finishing this letter at night when everyone has already retired, but I didn't want this day to pass without finishing this letter to you.

Good-bye, daughter. I'm going to bed. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 324

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, February 11, 1934

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez

My beloved daughter,

May the peace of Our Lord be with you! Your last letter dated the third of this month is in my hands. I'm answering it with the greatest pleasure. Above all, I heartily appreciate the desire you expressed that I could travel to see you. May God our Lord repay you for the good sentiments you have toward me. I'd be delighted to go there and spend a few days with you sisters, but it's impossible. There are so many little things I have to do right here. To go to Mexico City in April is the most that I'll be able to accomplish. Only God knows what He has in store for me. I've so many illnesses and discomforts that it wouldn't surprise me to say good-bye at anytime, which would postpone our meeting again until heaven.

I congratulate you upon receiving such a beautiful picture (a picture of the Sacred Heart). Let's hope it will be imprinted upon your soul after your Divine Model. Send us a copy of the picture when you possibly can so we'll all be able to see it. Ask Him in prayer to keep me ever close to His Divine Majesty as you say that my picture is close to Him now.

I'm positive that God our Lord will help you if love and humility are the mottos of your life. I'll ask our good Lord to grant you that grace. I'm now living in the house next to Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) because it was impossible to have so many of us living in the same house. I'm now on the second floor with the older sisters. There's a lady on the first floor with her children. They all receive Communion daily. **Blessed be God that in the midst of so much evil, there are still such beautiful souls.**

The Huertas (*two brothers, Father J. Refugio and Father Edward Huerta, life-long friends of Mother Luisita*) are back already. The older one is enchanted with what he saw in Europe, saying that only in heaven will he see better things. As usual, both of them have started to work hard just as soon as they returned. They are wonderful men--real models--and they never get tired. What beautiful deaths they will have!

Grandmother (*the religious persecution*) has been quiet for a few

days. Blessed be God! Her periodic illnesses are less frequent and her attacks don't last very long. Blessed be God that she's well at this time. The inspector came to visit Nena's (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) academy and they've had magnificent results. They've large grounds for the school and the house where you used to live (*house in Ocotlan*) is now their residence. They're comfortable in that two-story house. Refugito (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) is with Nena, but now she's perfectly well. The doctor says she will be able to return to the family (*religious community*). I hope eating fish will strengthen her lungs and that she'll be happy and in good health. **Pray for us that we make good use of the time which God our Lord gives us to live, and let's hope that you sisters will do the same. May God our Lord help us. We know we can do nothing without Him.**

I'm sending you some maxims of St. Therese to frame and put in the convent as you requested,

Maria

"O Jesus, Divine Spouse of mine,
take me with You
before permitting me
to soil my soul upon this earth
with the smallest voluntary fault."

"The only grace I beg of You my God,
is the grace never to offend You.
We are not in our true country yet,
and temptation should purify us as fire purifies gold."

Letter 325

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

February 20, 1934

For Teresita of the Infant Jesus.

My beloved daughter,

With great pleasure I'm greeting you and giving you the permission

to come and spend Holy Week here and to bring Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) with you.

How are you feeling? I've been told you're recuperating well and that makes me happy. I'm hoping to see you very healthy, if such is the will of God.

Mother Carmen (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) wrote to me. She teaches three small pupils as well as her big sisters (*religious sisters*) to whom she is giving algebra classes. It will be very advantageous for them to begin studying algebra now that they're going to start going to school, which I hope will take place soon.

The night before last Lupe Aguilar died. Remember, she's Daniel's wife, the brother of our Sister Guadalupe. It'll be good for you to write to sister, offering her your condolences. Please tell Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) to do the same, and for her to tell the others to write, also.

Daughter, I beg you to go every day to visit your Patron Saint (*St. Therese*), even if it's for a few moments and pray to her for me and all of your family (*community*). Offer her whatever other prayer Our Lord inspires you. Ask her to be our intercessor so that we will be able to obtain the job that's being offered to us here in Mexico City, as well as the one in San Luis because you can see how badly we need it. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 326

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

February 26, 1934, Guadalajara

My beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,

I greet you with all affection, wishing you the best. How are you? Conchita, your mother, was here this morning and is very happy. She came to bring the rings. The girls (*sisters*) received them with

great joy and put them on immediately, i.e., Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*), Maria Ana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Rodriguez Gutierrez*) and Mary of St. Joseph (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*). Blessed be God for everything!

Little Jose (*Cardinal Jose Garibi Rivera followed Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez as Archbishop of Guadalajara*) has already returned the booklet that Socorro took to him with the corrections and approval (*to receive the imprimatur from the titular bishop*). It'll be less costly to have it printed here because the dollar is now \$3.50 (pesos). If Grandfather (*Archbishop Orozco y Jimenez*) wants to see the book, however, I'll send it up there. You find out and let me know immediately. We'll follow his orders, whatever they are.

Again, I wish to express my gratitude and give thanks to the family (*community*) so dear to me because you sisters in your letters are inviting me to go up there. God our Lord will reward you. Sincerely, I want to tell you how sorry I'm that I can't accept your invitation because it's truly not possible. I still have much business pending which would leave me no peace up there.

Thanks be to God, the doctors have already operated on Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and it was a success (*cataract surgery*). The cataract was extensive and now her only danger would be to catch a cold. She's already receiving injections to avoid it, but in her last letter she did mention that she was feeling a cold was coming on. Please ask Our Lord to save her eyes, if it would be for her good.

How much I need all of your prayers as my number of days left is declining. More than ever before, I now need the help of our good God to prepare me for the trip. God will help me. **As time goes by, I wish you would all be more and more observant of the rule and I hope that God will keep you in His grace and you will all be united.** Affectionate greetings to Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and all the family to whom I'll be writing very soon. May God our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Letter 327
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

March 1, 1934

My dear daughter, Elenita,

I greet you hoping that all is going well with you.

May God our Lord repay you for your letters which make me laugh so much. Ay! What a girl! May God make you a saint.

It was a great joy for me to learn that your "*tata*" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) is happy with us. Blessed be God! It would be beyond my strength if the superiors wouldn't be happy with our family (*religious Congregation*). May God never allow me to endure that sorrow.

Now you can find me back here in my same corner, according to the wishes and will of my Uncle Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*). I came so that we can all be together. I think it's also beneficial for me to be here because of my illnesses, since in the other place where I was staying there are only young ones (*sisters*) and my bad health didn't help any. Ask Our Lord to grant us a two-story house over in this area, if it's His good pleasure.

Today "The Month of Our Hopes" begins because it's the month of our father St. Joseph. Let us try to spend this month with all possible fervor, and trust that he'll obtain for us innumerable and great graces, above all for our souls. Pray to him for me very often.

You might already have heard about Carmelita's (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) eye surgery. The cataract was extracted on the twenty-third [of February]. I heard that even though the cataract was a very large one, the surgery was successful. It wasn't even necessary for her to go into the hospital. It was done right in the house. Yesterday I received a card with the news that although

she's all right, she still isn't allowed to move yet. Blessed be God! Now she'll be able to use her eyes, and I'll be with one less worry. I give thanks to God for the grace He has granted us that now you won't have to be going on so many outings (*moving to new locations*). I hope that the favor they're doing for you will be complete because it should be our great desire to have Holy Mass in the house.

Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) wrote to me and says that you still haven't written to her and she would like you to write her. She says that she wants to see your Chinese writing and for you not to be so proud.

It seems that the celebration for Gabriel (*a First Communion*) will take place on the nineteenth after all. You'll have to come over on either the sixteenth or seventeenth, so start saving to pay for your transportation.

Make the banners as simple as possible so you won't be spending too much of your time on them and start arranging them in order. If Malena (*Sister Magdalena of Christ Ibarra*) has some, then continue with the ones which follow. Seeing that you're trying to be as you should be brings me peace.

When you come, bring a banner so I can see it. How much did you pay for the material?

Good-bye, daughter. **Be according to the Heart of Our Lord Who will fill you with His graces.**

Maria

Letter 328
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

March 6, 1934

My dear daughter, Elenita,

Immediately after reading your letter we started to look for the comedy you want, but we couldn't find it. Lucia said it was lost. You can obtain it from Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) and I found out that Margarita (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) also copied it.

It seems to me that the wound in the girls' (*sisters*) hearts re-opened when Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) came to give all of you the news. Probably the information she shared accounts for all of their tears (*Sister Carmen of the Sacred Heart Becerra was critically sick with influenza*). The other child seems much better to me and she has a strong will to get well, so don't mention this news to the gentleman. Consult with Ramirez (*Father Thomas Ramirez S.J.*) in the event he goes over there. Or perhaps he's planning to come over, and if this is the case, we'll talk at length.

Our Lord has permitted, for our own good, that we receive some bad news. We just read a telegram from Maria Castellanos (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) telling us that the doctor will have to extract Carmelita's (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) eye because of the chronic cold she's been having. I don't want Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez was the sister of Mother Carmen*) to know about this yet, but all of you please pray very much for Carmela. Let it be all for God! Oh, how many sorrows we endure!

I want to send this right away, so I'm not writing to the rest of the children (*sisters*). I'll be writing to them soon. Greet them for me.

At the last minute I got a stain on this letter. Please forgive me.

Let us be really good before both God and men. May Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Letter 329
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

March 10, 1934

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter and invitation. May God our Lord reward you.

I'd be delighted to spend a day in that little house so dear to me. God our Lord can do all things. Right now, though, I'm in quite a turmoil because of what happened to Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez's eye was extracted*) and now she's in danger of contracting meningitis. Over here our own Carmen (*Sister Carmen of the Sacred Heart Becerra*) is critical. She contracted influenza and was anointed two days ago. She's very discouraged. Lupita (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) has had a lot of problems in the school. The altar bread machine is out of order and our clients, of course, want to stop their orders. And as for myself, I'm more swollen every day. **Let us bless Our Lord for everything. He only allows what is best for us to happen. Let us go forward, good seamen, for our Love is waiting on the seashore.**

I hope that you've received my note telling you that the comedy you were asking for has been lost, but that you can obtain it in the little town (*Atotonilco*).

Regarding Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*), I haven't seen him. Consequently, I don't know what his decision is. Please don't say anymore about it. My hope is that he'll be writing to you. Be calm. Be calm. Try to be calm. Socorrito (*Sister Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) mentioned to me that Alberto told her that it wouldn't be possible for them to go on Friday, feast of Our Lady of Sorrows because they've already made other commitments. To my way of thinking, it would be better for the children to make their retreat when the priests are free, perhaps on the feast of the Sacred Heart for example.

How are Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Christ Ibarra*) and Maria (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*)? I hope they're feeling better and will be able to come on the fourteenth, which is Wednesday.

We're studying something for the girls' (*sisters*) celebration (*ceremony*) which will be taking place on the fifteenth. Try to come because Gabriel probably won't be receiving his first Holy Communion on the nineteenth. You could either go back before the nineteenth or stay here, according to your needs.

Today I received a card from Maria (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) telling me that Carmelita is feeling better. Her temperature has gone down and she's sleeping better. Blessed be God!

It seems that the job (*school*) for the girls (*sisters*) in Mexico City is becoming a reality. Mr. Soberon has taken a lot of interest. He says that he learned about our family in Duarte. Only God knows. I'm afraid that he's already thinking of having the girls study nursing because that's one of his current projects.

Carmen, who lives here with us, is gravely ill. Pray for her. I can't (*write*) anymore. Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you

Maria

Letter 330

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

March 22, 1934

My never-forgotten and beloved daughter,

I've received your affectionate letter. May God our Lord repay you.

I do understand and it worries me to think of how busy you are with so much work to do. I'd certainly wouldn't have taken Jesus Teresa (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) and Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) away if they were able to help you. According to the reports I received from Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and from you, I understood that because of their sickness they were an added grievance to you. I have the best intentions of replacing them with girls (*sisters*) who are young and in good health, but the

difficulty lies in arranging for their immigration. If you could make their arrangements for them, they would be ready to leave anytime.

Furthermore, we have a young girl, about thirty years of age, from a very good family, with good training who is ready to go there with the permission of her relatives, if that would be beneficial and convenient for you. She was going to enter the community here with a dispensation from the dowry, paying only \$15.00 (pesos) a month for her support. If you can arrange this, I could send another girl, and then there would be two little ones and two older ones to work.

Jesus Teresa has been feeling well and she has a good appetite now, which she didn't have up there and she sleeps well now, also, which she couldn't do there. She'll see Doctor Gonzalez Arechiga tomorrow. She has no more cough and, in a word, she looks fine. Perhaps Our Lord wanted her to come down here and manifested His will in this way. The same thing is true of Carmela. She feels well. Blessed be God! Now she's in Ocotlan where I hope she'll be able to recuperate. I have to interrupt these lines because of sickness.

It's now the twenty-fifth and I'm very happily continuing. By this time, you've already received the news of the death of Sister Carmen of the Sacred Heart (*Becerra*). Her death was most edifying, thanks be to God, and therefore very consoling. She died of broncho-pneumonia, after having received the last sacraments with full faculties of her mind. Her sisters used to come to her, asking for her advice and requesting her to do things for them after her death. Once when they were sprinkling her with holy water, she said, "All right, go ahead and sprinkle but I don't see anything." And another time, she asked them to pray for her because he was around there and then she said, "Now he is gone!" After that she was very peaceful. She said that she saw our Holy Mother St. Teresa, St. Therese, and St. Joseph. One of the sisters asked her, "Why don't you wait so you can go to heaven on the nineteenth?" and she replied, "I want to go up there for the big celebration, but I want to hear the drum roll in heaven." Her body was left without any wrinkles and her face inspired no fear. Her companions have asked for little things that she used and they're very happy to have them. Blessed be God for everything!

They've already urgently asked us to vacate the house and I'm afraid we won't be able to rent another one. **Pray for us, but don't worry because God will provide.**

Your brother Luis is going to get married on the second of April. He's made all of the preparations very well, arranging for the furniture. Everything has been in good taste and according to the rules. Conchita is very happy about the marriage. Conchita Gonzalez is going to be the maid of honor.

Please send the money directly to Maria (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*). Send as much as you can because they have to pay for the registration. Later on, the tuition will be less. They're in need of clothing and it's painful to read their letters expressing their lack of funds. **God our Lord, in His infinite mercy, permits us to taste what poverty is. May He be blessed!**

Don't pay attention to what Mary says about you sisters sending the secondhand clothing that you can't wear any more. It was easy for her to say such a thing and she didn't realize she was hurting you by saying it. Forget about it, but do let me know everything that hurts you.

Good-bye, daughter. Pray, all of you, very much for me. I get older and more sickly every day. God bless you all.

Maria

Letter 331

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

March 27, 1934

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

The peace of God be in our souls.

Although my frequent aches and pains haven't allowed me to write

to you, I'm feeling better now and gladly take the opportunity of this little respite to sing to you: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! May these glorious and joyful days be permeated with the love of God.

How are you feeling?

Thanks be to God that Jesus Teresa (*Sister Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) and Carmela (*Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*) arrived safely and are now enjoying good appetites and sleep! I hope they'll recuperate soon. Their age is in their favor.

God our Lord must not have wanted Maria Gutierrez (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman who left for a time, but then returned, persevering until her death at Santa Teresita Hospital in Duarte, California*) among us. So, we must therefore be happy about her separation from us. **Let us strive with all our hearts to seek to please Our Lord alone in this life. That's the only thing which is really necessary.**

A very good girl has been visiting us for the past two years. She's thirty years old, from a good family, and well-educated. She's a seamstress, and for the past year and a half she's been consistently giving \$15.00 (pesos) every month, but can't give the \$1,000.00 (pesos). For personal reasons she thinks that it would be better for her family if she enters over there. She'll pay her way. She feels a strong vocation for the missions. (*This was Mother Carmen of the Sacred Heart Reynoso who entered in California and finding the English language difficult returned to Mexico. She died in Guadalajara, Jalisco.*) If you see that she'll be suitable for your house, let me know right away. There is another one from Zacoalco who is twenty-nine years old, works in a school and looks smart. I'm enclosing the letter she wrote. In it she states that she's the sister of a man who is or was a congressman. He's involved with the politicians and her other brother, as I understand it, is the chief of the "*agrarias*" (*a rebel group of farmers*). You'll understand me when I tell you that I gave this girl your address in the United States. You can be charitable to her by giving other addresses. You'll need to use much caution. *Pobrecita!* She's very pleasant and tells me that her brothers still practice their devotions.

I'm noticing that the debt we have in that country is still quite large, even though I realize you've already reduced it considerably. Continue paying it off as you're able, little by little, so it will soon be defrayed. I wish I didn't have to ask you for money, but Our Lord wants it that way because He hasn't provided any funds for the girls (*sisters*) to continue their education. They're already at the halfway point in their studies. And now they won't be permitted to work without their certification, and we need so much for them to work! It would help very much if this first month you could send us \$100.00 Mexican (pesos) and then only \$50.00 (pesos) monthly.

Fortunately the dollar is high right now on the exchange. If at all possible, send the first amount right away because classes have already begun which means that the girls (*sisters*) have lost some time, but they'll be able to register just as soon as the money arrives here.

Could you find out for us the cost of a machine to make hosts? The one we're now using over here has been a great help toward supporting ourselves. May our good Lord repay grandfather (*Archbishop John Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*) for giving it to us just at this time when we are so very needy. I don't know what we would have done without it, and I think that if we could add another machine, the needs of this family (*community*) will be met. We simply can't find these machines here in Mexico. We've already looked.

Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) will tell you that we're willing to send someone over to help you. She and her companion will be leaving as soon as their visas and transportation are ready.

Tell Margarita Maria that I consent to the building of the laundry.

May God our Lord fill you with His love, and I wish you a very happy Easter.

Maria

Letter 332

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

April 10, 1934

My beloved daughter, Carmelita,

What a joy to receive your letter! That means you're better!
Blessed be God!

I was determined to go there one of these days, but Our Lord determined something else, sending me sickness and little problems. We've just been asked to leave the house immediately and so we have to move. Continue sending the letters to the same address, however, because although the other house is very close, I don't even know the address yet.

I bless our good God for granting you that spiritual joy. Really and truly, that's the way we should always be serving Him.

I can't write anymore. I'm very shaky. My regards to everyone. May Our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

P.S. Please tell my daughters that I'm unable to write to them because of my illness. Even though I'm a little better, I still can't write.

Letter 333

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

April 12, 1934

My daughter, Elena,

With all affection I greet you. Did your trip go well? As for myself, thanks be to God, I'm feeling a little better.

I've received a letter from Mexico City informing me that the classes the girls (*sisters*) are taking already began last Tuesday and that

they must be in Motolineo by 8:00 a.m. That's why they're begging the help of your house to pay for the street car. I hope you can send them \$10.00 (pesos) monthly.

I was a little worried the day you left and so I asked Our Lord to allow me to receive a letter from you soon so that I could be at peace. The reason that I haven't died is because my character doesn't let me. Pascual (*Dr. Pascual Rojas*) used to tell me that I've contracted this illness precisely because of the way I'm. **May all of this be for God Who permits that I get into these worrying moods. May they be for my personal sanctification and that of my family (Congregation), for whom I'm now so very concerned. What's urgent for us to do is this--to be virtuous so that we will be able to go to heaven. Everything else is unimportant, and I willingly suffer everything as long as we'll be sanctified.**

Give my regards to the "Navarros" and tell them that in gratitude for the beautiful school I've received, all our family (*Congregation*) will be offering our prayers for the soul of their good father.

May God our Lord keep you well and you, in turn, do good deeds for others.

Good-bye. My regards to everyone.

Maria

P.S. Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) is here at the moment and has decided to go over there in the car. He would like you to make the arrangements with Mr. Cortez as you offered to him.

**Letter 334
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez**

April 23, 1934

Miss Carmen Chavez

My very dear daughter,

What a joy to be able to greet you through these means. I've wanted to do this for a long time now, but my aches and pains just

haven't allowed it. Now, however, I'm writing to you, but with it's with much difficulty because I'm very shaky. Let it be for God!

How are you feeling? **Has Our Lord answered your prayer and given you spiritual joy? It would be very good for all of us to obtain such joy! We should always be content, even in the midst of great sorrows. As St. Teresa says, "Sorrows which are not eternal are not really sorrows at all."**

I wish I could go and visit you. I'm hoping that I'll be feeling better and then I'll go and spend a little time with you.

I'm afraid that it isn't good for me to continue writing. Pray for me.

Good-bye. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 335

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

May 4, 1934

My very dear daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

I have in my possession your kind letters informing me about your family (*community*). Thank you, my daughter, and may God our Lord reward you.

I thank God for the improvement in your health. The amount of weight you're gaining is a good sign that you're getting well, and if you don't worry about anything, you'll continue feeling well.

I received the document regarding Maria Magdalena (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*). It's in her favor.

My regards to all the family. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 336

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

May 8, 1934

My dear daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

My aches and pains didn't allow me to answer your letters with their accompanying reports, but I appreciated your sending them. God reward you, daughter.

Poor Carmen Josefa (*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*)! If it's at all possible, send her over to me, provided there's enough money to do so and someone with whom she could travel.

On the eighth we had the celebration for Maria. Treat her as a family member. She comes from a good family, and is very well-educated, having already obtained her credentials. She's a seamstress, besides, and I hope that she'll be very useful to us.

The document regarding Maria Magdalena (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*) arrived. It will soon be answered, and I suppose favorably because the report is very good. May God our Lord make her a saint!

The monthly payment for Maria will be \$15.00 (pesos), but if we see ourselves in an emergency, I'll have to use the money to pay our rent. If it turns out that it won't be necessary to use it for the rent, then I'll send it to Mexico so that you can subtract that amount from what Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) sends.

I didn't see the power of attorney that Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was later changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin of Porres*) sent for her brother Jesus. Perhaps it was mislaid among other papers. Jesus needs it right away.

It's time for the girls (*sisters*) to leave and for me to close. May Our Lord sustain you and bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

May 16, 1934

My never-forgotten and dear daughter, Margarita Maria,

With all affection I reply to your greeting and returning the embraces you sent me through your letters. God our Lord repay you for all the good will you show toward me. I bless Our Lord for all the happiness you've received because of the goodness of Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*) and because you're on the brink of seeing your most ardent desires become a reality. You'll soon be seeing how much I will enjoy that beautiful house (*Santa Teresita Chapel which was dedicated in 1935*). **Still, expect to find more difficulties and worries as it can't be otherwise. There are no roses without thorns.**

What's happened to the booklet (*ritual*) from grandfather? Has it been printed yet?

I hope the girls (*sisters*) arrive there with no trouble and that all will be happy, the girls and you sisters already there. The girls are very pleasant. Rosalia (*Sister Rosalia of Saint Teresa Plascencia*) is a nice, simple and virtuous girl. Please take very good care of her. She is very innocent. What about Maria Reynoso (*Mother Carmen of the Sacred Heart Reynoso*)? Well, she's very formal and steady in all that she undertakes. She seems to be a girl of merit and I hope that she'll persevere. Matilde (*Sister Matilde of the Good Shepherd Suarez*) is a good worker. Perhaps she doesn't understand all things well, but you can see her spirit is one of an apostle and she enjoys good health. I don't recall ever seeing her sick. She's very strong. See that they use all the necessary precautions. Be scrupulous in that sense. Remind the others who are already familiar with the care of the tuberculosis patient because they might forget to take the precautions. This would be of a great consequence. I've an idea that if you would write the list of necessary precautions that the nurses should follow in caring for the patients and have it framed and put in a visible place, it would remind their consciences on this point.

It seems to me that your idea of getting a brother of Mr. Ring (*another Jesuit priest*) is a good one. And as you said--an old man. Give my greetings to the gentleman who is taking Mr. Ring's place (*Father Edward Whelan, S.J.*). I met him in El Paso.

I certainly understand the great enthusiasm you have--enthusiasm for building, for getting money for this or that purpose, for taking care of the patients, for what you do and what you don't do, for your trips to Los Angeles. In a word, your head is in a turmoil and wearing out great amounts of phosphorus, but these losses might not be good for you. The day will come when you won't have what you need and then you will suffer. Take good care of yourself, Margarita. Take good care of your health. It's your duty. Be calm and don't be trying to do everything in one moment.

Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) is here because of sickness. She has the intestinal flu. Pray, sisters, that she'll recover. She wants to know why you haven't written to her and for me to tell you that she's very provoked with you.

Thanks be to God, I'm better. Let's hope that this recovery from my trouble is for the welfare of my soul.

I had the joy of seeing Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*). She tells me she's very happy with the wife of Luis and that he's very happy with her, also. They live with Conchita in a separate apartment. Conchita wants to remain independent and I agree with her.

Greetings to the family and to the sick girls (*T.B. patients at Santa Teresita*). Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

**Letter 338
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

June 8, 1934

Miss Elena de la Cruz

My very dear daughter,

How are you? Not too well, I'm supposing because you're so depressed. Do you think you would have the strength to come over here? If you're up to it, leave right away so that you will be able to take care of your health over here, and then I'll go there some other time, but don't waste any more time without seeking help.

Let Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) and Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Mary of the Guardian Angels Ramirez*) go to San Francisco (*San Francisco de Asis, Jalisco*) with Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) along with the other girls (*sisters*) for a few days. In the event that you can't come, let me know, and then I'll tell you later when I'll be able to go.

The children arrived safely. This afternoon they're going to enter.

Teresita (*Sister Teresita of Guadalupe Gonzalez Romo*) got married today (*made her vows*) between 7:00 and 8:00. The ceremony was beautiful and on the twenty second we'll be having the celebration for Juana Bermas (*Sister Juana Maria Berkman Garcia who left the Congregation*).

My stomach is all right. I've been feeling better and I can eat anything.

Last night, Adela left. *Pobrecita!* I hope she won't regret it.

Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) and Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) will be going to Tapalpa on Monday. The doctor saw the latter, and he said that she's too weak to undergo surgery and will have to wait until she's stronger. He approved her going to Tapalpa, and said that he'll go head and operate when she returns because her tonsils are pretty bad.

I'm finishing this letter now because I'm able to send it out now. Good-bye, and give my regards to all the family (*community*). May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 339

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, June 8, 1934

My very beloved daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

I've been wanting to answer your letters because they're on my mind. One reason why I haven't done it yet is my aches and pains.

Another is simply my lack of time, but most of all, since I'm a little slow at thinking things through, it's better for me to wait until I've mulled them over in my mind before giving you my answers. All these reasons contribute to the longer amount of time it sometimes takes for me to answer your letters. When the questions are simple ones, that's the only time when I dare to answer immediately.

Regarding the dispensation of the dowry of the girl from Zacoalco, I agree. She can compensate with her work and her aptitudes.

I agree with Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) that Maria Magdalena (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*) should remain six more months in that same house. We're doing that over here now. In fact, it'd even be better if it could be an entire year.

It will be advisable to take Maria Gutierrez (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman*) to the doctor to be re-examined, telling her beforehand her brother's opinion, but we'll have to do as the doctor says. It's a very delicate subject. If she's suffering from epileptic seizures, in time she'll become either crazy or inept. In addition, it would be very hard for the others to be watching her whenever the seizures would attack her. Finally, if it is really that kind of illness we shouldn't admit her. If it's her nerves, then in that case, it will be necessary for her to be a woman of character and

not allow herself to be dominated by her emotions, and you'll have to deal with her with kindness and firmness at one and the same time and see about her hygiene. Pray to God for this intention and abide by the opinion of the physician.

It's good for you to obey Papa Juanito (*Archbishop John Cantwell*), yet even though he's offering this opportunity in good faith, I think there is a risk in listening to the instructions of a gentleman (*a Franciscan priest who was to give conferences to the sisters*) who might introduce another spirituality different from ours. Then all you girls (*sisters*) will come out like ceramic tiles of different colors. Would it be possible for a son of Ignatius (*Jesuit*) to do it since they're the ones who have instructed us from the very beginning? May God our Lord arrange it all.

I'm glad you're happy with the girls (*sisters*). They are also happy. Blessed be God!

Once again Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) is here to take care of her health. Her liver is increasing in size and she's also having problems with her intestines. Really, she looked very bad when she arrived today. Dr. Arechiga is taking care of her, and I'm hopeful she'll recover. Right now she's confined to bed.

Margarita Teresa's (*Sister Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart Padilla's*) celebration was held on the feast of the Sacred Heart. She looks very happy with her husband (*Our Lord*). A pair of twins came: Leonor and Maria de Jesus.

What a big family Socorro has! Fortunately, Maria del Carmen (*Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*) is helping her.

Thanks be to God, the girls did well on their exams. Now they're enjoying their vacation in San Francisco (*Mexico*) in Jesus Teresa's (*Sister Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega's*) little house. They're all alone and free and very happy.

I don't remember if you asked me about something else. If you did,

please repeat it so I can answer you.

I deeply appreciate your wanting me to go over and visit you, and I would most gladly do so. And even more now because I could avail myself of the opportunity of accompanying Ramon (*Mr. Ramon Ugarte, the husband of Mother Luisita's sister, Lupita*), but I don't dare to, not only because of my poor health, but there are many pending business matters that need my attention at this time.

What is the status of the business that Grandfather (*Archbishop John Cantwell*) was going to arrange for us (*the pontifical approbation of the congregation*)? Let it be all for God!

My affectionate regards to all my daughters. Pray for me, that I may be saved.

Good bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 340
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, June 19, 1934

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles, California

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with great affection. May you have good health and God's peace.

Just now I received Teresa's letter which I'm enclosing. Do whatever you think should be done about this matter. I think I'm the last one to be consulted in this case. So, I'm leaving everything up to you.

I want to send this off right now so I'll end it here.
Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 341
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, July 6, 1934

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles

My beloved daughter,

You will understand how worried I've been over everything that happened to you and to Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). How is she? What are the consequences of the trauma to her head? And what about you and Josephine (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra*)? Did anything happen to either of you? (*The three sisters had been in a serious car accident.*) Let's bless our good God for everything.

You may buy the car if you consider it necessary, but if it isn't essential, then it would be better for you to concentrate on meeting those obligations which you've already contracted, especially after that threat to close down the sanatorium. And if the government truly does discontinue its payments, it would be in the position to stipulate that patients suffering from that particular disease must be in a hospital, and yet at the same time it would be most difficult for us to keep the hospital with the government no longer paying its share. If that would ever come to pass, I can foresee financial problems for us. So, now we have to be prepared to look for means of supporting ourselves, that is to say, to be able to live either in that country or wherever Our Lord wants us.

May God our Lord repay you for the magnificent present you gave me on the occasion of my feastday. The money and the spiritual bouquet you sent from Duarte both arrived on time. Thank you for everything. Know that I will not forget these efforts you make on my behalf.

I deeply appreciate the loving hospitality which you've shown

toward my sister Lupe (*Mother Luisita's sister, Lupita Ugarte, the wife of Mr. Ramon Ugarte*), and I'm pleased that she, in turn, tries to serve you in whatever manner she can. She does so with true love and good will.

I'm told that the Los Angeles house is in danger of catching fire because of the poor electrical wiring, and that the firemen are even prepared to go there to put out the fire should one occur! To me, this is an urgent need that needs to be taken care of, and I hope it can be taken care of immediately.

Last night I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of July 4, and it was a great consolation for me to learn that Margarita, you, and Josephine are all right. Blessed be God!

This letter was already started when I received yours. We'll pray for the success of the retreat you're going to make. I hope there is no abuse of graces--we're so miserable that we should fear that. I was very happy with the retreat that good priest gave us.

We've had to move from our houses, which is just fine because in that way we won't get too attached to anything, for the human heart is strongly inclined to cling to whatever presents itself and this is very damaging. We'll make good use, then, of these moves by practicing the virtue which we wish to possess, and God our Lord is certainly giving us the means. May He be blessed! Pray for us because we're in great need of prayers. Our grandmother (*the religious persecution*) is gravely ill.

I hope you've received the ritual book by now. The seriousness of grandmother's condition makes us delay your requests. Sometimes we can't even locate what you're asking for. Everything has to be done in a hurry and then none of us knows where things are. A chronically ill patient is very difficult to deal with and so full of alternatives. This is how our grandmother has been lately.

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

Maria

Letter 342
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

July 14, 1934

My beloved daughter, Carmelita,

I greet you with all my affection and ask you to accept my sincere congratulations on your day of days. I'm hoping you will spend it very happily and receive abundant graces from heaven.

It's strange that you haven't received my letters yet. Likewise, the money we sent. I am hoping that this one won't get lost. I'm enclosing the little receipt so you will be able to be able to claim the money. I'm sure you can use it to pay for the streetcar for school.

Greet each and every one of the family, especially Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) and Maria (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*).

I can't stand it any longer. (*too ill to continue writing*)

Maria

Letter 343
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, July 20, 1934

Miss Maria Nunez

My beloved daughter,

After greeting you affectionately, I want you to know that our family here has decided to transfer Maria de la Trinidad (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) to that house to do the work that Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) was doing (*as Directress of Novices*). I can't send her immediately because we simply don't have the means to do so, but as soon as you send us enough to cover her trip, she'll leave. I know that you've had many expenses

and I wish I could help by paying for Trini's travel, but under the circumstances we just can't afford it. We haven't received the rent for the orchard, nor the rent for the house we have here, and, consequently, we can't do anything. We're really forcing Our Lord to perform a constant miracle just to support ourselves. Add to that the expense of paying so much rent for the different houses where we have the schools. Right here we're paying \$50.00; where Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) lives, \$40.00; where I live, \$20.00; and where Lupita Vazquez (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) lives, \$18.00. Only God, Who is all-powerful, can give us so large an amount. But we don't owe anything! I'm an enemy of debts! And our situation is such that even among our friends there is no one who could help us.

I congratulate on your retreat and I hope that you will preserve the fruit derived from it.

Antonia

Letter 344

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

July 23, 1934

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez

My beloved daughter,

Because today is the first day of our retreat, I'll only answer your two questions. The new ward should be named "Sacred Heart." Permission for the sisters to study the piano is granted and I hope that you'll find an accomplished pianist to be their teacher. Be sure to obtain the necessary permission, if the teacher is male. Another girl is going with Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) to help you, as you desire. I hope the girls will be able to go to New Mexico for training as Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) suggests.

May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 345
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

August 11, 1934

Miss Elena de la Cruz

My dear daughter,

After greeting you, I want to let you know that it would be impossible for Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) to take care of the young man named Ochoa. She would have to neglect either the girls or him and it wouldn't be fair to either of them. Besides, she is so weak and already has so much to do that, in conscience, we shouldn't increase her load.

Ask Merceditas (*Miss Mercedes Villasenor*) and Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) to please forgive me for not granting their request. Even though I would be willing, I have to refuse. Give them my regards.

Our friends might be hurt for you to leave so close to your day (*feastday*). They'll think that you didn't want to spend it there. So, it would be better for your to come with plenty of time. I will have the appointment already made for you, so you can see (*Doctor*) Gonzalez Arechiga.

I think that your suggestion regarding Consuelo (*a distant relative of Mother Luisita who was sent to the sisters so that they could help in her character formation and Mother Elena took responsibility for her in the school*) is all right because that meeting would really be harmful for her.

Poor Cuquita! She must feel badly about staying in the house alone, but, hopefully, soon she'll have a companion.

We don't know yet if Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) will open the school, or what will happen to her helpers. It would be a good idea for you could come to help me a little.

Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord repay you for the fine blouse you sent me. I'm already wearing it. May Our Lord bless you.

Trini (*Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) and Lola (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*) have already left and will arrive in Los Angeles tomorrow. Only Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) aren't here yet, and I don't know what day they'll arrive. I was told they'll let me know by letter, but I fear that their delay is because of sickness.

Maria

P.S. We've already moved. You'll need to stop at Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house and they'll let you know where to go.

Letter 346
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

Guadalajara, August 20, 1934

Miss Elena de la Cruz

My beloved daughter,

Today I received your longed-for little letter and am hurrying to answer it. Before anything else, come to an agreement with Seve (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*), so that the two of you will be able to make use of every prudent means available because that's our duty in cases like this. I'd like a family to go and live with you in the apartment below, and don't allow Consuelo (*a distant relative of Mother Luisita who was sent to be with the sisters so that they could help in her character formation and Mother Elena was responsible for her in the school*) to remain alone because I think would be exposing her too much, and perhaps Helio (*Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament*) shouldn't stay there. He would be better

off upstairs.

If you come, let it be soon, but come with some friend of yours who already has a house in this city so she won't have to remain in the same house (*where you will be staying*).

I didn't write to you before this because you said you were coming by the eighteenth. I waited for you ever since Thursday, but it was good for you to stay there. Otherwise, there would have been resentment among those people, especially the girls who were so excited.

Pray the "Trisagio" (*three days of prayer*) every day and if it is possible, the fifteen decades of the rosary.

The family has already retired but I'm still writing this because I want you to receive it tomorrow.

Good-bye, daughter. Keep in mind the errands I'm asking for in this note, and I hope to see you soon so you will be able to go see the doctor. My regards to everyone. May Our Lord bless you.

Antonia

Letter 347

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, August 28, 1934

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez
Duarte, California

My very dear daughter,

Right after we had the breakfast party (*profession of vows ceremony*) in honor of Carmen Lucia (*Sister Carmen Lucia of the Blessed Sacrament Garcia*) today, I had the joy of receiving your latest letter. Father Nachito (*presided at the vow ceremony*) married Socorro's daughter (*Sister Carmen Lucia*) and gave a

beautiful talk. The party was simple, but beautiful. Blessed be God!

We're still waiting for Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Carmen Josefa (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*). Poor little ones, they've suffered so very much! Naturally, I'm very worried about them. Blessed be God!

I think the idea you propose is a very good one, i.e. to have the little book printed in English (*the ritual*), and also to delete what refers to the last sacraments so it will correspond to what is in the prayer book so there won't be any confusion.

I've a great desire to see you and talk with you, but it seems to be so difficult for me that I have made up my mind to give up that pleasure. As I see things now, it will not be realized in this lifetime. One more sacrifice and one less consolation! Let us go forward! All for you, my God!

Poor grandmother (*the persecuted Church*)! Only God knows when she'll get well from her illness. God help us. Thanks be to God, I have recovered from my maladies. The dizzy spells aren't as bad now, but I'm still very swollen.

I came to visit Socorrito (*Directress of Novices in Guadalajara*) for the wedding of Carmen Lucia. I just had a talk with her family (*community*). If you could only see the happy expressions on their faces. It's such a joy to be with them because they communicate their happiness to us.

Today I received letters from Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) and Lola (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez*). Blessed be God! I'm not worried about that anymore and I hope they'll be happy up there. Lola is one of the best.

I've just learned that Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) and Carmela (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) just arrived. I haven't seen them yet and only God knows when I'll be able to. *Pobrecitas!* Pray for them

because grandmother (*the religious persecution*) is still very sick, and we're afraid the shock of seeing them will cost her life. Good-bye and may Our Lord bless you.

Tomasa Carrillo

Letter 348
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

September 6, 1934

My dear daughter, Elenita,

Last night I received your letters and I hurry to answer them.

Someone has just left to make a doctor's appointment for you because that's the best thing you can do, and you don't have to be ashamed to ask permission for such a just reason. Leave everything taken care of so that you may be able to stay a few days and not be worrying about anything.

I'm very glad you have a lot of work to do. Over here Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) hasn't been able to get any job at all. It has been most difficult to find any position. Only God knows what we'll do. I do hope that you will not lose yours.

Thanks be to God, I've been well. If I'm able to walk, then, it's all right.

So until I will be seeing you again, please give my best regards to the girls (*sisters*) and to the Gomez Family.

Tell Esperanza that I appreciated her little letter very much, that I greet her and tell the same to Lola Rivas (*Mother Ines de la Dolorosa Rivas Magallon*).

Good-bye, my daughter. May Our Lord bless you.

Maximiana Becerra

P.S. I agree that you should go shopping when you arrive. Please

tell the children (*sisters*) not to write to me because I won't be here.

Letter 349
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, September 7, 1934

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles, California

My beloved daughter,

With great joy I greet you and congratulate on your day of days, praying that it will be a happy day for you! Your entire family will be present to us in spirit. You will be in our thoughts, and we'll pray for your sanctification.

Thanks be to God, Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Carmen (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) both arrived safely and they're here with me which makes me very glad. My other daughters feel the same way.

How is everyone? Has anyone been sick? You, particularly, whose health is so delicate, and now especially with this worry you're experiencing "over your loss" as you would say. *Pobrecitas*, they've suffered some also. All the same, they're well and already rested from the trip. It seems to me that now it's quite simple and easy to travel back and forth. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) says that it would be better for Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) and her family (*the novices and postulants*) to stay for a time in Nogales, Arizona, and since her cousins are doing so well there, she's taking it for granted that they'll let them stay in one of their houses. They themselves said to her that it would be easy. They won't even have to trouble with exchanging their currency because they can cross over to the Mexican side to do their shopping, spending relatively little for the trips. For a time, I'd like Socorrito to breathe in another environment, at least until grandmother (*the religious persecution*) gets a little better. **God our Lord will make it happen if He thinks**

it's necessary.

I've been a little better. I least I'm walking a little. However, my legs continue to be very swollen.

I congratulate both myself and you for the little house you're building. I imagine it will be beautiful and very useful to you. Blessed be God! How good He is!

Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) is without work now. Pray for us.

Good-bye, daughter, and may our Lord bless you. My regards to all the family (*community*).

Conception Gonzalez

Letter 350

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, September, 1934

My very beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,

With pleasure I am now answering your last letter dated the fourth of this month. I certainly do agree that you should wear white veils while you're working with the patients. It seems very reasonable to me and I want you to do everything you can to avoid contracting that disease (*tuberculosis*).

I think that Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) has already told you that Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Carmen (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) have arrived here safely. Blessed be God. Everyone is happy that they arrived. May God our Lord permit me the joy of seeing you here again, breathing the air of your motherland and welcoming you here in your family who loves you so much. Although to be honest with you, I feel a bitterness in the depths of my soul because I feel like you

don't want to come. Perhaps it's not true, and I am only telling you so that this worry of mine will leave me and that I may see you as you've always been. You ask the Sacred Heart since I don't want to hold any resentments in my soul. May what I just shared with you not be any cause of worry for you. Don't think about it again. It wasn't my intention to say anything to you. Writing it was just a spontaneous act, and I won't speak about it any more.

Poor grandmother (*the persecuted Church*) with all her ailments, she seems to grow worse each day. May God's holy will be done!

Your mother, Conchita, comes frequently. She's well, and we always welcome her with much joy. She deserves all of our love and consideration for her virtues. Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) is working. Now that he's married he has become a "new" Luis. Conchita says his new wife is very suitable for him. Conchita is happy with her.

Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) is also working. That young girl is a darling and in these times it would be rare to find another young lady like her, but this doesn't mean that she doesn't need prayers to persevere in her beautiful way, since the present dangers are great. You should be praying for her.

Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) tells me that the place where you're vacationing is very beautiful and I'm very happy that you're enjoying it so much. If you would like to conform your will to mine, you would stay at the beach not six or seven days, but fifteen days trying to rest. Forget about your responsibilities. That's what you need right now. The reason I'm writing this to you is to help you recover fully from your injury from that car accident.

The conduct of Lola (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez*) is indeed edifying. Her presence was an inspiration to me and I believe that in sending her to you the girls would benefit by her presence. One can't resist her good example. However, help her to preserve that good spirit by not exposing her to many visits or anything which might distract her from her intimacy with God.

To you and to the rest of the family we give special thanks for the beautiful gift of the machine (*for making altar bread*), or rather for the charity expressed through your gift. It is nothing less than giving us the means to sustain ourselves. May God be blessed and may He bless you.

I began this letter yesterday morning and in the night Conchita brought your last letter. May God our Lord reward you for the joy you gave me with it.

Thanks be to God, Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Carmen (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) took lodging only one day in the Morales home and two days with Conchita, your mother, who did me the favor of meeting them at the station. We're all well.

Greetings to my daughter and my granddaughters.
Conception G. de Hernandez

P.S. Patience and zeal are needed to continue building the house (*chapel*) which you've begun.

Letter 351

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez
Guadalajara, September 11, 1934

My beloved daughter, Maria,

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of receiving your loving letter. God will reward you because you make me very happy when you write to me.

We gratefully thank you and the rest of the family for your kind charity in sending us the machine (*to make altar bread*) because that gift will enable us to ward off hunger by providing us with a way to work and support ourselves. May God our Lord repay you all.

I think it will be very beneficial for you to purchase the washing machine. You may do so.

At the first available opportunity, we'll make arrangements regarding what you're missing. Pray to God to enlighten us, so that we will be able to do it well.

Don't worry about what you're lacking for Maria Angela's celebration (*Sister Mary Angela of the Blessed Sacrament Huerta*). **God our Lord will take care of everything. Living these many years has taught me what God's providence can do, and believe me, nothing affects or frightens me because experience has made me see that He is always watching us very closely and helping us in everything.**

As regards working at little jobs on the holy days of obligation, it's better not to do anything. A priest told me some time ago, that if I wanted my family to prosper, even right here, not to work on holy days, and thanks be to God we're trying to keep them the best we can. There is so much we can do for our souls on those days, which is really the most important thing to do. It's very good for us to rest and recreate in the afternoons after we complete our duties.

I think it's good to make Juanita (*Sister Juana Maria Berkman Garcia who left the congregation at a later date*) wait a little longer, as you wish. She can't continue until her mother pays her debts or provides some security for her, and with greater reason if she is not really well-prepared.

I'm happy that you're going to try another remedy for Maria Gutierrez (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman*). Hopefully, her sickness won't be returning and she'll be a useful member, and above all, her soul.

The idea of having recourse to our Father St. Joseph to provide you with a house is a very good one. He'll help you get it because the reason that you need to move is a just one. We're going to pray over here for the same intention and for the other needs of that house. I'm a poor little beggar who daily prays for you.

Hopefully, your stay at the beach will be very beneficial for you. I'm

wondering if you're going to be where people will be sun-bathing because that could be detrimental to the children (*novices and postulants*).

Margarita (*Mother Margarita of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*), though, should stay fifteen days and try to rest her brain.

Besides her workload, we have to think of the trauma her head experienced in that car accident, which could still lead to bad results. We need to use all the necessary means to in order to avoid this.

Thanks be to God, we're well, even with our grandmother (*religious persecution*) so sick. Perhaps we're already so used to seeing her suffer that we don't get as upset about it as we used to.

May God our Lord bless you and give my regards to the girls (*sisters*) and tell them that if they behave, I'll send them a gift. Good-bye, daughter.

Conception G. de H.

P.S. Please send Margarita Maria's letter very soon.

Letter 352
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

September 19, 1934

My beloved daughter, Maria,

With all my affection I greet you, wishing you God's peace. How is your health? Over here, we continue to worry about grandmother's (*the religious persecution*) illness, for she's getting worse every day. Let it be for God! The doctors (*possibly the ecclesiastical authorities*) look very discouraged.

I'm sorry the celebration for Maria Angela (*Sister Mary Angela of the Blessed Sacrament Huerta*) is being delayed. Nevertheless, she'll be better prepared. Wouldn't it be beautiful if it occurred on December 25, or November 21 is even sooner, but I leave it up to you to choose the day.

May God our Lord give Maria Gutierrez (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman*) good health so that she'll be able to continue in the school (*convent*). Give her my regards and congratulate her in my name.

The report that Maria de Lourdes (*Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Aldaba*) gives about Maria Reynoso is satisfactory and I don't see any problem in admitting her. Therefore, you may start making preparations. Her mother looks happy knowing that her daughter is happy, too. I understand there is also another young girl.

Aurelio and Conchita (*Mother Mary's parents*) must be very happy with the new grandson and the name that was chosen for him. You should give a present to your new nephew, even if it's only something small.

Maria (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) stayed here with us during her vacation on September 16. She went to Ocotlan and to the little town (*Atotonilco*) and will be back in Mexico City next week. She and the others appear to be happy in their studies. They're completing their second year of secondary school and examinations will be in November.

The girls (*sisters*) are very dedicated, and they came out with very good grades in their past exams. Hopefully, these sacrifices which they're going through will bear great fruit.

Because of grandmother's illness (*the religious persecution*) we've had to move to another house, and that's why I'm writing in another color ink. Now I'm separated from the others, and only Cecilia is with me. What confusion! God's will be done.

The idea of having recourse to our Father St. Joseph to provide you with a house is a very good one. He'll help you get it because you are moving for a just reason.

How are you spending your vacation? The girls (*sisters*) who have written to me appear to be very happy with their outing. Their stay at

the beach is really very beneficial for them, and it serves to preserve their good health and good character. I am supposing that you, too, will be able to spend some days there.

If, in the future, I take too long to write to you, know that it's because of grandmother's health and it may become impossible for me to do it. Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you all.

Conception G. (*Gonzalez*) de Hernandez

Letter 353

Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso

September 25, 1934

Miss Luisa Reynoso
Los Angeles

My dear daughter,

Blessed be God Who is allowing me to write to you. I've been wanting to do so for a long time now.

How is everyone? Still sick?

Flora, your relative, was here to visit me. I asked her about your father and she gave me very good news. She tells me that he's better, recuperating very well, and that he's with his son at the ranch, precisely so that he will be able to get well there, and it seems to be working. I'm very happy to give you such pleasant news, so that it may be a consolation for you.

I'm longing to see you for it seems to me we've been separated a very long time already. That's just the way I'm--I feel such separations to be for a longer time than they really are, and that's only natural because all of you are so very good to me.

Are you happy, daughter? Don't you want to come over here?

Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and her companion are in the little town

(*Atotonilco*). Everyone was waiting for them with great excitement and had a party for them. I hope they're happy.

I suppose you went to the beach during your vacation, and no doubt they must have been very happy days. Let me know all about it. Describe everything you saw and in that way you'll be sharing your joy with me.

Write to your father at least once a month because it's only just that you give him that joy. May you be better and better every day. My regards to your little working companions. Good-bye, and may God our Lord bless you.

Conception

P.S. You'll notice the kind of paper on which I'm writing to you. Nothing can improve it, but it was given to me and the poor make use of everything.

Letter 354
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

September 29, 1934

My dear daughter, Elenita,

I greet you with much affection, hoping that you're well and happy.

It would make me so very happy if you would spend your three-day vacation here as you suggested in your letter, especially so that you can see Dr. Gonzalez Arechiga. Try to see to it that you do come. However, it's understood that if some extraordinary problem arises you could still come at a later time.

I learned that you all had a big *fiesta* (*party*) with music all day long and an outing, besides. It must have been very beautiful. It makes me happy that you all enjoyed the outing.

If you have the opportunity, please give my regards to Catalina (*Catalina Arambula, a niece of Mother Luisita who lived in Ocotlan*), and thank her for offering me her house. May a torrent of heavenly

graces and blessings descend upon her home.
I've been here with the girls (*sisters*) for a few days after having spent a few days with Pachita (*Pachita Rivera who stayed with the de la Pena family for many years*). Perhaps I'll return again for another short stay. She goes out of her way to do whatever she can for me, and I can see she wants so much for me to be with her. I'm writing this at Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house. She's so plump now that she's had to make alterations in her clothing because she doesn't fit in it anymore, but she seems happy that her face looks like she's constantly celebrating Eastertide.

I've forgotten what you were telling me in your letter, something that required an answer before you went to see your "*tata*" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*). You can see how good my memory is. *Pobrecitas!* How many things you have to put up with me! But it's strange that I forgot because usually I retain everything.

May God our Lord permit you to come over so you can see Albertito (*Father Albert Urdanivia, S.J.*).

I already sent Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) to you because you told me that you needed her, and I understood that for your trip you'll be needing her help even more. Everything worked out very well for her. She got the doctor's prescription and was able to spend some time with Alberto, besides. Everything fitted together as in a puzzle. Blessed be God!
Francisca Rivera

Letter 355

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

October 2, 1934

My beloved daughter, Teresita,

Many happy returns of the day! May you spend it very happily, availing yourself of all the blessings that your patron saint [St. Therese] is obtaining for you from heaven. I'll be praying for you with this intention in mind--that she'll help you receive your halo of

sanctity. Please pray for me very much, also.

We have the great pleasure of having Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) among us. Blessed be God! I was missing her very much--her little eye is changed, but not her good character. She looks very happy and doesn't even mention her eye. You can be at peace because she's over here and giving classes to the girls (*sisters*) in this house. They like going to her classes. She's also teaching the geography and history classes while Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) teaches the grammar and arithmetic courses. I hope those poor little ones will learn.

I can imagine you as being very happy and studying. Your sorrows are my sorrows, and your joys are my joys. I also imagine how the family (*community*) is going about preparing the celebration for you, under the direction of Maria de Jesus (*Sister Mary of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia Torres*). **What a splendid person she is! May God make a saint!**

My Uncle Abundio (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) didn't permit Teresita (*Mother Teresita herself*) to go there. He said that since she's one of the oldest sisters, she should remain here. In that way she would be helping Carmelita by staying and teaching her younger sisters (*in religion*), and even more so now, during such difficult times for the young adults.

May you keep well and continue getting better. Give my regards to Carmen Josefa (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*). What's happened to her? She hasn't been writing to me. Please ask her to help you with the sewing and manual crafts. My regards also to the rest of the family (*community*). Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Antonia

Letter 356
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

October 4, 1934

My beloved daughter, Maria,

I greet you affectionately and pray that everything is all right with you. How are all of you doing? As for those of us over here, we're always thinking of you and still fearful because of grandmother's (*the religious persecution*) illness. Pray for her recovery.

I think it's perfectly all right to help Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*), even necessary. The workload that she has is overwhelming and she might get sick and remain useless, *pobrecita*. Maybe Maria de las Victorias (*Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel Rodriguez*) could help and after some time passes, Maria Magdalena (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*).

It seems to me that Luisa (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) and Pachita (*Sister Francisca Teresa who changed her name to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) aren't meant to work in nursing but, rather, as teachers. When I was there, I saw them very happy in that kind of work, and since they already had some experience, it was easy for them. Perhaps you'll have results if you change their occupation. Only God can help those poor mothers of today's families, and even more so now, considering the unbalanced state prevalent in every social class. **Let it be for God! In my opinion, we need much prayer, clinging to Our Lord very strongly and trusting everything to Him.**

We have a present for *papacito* (*a priest*) but we don't know where to send it. If you know where he is, let him know a gift is coming, and then let me know where to mail it so he will be able to use it for first time on his birthday.

The machine hasn't arrived. We haven't had any information regarding its delivery whatsoever, and I'm worried that it might have gotten lost.

As for myself, it seems that every passing day, I'm getting more swollen. I haven't been feeling very well these last days, but I can

still walk a little. I beg you to pray for me.

If I remember correctly, I told you that Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) has another girl named Luisa Maria (*Sister Luisa Maria Josefa of the Child Jesus Estrada*). She was baptized (*received the habit*) on September 24. She's a very cute little one and very good-hearted, not bothering anyone. I hope she continues that way because sometimes they wake up in such a way that no one can stand them afterwards.

Affectionate regards to all the family and to papacito. May God our Lord bless you.

Conception

(*The following was added by another Sister.*) Mother Mary: I'm going crazy because you haven't answered me.

Your Sister Elena

Letter 357

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

October 11, 1934

Miss Manuela Rodriguez.

My dear daughter,

I greet you with much affection. May all be well with you.

It would be a good idea for you to call Esther Garcia (*Sister Celina Teresita of the Child Jesus Garcia*) and tell her to turn in her application to enter the *internado* (*literally this means "boarding house" but Mother Luisita uses this word for the novitiate*). Then you can forward it to me, together with Rita's (*Rita Rodriguez who left the Congregation*) and Tona's (*Sister Rosalina of the Infant of Prague Villalobos*). You should send these applications with one of the members of either family, as soon as you can.

Tell Leonor Muniz (*the mother of Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ*) that there is a possibility that by next Monday we'll have a

house. It's located right on the way to Lupe's (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) place of work. I have been told that it's a relatively large house so that we'll be able to have Rebecca and Abigail (*both girls were the sisters of Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ Cervantes*) as boarders. Lupe goes to work and Tere (*Sister Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) is also working now. Please pray to God that everything will go all right for them.

It seems that this cold weather is not agreeing with me. Sometimes I feel quite sick, and only God knows how I'm going to tolerate the winter season, but I also know that it will never be more than what Our Lord permits. He only wants what is best for us because He loves us so much.

Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you. Give my regards to all the family (*community*).

Antonia Becerra

Letter 358

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, October 12, 1934

My very beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,

How many graces I am praying for you to receive on your feastday! Let's hope that your patron saint will obtain for you a shower of graces which will sanctify your soul. Accept for your feastday gift my poor prayers which I offer for you with much pleasure.

It seems that Our Lord is giving a little sickness to me. Apparently, I have the same symptoms as when I have albumin and now my heart is giving me trouble. Pray for me. God our Lord will repay you if through your prayers I am saved.

I'm delighted that you were happy on your vacation. I hope that you've gained back much of your strength so that you can continue working hard for the honor and glory of God our Lord. Remember, it's your duty to conserve your health.

Pray for us as grandmother (*the persecuted Church*) is gravely ill and if she dies it will be a real disaster in the family, a terrible one.

May you keep well and cheerful and may God bless you all! Greetings to all the family!

I almost forgot to congratulate you for the special grace that you sisters were granted from our Lord, that of building Him a chapel. May He be blessed. How good He is!

Conception

Letter 359
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

October 13, 1934

My beloved daughter, Elenita,

As always, I greet you with great affection and wishing God's peace to be with you.

I like Refugio's picture. Her friends from her hometown told me that she had already mentioned to them that she wants to enter. So her decision didn't happen overnight. You may tell Father that I'm very willing to receive her in the event she perseveres in her decision. We'll wait awhile, and perhaps by July she could come. She may start preparing now.

I'm continuing this letter today, the seventeenth. I received your letter with the enclosed \$5.00 (pesos) which will be credited to you. How that money was put to good use!

I'm glad you were able to have your celebration on the fifteenth. It was the appropriate thing to do. You know that I participate in all your celebrations because when you enjoy yourselves, I enjoy myself, also. Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) and her daughter even made chicken tamales, and *atole* (*a thick drink made from corn*) and they shared it with us. Last night I was still enjoying them.

It has been raining here and the days have been rather cold but right now the sun just came out. Blessed be God!

We found Consuelo's (*a distant relative of Mother Luisita who was sent to the sisters so they could help her character formation and Mother Elena took responsibility for her in the school*) ring, and I'm very happy for her. I'm saving it for her.

Don't pay attention to the "no's" you get from your "Tata" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*). It isn't possible to do everything we would like to do. I'm sure that there have been times when you were asked to do something for someone and it simply wasn't possible at the time. Perhaps this is the case with the prelate.

You can imagine the turmoil that exists in this house with the move. Everything is in disorder, but we have to receive each new day as God our Lord gives it to us.

I suppose that in Duarte there is a great celebration. Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) announced it in two of her letters. I was going to mention something important to you, but I've forgotten what it was. As soon as I remember I'll write to you again. Let it be for God! My regards to all the family (*sisters*) and I ask God's blessings upon all of them.

Antonia

P.S. Tell Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) to ask Mr. Flores (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) if he wants to accept your offer of sending the girls there.

Letter 360

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

October 29, 1934

The peace of God be in our souls, my beloved Socorrito. How are you and Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*)?

May I please ask you to send me the following items: The milk

already boiled for the injection, some corn silk tea which I really need very much, some chicken, and the black dress to wear in the house.

May all of you have health, joy, and most of all, God's blessing.

Maria

Letter 361
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

November 5, 1934

Elenita, my daughter,

May God our Lord give peace to your soul. I'm very sorry about the illness of Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*). I would appreciate your keeping me posted every day, even if you just send me just a postcard addressed to Francisca Rivera.

It seems to me that I'm more swollen now, and that my over-all health is quite poor, but I'm still walking and that's a consolation for me. Blessed be God! Pray for me, so that I'll take advantage of the remaining days of my life and pray for a holy death for me.

From the name you mentioned, I don't think I know the "*loquita*" (*the little crazy one*). I already wrote to Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) asking her who she is. What a terrible sickness. For me, it's the worst. I hope she isn't from our families. I think that it would be beyond my strength to have one of us afflicted in that manner.

Today I came to Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house with the intention of not returning to Concha's (*a woman who offered Mother Luisita hospitality*) home. I don't feel at ease in someone else's home. Even though they're very fine and loving people, I feel out of my element among them.

I hope you received my last letter in which I was letting you know some good news. They are asking for money for the business of our

little house. I hope you're as happy as I'm. Blessed be God!

Yesterday, before I received your little letter, I told Ines' mother that her daughter had a fever, and Maria agreed to tell her whatever you wish her to know.

Socorro tells me that she already sent you the measurements you wanted. They're inside the book that we sent with Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Christ Ibarra*). If you don't find them, let me know exactly what it is you want and we'll buy the silk material as well as the linen.

Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you. My regards to the family and the Gomez family to whom I'm very grateful.

(no signature)

Letter 362

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

November 7, 1934

My dear Manuelita,

When I read Teresita's (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) letter I found out that Cirila is the one who is sick. *Pobrecita!* She is so good! No doubt this is the result of her mental illness. We tried to make arrangements to place her in San Pedro Hospital, but it just wasn't possible. When we inquired there they cautioned us not to place her in a public institution because they would dress her as a man. Nevertheless, if papa (*probably the local pastor*) believes it's the right thing to do, then, let's do it. A gentlemen you trust could bring her and the town mayor could issue a letter to the Institution so that they'll accept her. You obey papa (*the pastor in Atotonilco*) in whatever his decision is.

You can also notify Mr. Morales (*Father Morales*) from Guadalupe Chapel (*a nearby town--Mother Luisita's mother was born in this*

town) so that he can send some relative of hers to pick her up. Her married sister could even send one of the servants to facilitate her transfer because it's urgent that she leave. Meanwhile, see to it that she eats and sleeps well.

Regarding Antonia (*Sister Rosalina of the Infant of Prague Villalobos*) and Rita (*Rita Rodriguez who left the Congregation*), all their papers aren't yet in order, but Mr. Navarro (*Monsignor Alejandro Navarro, Vicar General in Guadalajara*) says for us to wait. We have to be patient and Esther (*Sister Celina Teresita of the Child Jesus Garcia*), too. *Pobrecitas!*

Maria

Letter 363
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

November 14, 1934

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

Your two letters are here in my possession. May God our Lord reward you. It's been quite a while since you have written to me. I've been wondering what could be the matter because I had asked you in one of my letters to let me know about Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*). Since you've always been obedient, thanks be to God, it seemed strange to me that you hadn't paid any attention to my request.

I'm always with my aches and pains, the natural condition for people my age. It would be wonderful if you would come because you're always on the lookout for the times when I'm supposed to be taking my medication, and you really know how to take care of me. I do miss you, but what can we do about it? Let it be for God!

Papa (*the bishop*) gave orders for the girls to go to the Red Cross to study nursing. Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) and Carmen (*another Sister Carmen*) are already attending, and Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez*) and Juanita will go also. That's the reason Paz will not go there with you after all. I wanted Lolin (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*)

and Asuncion (*Sister Maria Asumpta of the Sacred Wounds Herrera*) to go to Mexico City to study, aiming toward getting work at the sanatorium. Mr. Suberon had told us that if they were already studying it would be easier to obtain employment but Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) wrote asking me, for the love of God, not to take them away from her because Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) couldn't cope with the workload alone, so we had to return them. What else could we do? As soon as possible, send Lolin (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*) and Asuncion will be able to remain a few more days to help you with the one who is sick. Do you think Cuquita (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) is still sick? I wish the doctor would tell her she could go back and Carmen Lucia (*Sister Carmen Lucia of the Blessed Sacrament Garcia*) could be her companion. In one of Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) letters, which you should have already received, she says that the [statue of the] baby is already being fashioned, that the down payment has to be given on the first of December, and that it will be delivered the twentieth of January 20.

The rings are ready. We'll have to see who can take them.

Josefina's offering is deeply appreciated. Use it in any way you see fit.

From the bottom of my heart I'm so glad because of what Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Mary of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) is doing. I hope she perseveres. Get advice regarding the questions she's asking and don't enter into polemics. Let her seek advice from a priest.

I'm sorry "Tata" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) is going out but, hopefully, he won't have so many worries and will be getting a rest.

Good-bye, daughter. My regards to all the family.

Conception

Letter 364

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

November 18, 1934

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

I greet you with all my affection. How is Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*) feeling? *Pobrecita!* Give her my best and tell her I'm with her in spirit.

Lolin (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*) will be able to remain over there while Maria Ines is recovering. She can take care of the injections and I.V.'s, and as soon as you think it's no longer necessary for her to stay, send her to Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Orgtega*).

I learned that Carmen Huerta is coming by tomorrow and I promised her that Asuncion (*Sister Maria Asumpta of the Sacred Wounds Herrera*) would accompany her to Mexico City. When Carmen gives you the message, send Asuncion right away and pay for her ticket. I'll reimburse you later. Tell Asuncion to help Carmen in whatever possible way because she is leaving here in poor health. I hope that Asuncion will be taken over to Maria's (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) house. I'd like her to study nursing. But if you don't receive any message, let her remain with you helping you take care of your patient [Maria Ines] and then send her here to study because next month another nursing course will be offered, although not in Mexico City. We'll see which will be more practical for us.

Did you receive the rings already? It will make me very happy when they wear them for the first time, and I like the date you chose to put them on.

I had some lab tests done at Mr. Hernandez's house, and the albumin was 2.5. I received the results yesterday and there are also signs of glucose. If I just take a few steps, I get dizzy. Let us all do the will of God!

I want to send this soon, so I'm ending now.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Conception

Letter 365

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

November 24, 1934

My very dear daughter, Manuelita,
I greet you with all my affection, answering your letter which I received yesterday.

I'm very happy that Cirila is better--happy for her and for all of you, also. Blessed be God! I've really been very worried and now there is one worry less. What's been happening over here? There have been raids among the ones who are working in groups, but fortunately, no one was hurt (*Mother Luisita is referring to the raids of the Secret Police*).

Keep \$15.00 (pesos) for yourself. Then please send the rest over to me because Rome has asked us for \$100.00 (dollars) to transact the business we have pending over there. We haven't been able to send that money to Rome as of now because we haven't been paid ourselves yet. You'll understand in what a position that leaves us with our obligation of paying the rent for two houses and feeding so many people. I leave it up to your imagination to discover how poor we really are! In addition, the altar bread machine is not working properly and now with the family (*Congregation*) divided into three groups, our expenses are very high.

When we get paid I'll be sending the medicine for Jesus Teresa (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*). Right now, it's impossible. We simply don't have any money.

We need to pray to God our Lord regarding our business which is still pending in Rome. It is a fact that they're already working on it, precisely because they're asking us for money for their expenses. That's a good sign. Perhaps we'll soon have the great joy of

receiving the Decree (*Decree of Praise, one of the necessary steps in being recognized officially as a new Religious Congregation in the Church.*).

The last lab tests revealed an increase in my albumin. It came out one gram higher. Please pray for me.

I am earnestly entrusting the younger sisters to you. You know my ways and how I go about this and I'm sure that you'll take good care of them.

I'm very sorry that Maria del Sagrado Corazon's (*Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart Flores Rodriguez*) father is so gravely ill. Greet her for me. I'll try to write to her even if it is only a few lines.

Good-bye, my daughter. May you be only God's and may He bless you.

Conception

Letter 366
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

November 25, 1934

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

I greet you affectionately. May God's peace be with you.

God reward you for your letters about Maria Ines's (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmen Chavez*) condition. They've brought me peace, and I bless God our Lord for making her well.

We've been asked to pay \$100.00 toward our pending business matter in Rome, which means that Rome is taking care of it. Soon we'll have the immense joy of receiving the Decree (*the Decree of Praise*). Our Lord immediately granted us the means to cover this expense by sending us Rosita's monthly payment, which she never sends, so that we could see the great mercy of God. At the same time as we were receiving the exact amount, I was told to send it

with Father Lawre. Blessed be God! This unforeseen expense, plus the fact that we haven't yet received the monthly payments or the children's tuition has been the reason why we haven't been able to send you the silk material or linen. There have also been other extraordinary expenses such as uniforms for the girls (*sisters*) studying nursing, books, registration fees and monthly tuition, and in addition, the cost of food for the "*her...*" ("*hermanas*," *i.e.* *sisters*). Only God can sustain us.

The "*her...*" won't be going out to work with the groups because our neighborhood is being closely watched. The poor things had to immediately vacate the house at Mr. Anaya's (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) order. Blessed be God! Everything is in a turmoil and all of the moving added to our expenses.

Regarding your question about who can face that situation, I can only suggest Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) because she is older and is used to talking to soldiers and generals, and she is not known by the latest men who have gone to the hospital. The others have had their pictures taken. If you think this is convenient, let me know so I can tell her to go. If not, then I can only suggest that you look for a secular person who has the ability to handle that situation, and if any of you're not in the house at that time, then we'll have to remove Our Lord. In case that Refugito (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) should leave. I don't think she's capable of making such an encounter, and we have to take care of her. You'll have to see what's best.

We've received the \$40.00 (pesos).

Leonor (*Leonor Muniz, the mother of Leonor Cervantes*) liked the name Gema of the Passion better than the one we had chosen for her daughter (*Sister Gema of the Passion Cervantes*).

I'll be very happy to receive you whatever day you decide to come. You'll have to come very often now to fulfill your new position as econome (*general treasurer*). If you see there is no danger in coming in the train, come over.

How's your health? Good-bye and may Our Lord bless you.
Conception

Letter 367

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

November 27, 1934

My beloved daughter, Maria,

With all my heartfelt affection I greet you. God's peace be with you.

Your last letter is in my possession, and I'm pleased to learn of your celebrations on the thirteenth and twenty-first, and your trip to San Francisco. It is such a beautiful drive with a such a beautiful city awaiting you, blessed be God.

Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) may use Maria Magdalena (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*) in the manner she is asking but only as a helper, without any title because that's what the regulations call for. The first year [professed] no one should be given any office, only to help, either by typing, or helping in the kitchen, etc. To summarize, then, use her wherever you need her because she (*Mother Margarita Maria*) states that there is too much work and really needs someone to help her. At the same time, it would be beneficial for you to send on to nursing those girls (*sisters*) who are ready and capable so they will be ready to help with the patients.

We're also sharing the great sorrow of Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) because of their brother Rafael's death, which occurred on the nineteenth of this month. Carmelita, as always, is a source of edification. Aware of her close union and submission to God's will, we can't ask any more manifestation of virtue from her. **Grandmother (*the religious persecution*) remains gravely ill, but what can we do about it?**

God our Lord is permitting that we witness her long, critical illness. He helps us and we're at peace in His hands.

The machine still hasn't arrived. I hope it wasn't lost.

We were asked to provide \$100.00 (pesos) in order to continue the business process (*Pontifical Approbation of the Congregation*) that grandfather (*Archbishop John Cantwell*) was going to arrange for us. I hope that we'll be receiving the results soon. God's Providence is so great toward us, that upon receiving an advanced payment from Lupe's (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vasquez*) shop (*school*), an order came for the same amount and we were able to send it right away. Blessed be God! Pray to God that we'll get the answer soon and that it will be a favorable one. Please tell Margarita also so she will be able to join in our happiness and tell her that I'll be writing to her very soon.

Today, December 4, I'm finishing this letter. It wasn't possible to complete it before. May you spend your Christmas celebration in peace and in God's grace.

Good bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless all of you. My regards to each and everyone of the members of that family.

Conception

P.S. My health is still poor. The albumin has increased, but in the last few days I felt a little stronger and I've spent better nights.

Letter 368

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

December 1, 1934

My dear daughter, Carmelita,

I'm very sorry that Teresita (*Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is sick. I'm asking Our Lord to make her well. Please help her with her work. *Pobrecita!* We'll let Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) come in case Lupe (*Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello*) needs her in the little shop (*school*), but I'll let you know when or if I

can find someone who could be her companion.

We all know how Teresita takes everything too much to heart. I'm worried that she'll become overwrought with grief if she's told a lot of things that will only serve to worry her. You'll know what needs to be done, my daughter. Pray to God our Lord to enlighten you as to what He wants you to do. *Pobrecita!* She's so extremely sensitive. Maybe it's because of her illness, or it could be that it's just her nature.

Asuncion (*Sister Maria Asumpta of the Sacred Wounds Herrera*) and Lola (*Sister Dolores of St. Teresa Barrera*) haven't left yet because Mary Ines (*Sister Mary Ines of Carmel Chavez*) is very, very weak and is receiving intravenous injections. Right now, Asuncion and Carmen Lucia (*Sister Carmen Lucia of the Blessed Sacrament Garcia*) can go. I would so very much like for Lola to come to study. With her experience, perhaps she could graduate in only a year, which would be most helpful to this family. It seems that they'll have to endure these hardships a little longer, but at least now that Asuncion is coming, you'll finally have some help for Lupe.

Tell Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) that it's essential that Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) go to Ocotlan to help take care of the Blessed Sacrament and the house. Send her.

Loving greetings to all and, also, to papa Macario (*Father Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*). Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

P.S. Please ask for the rent or some little payment from Maria de los Angeles' (*Sister Maria of the Angels of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) mother and from Ines' brother.

Letter 369

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, December 5, 1934

My never-forgotten and dear daughter, Margarita Maria,

At last God is granting me the joy of being able to write to you! As much as I wanted to, I just couldn't do it before. I can picture you as being so very pleased because the building of the house is now so far advanced, and because you've seen Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*). Let's hope that everything will be for the greater glory of God!

Over here, grandmother (*religious persecution*) still has her maladies. **What are we going to do? You pray for us for whatever is best and let us go forward. We're in the hands of God. There is no better place that we could be.** Naturally, you can imagine how sad I'm at seeing her suffer and how I suffer, too, but even more to think of the consequences that her death will cause us. I'm not frightened and sometimes I take little walks, not very frequently, though because of my poor health and because I don't like to. The less I go out, the happier I'm.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) and the girls (*sisters*) went on vacation for a few days by order of papa (*the pastor*). They've been staying in Conchita's (*Mother Margarita's mother*) house, and I went to dine with them one day. I saw your pictures when you were a little girl. I enjoyed seeing them and so did the girls. I met Luis's (*Mother Margarita's brother*) wife and greeted both of them. Conchita is in charge of asking Mr. Ibarra for the pictures of the Sacred Heart. If you wish we could also ask Mr. Espinosa so you can make your choice. I told Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) to send Maria Magdalena (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*) to help you, but only as a helper without any formal appointment. I explained to her to keep her without being the person in authority where she works because it would be most profitable for her to remain in this capacity, not elevating her position too soon because it wouldn't be helpful to her otherwise.

Regarding the position of "X", I'll give you my opinion because you've asked for it. **You will be able to gain very much before**

God when you live with persons who clash with your disposition. This becomes a continuous battle and your soul becoming used to battling, becomes cleansed and beautified by the instruments He has chosen to use. Daughter, don't ever do anything to take away someone who mortifies you or someone you don't like. Wait until Our Lord sends them away from you. Remember what St. Therese of the Child Jesus used to do in these cases. If we could only learn to do the same thing. Besides, considering your ardent temperament, as you and I know it to be, well then, do something about it.

They are injecting me with milk as the last urinalysis showed more albumin. It seems I feel much better. Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) and Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) are in nurses' training at the Red Cross. They wear the same uniform as the other girls (*religious sisters from other communities*) who are also attending. They say the classes are very large.

Give my greetings to the girls (*sisters*). May you have a holy season of Advent and a very blessed Christmas! May the Infant Jesus bless you.

Conception

Letter 370

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

December 6, 1934

Miss Manuela Rodriguez

My dear daughter,

How are you? I greet you, hoping that all is well with you. I'm feeling a little better, blessed be God!

I'm very sorry that Rita (*Rita Rodriguez who left the Congregation at a later date*) and Tona (*Sister Rosalina of the Infant of Prague Villalobos*) couldn't come (*to enter the Congregation*). However, at the same time I foresee so many difficulties that it would be better if

they don't come. But send them, anyway, in the name of God but don't let Esther (*Sister Celina Teresita of the Child Jesus Garcia*) know. She'll come (*enter*) afterwards.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) may come over to help Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) while she is recovering. It's perfectly all right for her come over because my Uncle Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) doesn't want her to stay away. But I repeat that she may remain there with Carmelita only if it's absolutely necessary.

The \$15.00 (pesos) hasn't been received yet. Only God knows with whom you sent that money.

May you stay well and please give my loving regards to all the family (*community*).

Conception

Letter 371
Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

December 7, 1934

My very dear daughter, Conchita,

It is my pleasure to greet you on your day of days (*feastday--the Immaculate Conception*). That God our Lord may shower a torrent of graces upon your soul is what I'm asking for you today. May you spend it very happily.

How have you been, daughter? Take good care of yourself, especially now that winter has come upon us. Avoid getting the chills because that would be harmful to you. Get up a little later, retire early, and take some hot tea at bedtime because it will help you digest better. I hope you do obey.

I already sent word to send Rita because I can't wait until January. *Pobrecita*, she's already "on her way," so to speak, and it would be very sad if some insurmountable difficulty arises. But don't let

Dolores and Esperanza know about it. I'm only telling you, in order to give you that joy on your day because our nieces and nephews are very dear to us.

I'm hoping that on your day you'll pray very especially for all the family (*community*). Who can ask for something on this most special day without receiving it? This is the feast (*Immaculate Conception*) which, in my opinion, Our Blessed Mother likes the most. Pray for me especially.

Good-bye, daughter, and may the Divine Infant of Bethlehem, bless you. My regards to all the family (*community*).

Conception

Letter 372
Sister Maria of the Sacred Heart Flores

December 11, 1934

For Maria Flores.

My very dear daughter,

I didn't know about the death of your father. I'm so sorry and I accompany you in your great pain. Let it be for God, but you do well to resign yourself to the will of God. It is clear that Our Lord wanted to give him his Purgatory here--with such a long illness and painful agony--and he was such a good person. He gave us a good example of how the just die. Cry for him, but be consoled; a death like that, is not death. We can call dead those who die outside the Church, but your *papacito (daddy)* lived and died as a good Catholic. Now is when he's the most alive. Let us bless our good God.

How have you been, daughter? Maybe you're going to need something to help you get rid of the bile because you have gone through so much, or maybe [Doctor] Mercado can prescribe something for you.

I feel sorry for Lupe and Jesusita. They must be feeling very lonely,

On the other hand, though, Our Lord is watching over them and their parents will be their intercessors in heaven, before God our Lord. Greet them for me and offer them my deepest condolences.

May God our Lord bless you.

Good-bye, and in the midst of your sorrow, pray for me.

Conception

P.S. Yesterday I began a novena for your father.

Letter 373

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

December 11, 1934

My dear daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with my hope that these beautiful feasts of our Blessed Mother are happy days for all of you. I can very well imagine how Maria de Jesus (*Sister Maria of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia Torres, who had a natural gift for theater arts*) entertained you with her dancing. Ay! What a girl!

We still haven't received those \$15.00 (pesos). Go ahead and claim them. Then don't send anything else to that address because Elvirita doesn't live there anymore. She's currently living at Garibaldi 763.

I agree that the door should always remain open when papacito (*the pastor*) is there, and also when the stocking machine is in operation (*the orphan girls and the sisters learned the skill of making stockings, which helped them meet their expenses*).

During Lola's (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jiminez Alba*) absence Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) will be needed there and won't be able to come [with you.] Afterwards, at the first opportunity, she'll come once Lola is there. Send only two of the girls.

Take care, protect yourself from the cold weather, and give my

regards to the girls (*sisters*).

Rita (*Rita Rodriguez who later left the Congregation*) and Antonia (*Sister Rosalina of the Infant of Prague Villalobos*) arrived safely, and on that very same day, they went to school (*entered the Congregation*).

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Conception G. Vda. de Hernandez
(*Vda. de = widow of*)

Letter 374

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

December 15, 1934

Miss Manuela Rodriguez

My very dear daughter,

I lovingly greet you, desiring that you be free from all frustrations. How are you?

I just found a letter I forgot to send to you. It was left forgotten among some other papers, and so I'm enclosing it now. When you read it you'll see that we still haven't received the \$15.00 (pesos). Claim that money immediately and then send it over, so that I can pay the rent of this house. Since there is no school we're without any tuition payments and so we've no money at all.

I'm concerned about the girls (*sisters*) who haven't had their annual outing (*yearly retreat*). Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J. who was the superior of the Jesuit community*) has agreed that one of his sons (*one of the Jesuit priests*) could accompany them during Christmas vacation whenever he's able (*be their retreat master*). You ask papa (*the local pastor*) if he thinks this could be possible, and if he gives the permission, let me know soon so I will be able to tell Alberto.

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

Conception

Letter 375

Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Amparito.

My very dear daughter,

What a joy it's for me to greet you through these lines. How are you? Are you studying algebra with Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*)? We have to avail ourselves of Carmelita's knowledge as much as we can, without wasting any time. She understands all the subjects well, and if she tutors you it won't be as difficult to understand the classes that the other professors will be giving you. **Of course, you'll still need to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you and fill you with His love. May His love be the driving force urging you on in your studies and your actions. In that way you won't lose your religious spirit. May God our Lord protect you from such disgrace. "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, if he loses his soul?"**

I like to imagine myself as being there with you and seeing you well in body and soul, for naturally that would make me very happy. We'll go to the Villa together and bring some sandwiches and *chicharrones* (*fried pork rinds*), but above all, we'll spend the day with our Blessed Mother. May God our Lord grant me this if it is His holy will.

I'd like you not to forget the fruit of your retreat. Every day try to think about the resolutions you made even if it's very briefly, examining yourself to see if you're keeping them. Don't forget to consecrate yourself every morning and night to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph, and have a great devotion to your Guardian Angel.

I understand that Alberto was happy to receive the letters. It's obvious that he cares for us very much. May God reward him, and

you pray for him because I think it's only just for us to pray for those who are so good to us.

Good-bye. Pray for me. May God bless you.

Ma.

Approximate date: 1934. (During 1934 Mother Carmen was in Mexico City tutoring the sisters. Testimony of Mother Rosa Maria Hernandez)

Letter 376

Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angeles Gonzalez Gutierrez

(no date)

Very dear Amparito,

As always, I received your loving letter with much joy. Thank you my daughter. May God our Lord reward you.

I was very happy to learn that you're now studying with Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*). Almost all of the letters I had written to you were somehow lost, and I had mentioned in them for you to do just that--to study. It wasn't such a good idea for you to neglect your studying. Be earnest about it and pray to the Holy Spirit to enlighten you and very soon you'll be taking the exam.

Daughter, if you have a desire to speak with me, I also would like to speak with you. Let's both of us go to Our Lord and pray for each other, and there, before Him, let's tell Him many things.

Good-bye, daughter. Be good and let's not deny our good Lord anything He asks us to do.

Your grandmother who blesses you. Good-bye.

Maria

Approximate date: 1934

Letter 377

Mother Beatrice of Jesus Ochoa Lopez

(no date)

For Beatrice.

May the peace of God be in your soul, my beloved daughter,

I deeply appreciate your loving letters. May God our Lord reward you for the joy you give me with them.

It would please me very much to be able to go and spend a few days with you all, but my life has become a continuous chain of pending matters that simply don't allow me to go out. Because this is the central location, everything comes right here.

So, you're working now! Blessed be God! I do hope that we'll never lack work, that our good God will always occupy us in His vineyard, and that we'll always have someone who needs our help.

May God our Lord bless you. **Become a saint.**

Maria

**Letter 378
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez**

(no date)

For Carmelita.

My very dear daughter,

I was so very happy to receive your letter. I like it when you share with me the all details of things that are happening. I truly care for you and I always enjoy reading your letters.

You'll understand how very glad and relieved I'm that you received such an abundant shower of graces on the feasts of our Lady of Guadalupe and Christmas. I'm also very glad they were such enjoyable days for all of you. Blessed be God! How good He is!

I joined Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) and her companions on their vacation outing. It was beautiful and we all had such a good time. A young man you know took us. His last name is Ibarra. (*Mother Luisita is referring to the sister's yearly retreat in which Father Castor Ibarrachevea, S.J. was the retreat master.*)

What's happening regarding the establishing of the academy? Are you still thinking of moving into a less expensive house? That rent you're now paying is high for you because you don't have a school yet to bring in some money. It seems too bad that you'll be moving again, especially now that you're in such a good neighborhood, but it's crucial for you to find a house that's within your limited means. It would be so helpful if Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) could find a way to send you a little more money and then you would be able to afford the rent and stay in your present location. Over here, it looks as if there is no hope because Mr. Jose Maria (*Mr. Jose Maria Garcia*) still hasn't paid. Please ask Domingo if he knows where he lives and the two of you should go together and tell him how needy we are. Also, let him know that the orchard is being ruined and that I'm hoping, on his honor, that he'll pay us the money to fix the orchard. Give him my regards.

What is the latest information about your eyes? Are you going to have the surgery done or not?

In order to be able to run the academy, we're going to need authorization from the government. Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) had a visit from the government inspector and she doesn't have any government authorization at all. Only God knows how she's going to come out of that one. That's our worry right now. I'm also quite worried because we still haven't received the books that Margarita Maria sent us on the nineteenth of last month. I wonder where they ended up? Let it be for God! My hope is that sooner or later they'll appear somewhere!

I can only imagine what cold weather you must be experiencing

since over here we're freezing. Last night all of the family (*sisters*) drank hot cinnamon tea before going to bed to keep ourselves warm. You do the same whenever you need it.

Thank Crucito (*Father Cruz Hernandez, the brother of Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) in my name. Tell him that I'm really deeply grateful for what he did for us. May Our Lord reward him.

My grandmother (*the persecuted Church*) is getting a little worse, and we fear she'll become gravely ill. Pray that she may get well soon.

Tell Josephine, your next-door-neighbor, and my daughters, too, that I'll answer them soon.

May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Approximate date: Toward the end of 1934. Mother Carmelita was in Mexico City from the end of 1933 through 1934. This is when she was seeking medical attention for her eyes. (from the letter of our Mother Luisita to Mother Teresita Chavez, dated January 16, 1934.)

Letter 379
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

For Carmela.

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection and hope that everything is all right.

I'm so happy you're giving classes to Amparo (*Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez*) and I'm sure you're helping the girls (*sisters*) very much. Let's hope that all of them will finish out their year well.

How much would it cost for Cuquita (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) to get her molars? It would be wise to replace them and then the remaining ones won't loosen also. Give her my best and tell her I'm glad she's over her pain.

I wrote to my nephew, Chuy. ("*Chuy*" is a nickname for Jesus--*Mother is referring to Father Jesus Angulo.*) He hasn't answered me yet. I was asking for papa's (*the Archbishop*) permission for the girls (*sisters*) to go to Tarimoro. Lupe (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) isn't working. Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) is still working in the little town (*Atotonilco*) as she did last year, and let's hope her position won't be taken away. I'd like to continue writing for a little while longer, but it isn't possible for me to do so.

Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Carmelita (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) are already here. (*They returned from the United States.*) Blessed be God! And I hope to see you here soon, also. Pray to Our Lord that the little orchard will sell as soon as possible so that you can come, too.

Good-bye, daughter. Give my affectionate regards to all of my daughters. How is Inesita (*Mother Inesita of Jesus Gonzalez*) feeling?

Maximiana Becerra

Approximate date: 1934. (The matters in this letter refer to the preceding letters written that year.)

Letter 380
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

My dear daughter, Carmela,

I received your letter. May God reward you. Did you receive the

one I sent you not too long ago?

It is easy for me to imagine how you're working very hard with your sisters and the three little ones. You're doing them so very much good and they'll greatly profit by your efforts.

Those earthquakes are very frightening but, fortunately, nothing serious happened to you. Blessed be God!

Regarding your surgery, I'd like you to have it done in the hospital because in the house there is no one trained to take care of you after such a delicate operation. Nonetheless, if you think it can be done at home, I leave you free to decide whatever you think is for the best.

Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) is in your area at this time. I wish you could see him. It would make me very happy. You could find out at Holy Family.

As the winter is coming to an end or, rather, now that it's over, I'm hoping that I can go to visit you. May God our Lord give me a little money to do it.

Use some of my daughters to work either in the sanatorium there or in San Luis Potosi. Pray to God that we can get that position. We need it even more now that it looks as if Lupita (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) is going to lose her job. What are we going to do without work? But Our Lord is so good that without even knowing about that gentleman who lives in San Luis Potosi, he's already making us an offer. That's why we should never worry about anything in this life. Only worry about sin. Our Lord is always watching over His children.

You'll see by the letter I sent to Maria (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) that I've been sick and my condition is still quite delicate. My legs seem to be getting more swollen, but let us bless Our Lord for all things and in all things.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Approximate date: 1934

Letter 381
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

For Carmelita.

My very dear daughter,
May the Holy Spirit shower His gifts upon your soul.

So, tell me, are you now totally well from your eye trouble?
Blessed be God! How do you feel with your artificial eye?

I want you to come over and bring the two little girls with you--
Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*)
and Amparito (*Mother Amparo of the Guardian Angels Gonzalez Gutierrez*), and I hope it will be soon.

My aches and pains aren't so bad right now. I've a little arthritis in
my lower back but, hopefully, it's nothing serious.

Teresita (*Mother Teresita Chavez of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is still over in the little town (*Atotonilco*) and the girls (*sisters*) over here are very busily preparing themselves for the exams. Pray to God that everything will go well for them.

Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) has been suffering from some inflammation in her intestines. She's been bedridden for several days now and seems extremely weak because of the diet prescribed by the doctor, but by now she is feeling a little better. May God grant her a full recovery because she's supposed to be taking her exams, and in her present condition, she can't do anything. Let it be all for God!

Chabela (*Sister Isabel of St. Pascal Fonseca*), Matilde (*Sister Matilda of the Good Shepherd Suarez*), and Rosalia (*Sister Rosalie*)

of St. Teresa Plascencia) left for Duarte a little more than a week ago to help Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) because she has a lot of work to do. Maria Reynoso (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso*) went to Los Angeles to help Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*).

We've already moved to another house, but the letters can be sent to the same address. The house isn't bad-looking, but it is rather small, and that's why I wish we could move again. Ask our Blessed Mother to help us find a bigger one that will suit our needs, one we can afford. We're currently paying \$60.00 (pesos) a month for this one. Considering the poverty in which we find ourselves, you'll understand how only God can support us. May He be blessed in everything!

My regards to my daughters and also to the owners of the house. Tell them how much we appreciate them, and thank them for the use of their house, which is also much appreciated.

May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Would you please do me the favor of looking through your repertoire to see if you've a piece of music called "*La Band Musical*" ("*The Musical Band*"), and in case you have it or can get it, please send it C.O.D. to Elena de la Cruz (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*).

Approximate date: Toward the middle of 1934.

Letter 382
Sister Carmen Celina of the Child Jesus de la Torre
Gonzalez

(no date)

For Carmen Celina.

My very beloved daughter,

The peace of God be in your soul.

It has been a consolation for me to read your loving letters as well as the invitation you've given to me. May God reward you, daughter. With much pleasure I'll be going over and spending a few days with you [sisters] as soon as it's possible.

Your writing has improved very much, and I'm glad you're doing very well in the cutting of clothes. I also am aware that it's easy for you to do embroidery with the machine.

Mercedes is going to go there so that she can help you by working in the kitchen. In that way you'll be able to dedicate yourself more fully to the embroidery, cloth-cutting and the other useful classes that are being offered.

You love the Divine Infant very much, so I'm supposing that you're preparing yourself very earnestly for the fast-approaching beautiful feast. Pray for me during these days of preparation, so I, too, will prepare myself as I should.

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

Maria

Approximate date: 1934. Testimony of Sister Carmen Celina who was assigned to Ocotlan that year

Letter 383

**Sister Carmen Celina of the Child Jesus de la Torre
Gonzalez**

(no date)

Celina Castrejon

My dear daughter,

I greet you with great affection, hoping that you are take full advantage of these classes. To learn cloth-cutting will be very good for you and if you're earnest about it, perhaps, you could take some

other classes, now that you're young and have no other obligation but to better yourself.

You're right to be happy in that town (*Ocotlan*) and you're going to be happier still when you go to the lagoon. It's very beautiful!

Keep me posted about your progress in your classes.

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

Maria

Approximate date: 1934. (Testimony of Sister Carmen Celina who was in Ocotlan in 1934.)

Letter 384
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

(no date)

Very dear daughter, Elenita,

The peace of God be in your soul.

Today I received your letter and I'm hurrying to answer it. I'd like to remind you that you're in Ocotlan, and that place is in this world of ours, and the things that are happening and which you're now witnessing have always happened. They are like waves of the sea which are suddenly falling on top of the world, and then everything appears as if we're at the end, but it's not so. These things pass like a strong storm which, in a way, is beneficial to clean the atmosphere.

You need calmness, calmness, and prayer. Up until now, it looked as if everything was going with the wind, but we had to expect that strong shaking to find out if what we're doing has God's seal on it. My opinion is that you shouldn't discuss your views with any externs and to pretend that nothing is happening, beginning with the one who told you. Then, little by little and with much tranquillity, call the girls who got out, and pretending you don't give any importance to

what happened, begin bringing them closer to you. Invite them to participate in some play that you make up, in order to build their confidence, which should result in a common unity and communion with each other. I hope that this will be enough.

Regarding Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*), encourage her, advise her, treat her well. If the judgements against her are true, let it be a lesson for her. If she is a victim of envy, it's necessary to support her in this great affliction, and let the same pupils see you treating her well, that is to say, as always. If you see any need to correct her, don't hesitate to do it, but not in front of anyone. Advise her to be at peace before the other pupils and society itself.

Perhaps your illness was caused by this worry you had to endure. Treat yourself for it; it will do you good. Be at peace. Out of obedience, ask Our Lord of mercy of restoring your good health.

Make a novena to Our Holy Mother St. Teresa so that the storm may pass. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1934. (Letters of Mother Luisita to Mother Elena)

Letter 385
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

(no date)

My dear daughter,

Thanks be to God, I've been receiving your little letters. May God our Lord reward you.

"Calm" must be your motto. Have serenity even if the world is tumbling down, especially when it is one's own imagination that is making one see the world in that perspective. God our Lord is with you; don't fear anything but sin.

See to it that Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) is happy but submissive, and making all her acts of C. (*Community*). Show her affection and trust and tell her that you like her cooking and that you're looking forward to it. *Pobrecita!* She's always had duties which have deprived her of being near the "S" (*Blessed Sacrament*). Now it will be different. Tell her that it will be her main duty, etc., but don't assign her the duty of answering the door.

Regarding the classes, with much kindness help the girls (*sisters*) to understand that they'll have to submit themselves to whatever is decided there. Don't leave any room for them to do and undo whatever they wish. Remember what "papa" Panchito (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, former Archbishop of Guadalajara, now deceased*) used to say: It's up to you to see what is the just thing and then do it; make sure that all the girls are well taken care of, and separate them as prudence dictates.

Try to follow the indications of prudence that your "Tata" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor of Ocotlan*) is making. Go to settle your accounts (*i.e. go to Confession*) wherever he says. Personally, I'd like you to go to him if no one else is appointed. You did the right thing in telling him about the incident that happened to you and placing it in his hands for him to decide what to do. You have to manifest that you feel his support and show submissiveness in every possible way, but of course, without losing your dependence from here.

Don't go to the station. There are a lot of people in that place and the ones who don't like us might harm you. Besides, I don't think that going to that place is the decent thing to do. Avail yourselves of the Espinosa girls to do those errands and send written messages to your "Tata."

I can't continue anymore. For now just follow my recommendations as much as you can. Write to your "mamacita" (*little mother*) and send her some little thing. Start the novena to St. Therese today; then from the first to the third, her triduum. Good-bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you. **Pray earnestly for His help.**

Pray, pray, pray for without it we can't do anything good.

Maria

P.S. My regards to all and tell them I'll write to them soon.

Approximate date: 1934

Letter 386

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

(no date)

My dear daughter, Nena,

You made me laugh with your letter. What a girl! May God make you a saint!

I've already told you that Merceditas (*Mercedes Villasenor*) and the girl are suggesting may teach the classes indicated, but this is an extraordinary permission for this particular case.

I'm in perfect agreement for you to send a letter to grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) and write one in my name for me. You know my style. Send him a scapular, rosary and relic.

I'm very pleased because you're happy to have gone to your "tata" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*), and I hope you continue going to him. Please convey to him my best regards and kindly give him my address because I'd like very much for him to visit us in this, our poor house.

Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) may bring the kitchen utensils unfamiliar to her, so that she can learn to use them, and it would be a good idea if you give her some money to buy the necessary things to practice. Don't worry. Let her come only to take the classes, and then we won't have to worry anymore. God our Lord helps us. Forward! Always forward!

I'm writing to you in a hurry because Jesus is waiting for me, and I want to send this now.

You should have heard the beautiful talk we heard about Saint Therese. It was given by the "Senor" (*priest*) who went to the little town (*Atotonilco*) last year. Of course, he made us laugh very much. The girls (*sisters*) looked very happy, laughing and laughing.....

Good-bye, my daughter. My regards to all the family (*sisters*). I'll write to them some time. *Pobrecitas!* May God bless them.

Maria

P.S. I liked the way in which they're going to present the classes. As soon as the rainy season is over, they should go to where Braulita is inviting them. Greet her for me and the family. It's all right with me for Tomasita to do the shopping for you. Make a scapular for "Tata" and also a rosary and relic for him to take on his trip.

Approximate date: 1934.

Letter 387
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

(no date)

Elenita, very dear in Jesus,

Really and truly, your letter was a consolation to me for many reasons. Blessed be God!

I'll send you [written] confirmation if and when the group is going to be arranged, but if I see that it's too dangerous to form the group at this time, it would be an imprudence on my part to go ahead with it, given the uneasiness that exists. Let it be for God!

Lastly, do whatever you think is more prudent, either to establish it with the ones who are already there because there is no one to

send from here, or to go to the group of the poor, or on Sundays as you propose. I agree either way.

Regarding the vicar, leave things as they are. Don't make any more changes and treat everyone in a manner that will bring them happiness and peace and never reprimand anyone when someone else is present, not even in recreation. Let your actions breathe true charity, and when you feel angry, don't talk. In that way you'll avoid a lot of heartaches.

Do as you've mentioned about the classes. Help Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) and Maria (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*) so that they can go three times a week to the shorthand and typing classes. Gabriela (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) has to be seen by the doctor on Tuesday and on that day she'll know when she'll be returning. In the meantime, substitute for her.

The sisters are happy at the "*chichimeco*." The new house suits them fine. As for myself, I'll have to move and will let you know my new address.

Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) is asking for one of the girls to be Trini's (*Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) companion. It's Dolores of Jesus's (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*) turn. They'll leave as soon as possible.

In order to send this out, I'll not write to the girls (*sisters*). Give them my best. Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.
Maria

Date: 1934. This is the year that Sister Dolores and Mother Maria of the Trinity went to the United States. (verified by Sister Elisa Xavier of Christ Jimenez)

**Letter 388
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

(no date)

My dear daughter, Elena,

The peace of God be in your soul.

I can very well imagine how overworked you've been. Given your character, you're most likely doing more than what you have to do. What a girl!

Let us bless the Lord for helping [the sisters] to do well in the exams. How good God is!

Describe to me in detail all the symptoms you have so that I, in turn, will be able to tell (*Doctor*) Gonzalez Arechiga about it, and perhaps he can prescribe something for you. After that, if you don't get well, it would be better for you to come over here to take care of your health. I, too, have been sick to my stomach all week. The girls (*sisters*) will tell you all about it.

Beba (*possibly Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascensio Bautista who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa of the Holy Face*) and Angelica (*Sister Angelica of the Immaculate Heart Gutierrez*) are going there. Beba (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascensio Bautista*) is going to Beatriz's (*Mother Beatrice of Jesus Ochoa Lopez*) to finish the cloth-cutting and sewing course, and I would also like her to learn painting, embroidery, and how to make artificial flowers. Angelica is going to Atotonilco as we had decided. I hope that when Leonor (*Mrs. Leonor Cervantes, the mother of Sister Gema of the Passion Cervantes*) returns, Angelica can go along with her.

Leonor 's problem has been resolved, and so we'll be expecting her on the eighth (*to enter the Congregation*). Please let her know in my name.

Send Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) over here, and take care of Gabriela's (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) illness. They'll go to

Marianita's (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) house because this one is very small and the family very large. Perhaps Gabriela will need surgery or cauterization. Let [Doctor] Gomez take care of her.

Be at peace. All of us have difficulties of some kind or other in this life, and as the Imitation of Christ says: "Whether you look up or look down you'll find the cross everywhere." A short period of prayer before Our Lord alleviates our sorrows no matter how big they seem to be, and after being with Our Lord they don't look so big anymore.

Josefa, I don't understand from your letter whom you want me to invite for the eighth. Tell me again.

Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Maria of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) is busy. She is still delivering (*this letter is unfinished*)
(no signature)

Approximate date: 1934. Leonor Cervantes entered the congregation on June 8, 1934, and was given the name Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ. (Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 8, #99)

Letter 389
Sister Genevieve of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face
Ascencio Bautista
(who changed her name to Sister Maria Luisa)

(no date)

For Genevieve.

My very beloved daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. God's peace!

How have you been, daughter? Working very hard? May God our Lord give you the joy of the Holy Spirit, which is the fruit of a good conscience.

Today our novena to St. Therese begins and it will be ending on the anniversary of her death. After that we'll have the triduum in preparation for her feast on the day that the Church celebrates her (*at the time these letters were written the Carmelites celebrated St. Therese's feastday a few days before the universal Church did*). Let's make the triduum for this intention--that she may intercede before Our Lord for all our family (*Congregation*). Is your Aunt Mary still thinking of giving us the present (*the congregation did receive a beautiful painting of St. Therese from Sister Genevieve's Aunt Mary*)?

May you be good to God and your sisters.

Good bye, daughter, may our good God bless you.

Maria

Date: 1934. (Testimony of Sister Maria Luisa Ascencio (Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face.)

Letter 390
Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

(no date)

For Lupita Botello

My very beloved daughter,

It has been some time since I've had the pleasure of writing to you, but I haven't forgotten you and I don't want you to be thinking that I don't appreciate you; it's simply because I have the defect of not giving myself enough time for all of the things I have to do. Now, I'm going to dedicate these moments to talk to you heart-to-heart.

I've received two little messages that you didn't write to me yourself--in one you dictated that you didn't feel capable of writing, and in the other, you sent the message for me to pray for you. Good gracious, my daughter! To the first, I answer, "What is the matter? Are you so sick you haven't even been able to write to me?" **It should always**

be easy to write to a mother. It is done spontaneously, understanding that everything will be well received by a mother because the daughter empties her soul into her mother's soul, assuming that she'll understand and that her mother's soul is overflowing with interest for the daughter and doesn't notice anything else but only how to help the daughter--to see her needs and remedy them--to cry, if she cries--to be happy, if she's happy. This is the mission of a mother. And that's precisely my mission, and with assurance I tell you that Our Lord, before giving me daughters, gave me the heart of a mother. May He be blessed!

You want me to pray to God for you. Do you really believe that I would stop doing so when I'm a beggar before God praying for my daughters because their happiness is my happiness. Write to me telling me all you want to tell me. Write on the outside of the envelope "Conscience Matter." Of course, you should place it inside another envelope, and you may send it with Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*).

I'm being asked from Mexico City for [a sister] who can play [the piano]. Perhaps you'll be the one to go, and if that's the case, you will be able to study piano. There is a very good one in the house. It will only be a matter, then, of getting a teacher. Pray to Our Lord that if it's His will that you move to Mexico City, then to please give us the means to do so, and then you could spend the twelfth with Our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe. Don't tell anybody, though, that you might be the one because there is no one else who can play, and in that way your assignment will be from above.

If there is a tempest going on in your soul, as is usually the case, don't pay any attention to it. You know very well where it's all coming from, so don't be afraid. Run to Our Lord, and full of confidence in Him, ask Him to help you. Invoke our Blessed Mother praying to her with fervor, "Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary..." and you'll see how quickly everything will pass and your soul will remain like the sky without any clouds--most beautiful!

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you, as Our Holy Mother [Saint Teresa] says.

Good-bye, daughter. May God bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1934.

Letter 391

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

(no date)

My beloved Lupita,

My daughter, what a pleasure to receive your little letters and to know that you're practicing your piano. Be earnest about it and you'll see how well you'll be able to play for the choir. In that way you will be helping your little sisters. Your good Father will also be happy, and I will, too!

Try to live at peace. Don't let yourself be carried away by unrest within your soul, and be happy in whatever manner Our Lord wants you. Abandon yourself into His Divine Hands and offer Him your sorrows and your joys in peace and gladness.

I don't have any more time, so I'll finish this letter now; it's better than nothing. God willing, I'll have the great pleasure of seeing you soon. My regards to everyone and I'll soon answer the other little letters.

J. Navarro

Approximate date: 1934

Letter 392

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

(no date)

For Guadalupe of the Infant Jesus.

My unforgettable and beloved daughter,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul.

Oh, my daughter, you can't begin to imagine my great consolation in learning about the change you've experienced in your soul. That blessed image of the Lord of the "*Trapiches*" must be well-venerated for He is the Owner of that Chapel. It was built precisely to house this image, which was placed right at the main altar. Continue honoring it. Place some little flowers before it. A candle should always burn for the intentions of that house (*the motherhouse in Atotonilco*), for that town (*Atotonilco*), and for all the family (*community*) which is growing right there near Him, and also for the conversion of a sinner. If you obtain this conversion after asking Our Lord for it, we'll publish it.

I know you're doing very well in your piano studies. Blessed be God! Continue studying very earnestly because you can give much glory to God through music.

The eight-day retreat was beautiful! It's so necessary to make it. I hope you'll be making yours, too. Pray to Our Lord for such a great grace.

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

Maria

***"El Señor de los Trapiches (Our Lord of the Trapiches)"** is a crucifix which was found in the sacristy at the Motherhouse in Atotonilco. It was at the foot of this crucifix that Mother Luisita gave a fervent exhortation, and following the ceremonial of the Carmelite cloistered nuns in Guadalajara, then received the private professions of the first sisters. (taken from the testimonies of the first sisters of the Congregation in the Historical Archives)

Approximate date: 1934.

Letter 393

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

(no date)

May the peace of God be in the soul of my very beloved daughter, Josefina.

It gives me great joy to answer your kind letter, my daughter. **How are you? Still striving to become the saint your Creator wants you to be and Who made you for that very reason?**

I've read your last letter which just arrived this minute. From my heart I want you to know that I appreciate it very much. And as for you, little one, you make me laugh very much with your witty ideas.

Instead of thinking about dying, don't you think that it would be a better idea to ask our good God to help you die to yourself? Be careful and don't allow yourself to become discouraged. You can do so very much to obtain eternal life! God our Lord, Who has given you so many proofs of His predilection is asking for your faithfulness and self-denial. So, *adelante (forward)*, my daughter! I want to see you in a very high place up there in heaven, and with a little effort on your part, no doubt that's just how I'll be seeing you.

I shed many tears that day I had to leave you all, which is only natural. I was feeling very sad because God our Lord has given me a mother's heart toward you and that's why I get so concerned about you all.

Be earnest about studying the piano. Perhaps the lady who lives by San Antonio [Church] could give you classes. We're going to send you the song you want. You'll have it soon.

Neither Tona nor Maximiana have been here. They are both in Atotonilco; hence, the delay in sending the information you're asking for, but we'll send you everything you would like.

Good-bye, and may God bless you.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1934. (Testimony of Sister Josephine)

Letter 394
Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

(no date)

For Josefina.

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. How are you? I'm longing so much to see you. May God our Lord grant me this grace before I die. I'm here with many aches and pains and quite old now; therefore, very near to eternity. Pray to your "*Viejito*" (*the affectionate name Sister Josephine had for St. Joseph*) to obtain for me the grace of a holy death.

You make me laugh with your very funny letters. What a girl! You can think of such things!

Not very long ago, I saw Tona, Luisa, and Juanita. They are well. I told Lupe to bring Aurelia to the boarding house (*novitiate*) even if they don't pay us, but they won't make up their minds because her older brothers don't agree.

So, you like the statue of our father, *Senor San Jose (St. Joseph)*. I liked it very much and I'm happy to already have received these very beautiful statues.

Would you like to see your country again? Or did you forget it already? You've been there (*in the United States*) for so long.

Maria

Approximate date: 1934. (*Testimony of Sister Josephine*)

Letter 395
Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

For Josefina.

My very dear daughter,

After being silent for such a long time, I finally greet you with much affection, praying that you're all right after such a terrible fall. How are you, little one? Are you still aching?

Your aunts are well. I've seen them and Lupe and her children as well. Aurelia is very happy with what you sent her. That child is not only very pretty, but smart and virtuous as well. She's so little and already making the sacrifice of not taking candies nor fruits on Saturdays. That little one is to be admired.

I wish you could see how much I desire to see you and all the family (*community*). Two years of being away from you seems like a long, long time to me.

I'm told that you've gained some weight. When you take your vacation your health will be much better. You'll be very pleased with such a beautiful trip. When you return let me know how everything went and what you saw. **How good our God is! He grants us all this beautiful time which we spend here in this exile. I hope that your stay at that beautiful beach will serve as a means of knowing and loving Him better.**

What does your father, Josecito (*St. Joseph to whom Sister Josephine was very devoted*), say? Is he almost finished with that house which is turning out so beautifully? I can imagine the joy you're experiencing in knowing that your father [St. Joseph] is going to have a house. I hope He'll take me to see it during the summer of 1935.

I'm being consumed. The people who see me say that I'm getting very thin. When Father Gomez, who was in Long Beach a few days ago, came to see me, he greeted me with these words, "Why are you so skinny?" I really will have very little flesh to take to the worms. But the doctor says that it's better that I'm thin because I'll get less tired out as a result of the sickness I have.

Please pray that God our Lord will forgive me my sins and grant me a holy death, which is the most important thing for me now.

Good-bye, daughter. **May you become a saint, and may Our**

Lord bless you.

Conception

Approximate date: 1934.

Letter 396
Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

(no date)

My very beloved daughter, Maria de Lourdes,

The peace of God be in your soul.

May God our Lord reward you for your letter. I'm longing to see you all. It seems to me such a very long time since I last saw you. It's a fact that you're truly my daughters. It will be such a joy for us when we are all reunited in heaven, but in the meantime, we'll have to keep on working to get there.

Are you still working with patients? Are you in Santa Teresita (*Santa Teresita Sanatorium in Duarte, California*)? Very well, then.

Daughter, wherever Our Lord places us is the best place for us, for it is there that we'll find graces for our souls. Let's not look at ourselves, but let us look at Our Lord and we'll find Him through obedience. May God bless you.

Good-bye.

Maria

P.S. We just had a strong earthquake. May God our Lord have mercy on us. Pray very much for us.

My regards to all the family and to the patients and may we all be really good. Good-bye.

Dolores (*Mother Dolores of Jesus, the sister of Mother Lourdes*) is well. Socorrito (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) is helping her, and now she is my neighbor because only a patio separates us. She's very good, but don't let her

surpass you [in virtue].

Date: 1934. Mother Dolores, the sister of Mother Lourdes was helping Mother Socorro with the novices that year. Testimony of Sister Elisa Xavier of Christ Hernandez

Letter 397

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, July, 1934

My very dear daughter, Margarita Maria,

I wish for you, before anything else, the peace of God.

I've had the joy of receiving your welcomed letters. May Our Lord reward you.

Don't worry because you couldn't arrange to have the house where you had planned. Our Lord will provide the best place for it. He sees everything while we are short-sighted and can't see the future. Our Lord directs everything and orders it for our welfare. In the meantime, let us be patient. Patience is the virtue which should adorn all our works, the littlest ones and the greatest ones.

It is a pity that the young girl you mentioned left, but don't become discouraged--another one will come. **That's the way it goes with this sort of project, ups and downs, and as far as we're concerned, we should be like immovable rocks so that when the waves do come, they will wash over us, taking away with them all of the dust that was on us.**

Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) came yesterday to bring your letter and had breakfast with us. We chatted together for a while. She's so good. I certainly admire her. She's resigned herself to Luis's (*Mother Margarita's brother*) marriage. Lucita (*Mother Margarita Maria's sister*) tells me that she'll write you concerning the things you would like her to buy for you. This is why I haven't said anything about it. She's shown me a sample of the veils you wear

when you go out. I think that both the veils and the material you plan to buy are very good. **I hope you'll be able to wear your new mantles and that it will all be for the greater honor of God and for His divine pleasure. What profit do we derive if we please ourselves and at the same time displease God? I'll tell you what Bracho (*Father Toribio Bracho, S.J.*) told one of the girls (*sisters*), "If you look for God, everything will be fine, but if you're looking for yourself, everything is lost."**

As you'll see by the letter I wrote to Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*), Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) is going to Ocotlan with the person I mentioned there. Light a candle to the Sacred Heart, saying a prayer for that Academy and for this family (*community*).

The gift that you prepared for Mr. Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) is very good as well as the party you plan for him and the one for Mariquita.

Let us thank God our Lord for remedying the need in that house. Next time you'll know the remedy in advance. We must look for the strength which pours forth from union and very much prayer. Without that, we can do nothing. If God does not build the house, those who work at it, do so in vain. If God does not guard the city, those who keep vigil do so in vain.

My greetings to Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*). Please ask for his prayers and for those of all my daughters whom I love so very much.

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

Maria

Letter 398

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

(no date)

My beloved and never-forgotten daughter, Margarita,

Thanks be to God that He spared your life after being in such a terrible accident--you were in danger of going to eternity! It's truly a miracle that you're alive! Let's hope that you'll avail yourself of the days you live here in exile, but which is at the same time a place of great merit. I know through Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) that you're now out of danger, which has made me very happy. I hope that you'll follow the doctor's orders and will not work too much because it could lead to serious consequences.

I thank both you and all of the family at the same time, for the valuable gift you sent, which has helped me very much. God our Lord will repay you, and I'll be eternally grateful.

May God bless you and keep you healthy.

Maria

Approximate Date: July, 1934

Letter 399

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, July, 1934

My very beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,

I greet you with all affection hoping that you've recovered completely from your head injury (*the sisters were involved in a car accident on June 29 and the base of Mother Margarita's skull was injured, but it wasn't serious*).

When your last letter arrived, Ramon (*Ramon Ugarte, Mother Luisita's brother-in-law*), had already left. Please let me know about paying for the trip for Maria de la Trinidad (*Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*). I think she'll be the one capable of doing the work as you sisters wish. Tell Grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Atotonilco*) that I'd like to have his permission for her to travel alone. The expense would be twice as much if another girl (*sister*) must accompany her. Recently your expenses have been enormous with

the trips of the girls and the expenses of the car. Ask him about this and we will do whatever he orders. I think it will be necessary for Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) to meet her in Nogales, together with Carmen Josefa (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*), if she goes alone. Carmen Josefa can help Trini at the border since the procedure will be unknown to her and she won't know what to do there. It would be different if two girls go from here. In that case, there would be no need for the other two to wait for them at the border.

Don't believe Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) when she says to you that I intend to reprimand you. She was only teasing you. You know how she likes to tease. Be happy and forget about it.

How are you feeling? Are Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and Josephine (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra*) alright? (*Mother Margarita Maria, Mother Mary and Sister Josephine were the three sisters involved in the car accident.*)

There was a party (*entrance into the novitiate*) at Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house on the sixteenth of this month, in spite of so many worries and the sickness of grandmother (*religious persecution*). Tarcisa (*Sister Tarcisa of the Eucharist Orozco*), Maria Loreto (*Sister Maria Loreto of St. Elias Valle*), Elisa Javier (*Sister Elisa Xavier of Christ Hernandez Fonseca*), Marta, Mercedes de Jesus, and another girl whom I don't recall, were delighted and very happy. This happened on the fifteenth and on the sixteenth Maria Guadalupe (*Sister Maria de Guadalupe Mesa*) was married.

Our address has changed. Socorro, with her family, went to live on Morelos Street and I live now on Hidalgo for a few days. Please address your letters to Miss Antonia Becerra. You know her address. It's a fact that next week we'll be on vacation for eight days (*yearly retreat*). Pray for us. Your mother, Conchita, has been very good to us. She seems to me to be a very fervent person. How good she is! Give my greetings to all the family. May God our

Lord bless you.

Antonia

Letter 400
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

For Teresita.

My very beloved daughter,

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

This is going to be a very short greeting because I haven't the time for more, but I want to send this by safe hands.

How have you been, daughter? Well, now! So, you went out of the house already? Don't you think that it's too soon and won't be good [for your health]? What a joy it will be for me to know when you'll be back with your children!

If it's possible, Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) will spend her vacation over there with you to give you that joy.

Good-bye, daughter. **May you become more saintly every day.**
Maria

Approximate date: 1934.

Letter 401
Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez

(no date)

My very dear daughter, Rosa Maria,

I greet you with much affection. How are you? I've been wanting to write to you for quite some time, but it hasn't been possible. Pray

that Our Lord will give His grace for me, so that I'll learn how to give myself time to write to you all.

How was your vacation? I imagine you now in your classes, very busy, but happy, and full of the graces that Our Lord is bestowing upon you. May He be blessed!

Crucito (*probably Father de la Cruz Hernandez, Mother Rosa Maria's brother*) has done you a lot of good and Josesito Ruiz's (*Joseph Ruiz*) family has, also. **They are means that Our Lord places on our path for our benefit, yet always remembering that He Himself is the Author of every good action.**

I noticed your grades. I shall see the results of the exams, and I'm hoping that you [sisters] pass, and that next year will be easier because you can begin from the first class (*The sisters had to enroll in the classes later than the other students because they had to wait until they acquired enough money to register*).

I recommend that you be interiorly recollected.

I can't do it anymore. On another occasion I'll write to your brothers.

Maria

Approximate date: 1934. (Testimony of Mother Rosa Maria)

Letter 402

Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez

(no date)

For Rosa Maria.

My granddaughter, so dear to me,

It has been some time since I've had the pleasure of writing to you, but that doesn't mean that I've forgotten about you (sisters). No, daughter. On the contrary, I think of you with love and I pray to our good God for all of you, and I do care about you and desire your

happiness. I suffer and enjoy myself with you because the distance doesn't diminish my interest for you all; rather, it serves to increase it.

How are you doing in English and Algebra? Avail yourself of Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) now that she's with you, for she's a very good teacher. She's even given courses to other teachers. Consult her and don't lose such a good opportunity. Those who are deficient in any subject should study with her.

Have you been able to gain some weight, and above all, how healthy are you now? Try to eat well. I know you're a little weak, even though you never bring that subject up, but try to sleep well. Be the first one to go to bed so you will be able to sleep the entire night. **And about your soul, what shall I tell you? What are my recommendations? That you'll not waste an instant of this year, and will avail yourself of the graces that the Holy Spirit bestows upon your soul.**

I would really like to see you, so pray to Our Lord to grant me the grace of going there in April and spending a little time with you.

I'm so happy you'll be able to continue living in that house because the owners are such good persons. Blessed be God!

Give my regards to Carmen T. (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*), Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo*) and Cuca (*Sister Refugio*), and tell them I'll be writing to them very soon.

Good-bye, daughter. Give yourself entirely to God and may He bless you.

Maria

Date: 1934. (*Testimony of Sister Rosa Maria who was in Mexico City in 1934*)

Letter 403

Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino

(no date)

For Trini.

I was very happy to learn through your letters that you've already arrived over there, safe and sound. Blessed be God!

Don't be embarrassed about your new occupation (*Formation of postulants and novices*). Naturally, you feel somewhat out of place now, but we all are feeling that way. God our Lord will help you and everything will turn out all right. Don't doubt this. Trust in Him, place everything in His hands and you'll not feel the load. Much prayer, much prayer.

How are you, daughter? Does the climate agree with you? Let the doctor see your throat and take care of it.

I just read Consuelo's (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa*) letter. She's well and asking me for her feastday present. You give her one, too. Pray for her and write to her.

I'm sure that Ramon and Lupe (*Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Ugarte, Mother Luisita's sister and brother-in-law*) were very glad to serve them when they arrived because that is precisely the time when the helping hand of a friend is most needed. When you see them, greet them for me and tell them that I didn't receive Lupe's (*Mrs. Guadalupe Ugarte, Mother Luisita's sister*) letter. Ask her to please write it over again.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Conception

Approximate date: 1934. (In 1934 Mother Mary of the Trinity traveled to the United States. Letter of Mother Luisita to Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist dated July 20, 1934)

Letter 404

Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino

(no date)

Trini

My very dear daughter,

I really appreciate your kind letters. May God our Lord reward you.

How are you? Do you like your new house? The celebration must have made you very happy, and so I'm happy, too. It was wonderful that you were able to have one! Blessed be God!

I thank you for your feastday greeting. I had a happy day, but thinking of all of you, of course.

Consuelito (*Mother Mary of the Trinity's sister who also entered the Congregation*) looks well. When you look at her now, her appearance seems more healthy.

Naturally, I'm already longing to be with you all, but the trip is not cheap.

When you write to Father and Isabelita (*Mother Mary of the Trinity's relatives*), give them my regards.

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

My regards to my daughters and tell them that I'll be writing to them soon. Good-bye.

Maria

Approximate date: 1934.

Letter 405

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

January 14, 1935

My beloved daughter, Maria,

I appreciate your concern about my illness. May God our Lord repay

you. I've been undergoing a rather long treatment and am feeling a little improvement. Blessed be God! Your mother and Narcisa (*Mother Mary's sister*) paid me a visit a few days ago, and they informed me that Aurelio (*Mother Mary's father*) no longer has a fever.

How have you been this winter? Has anyone gotten sick? Take good care of yourselves and make sure you wear warm clothes.

I congratulate both you and myself for the new little house for Jesus (*chapel*) that was built in Duarte. I hope that at this time it's already finished and that you'll be rejoicing when it opens.

Poor grandmother (*religious persecution*) is hovering between life and death. The shop is always functioning. During these days we've had some workers (*aspirants*). We had six and we need another two. This is a proof that at least we can buy something to eat and you can give thanks to Our Lord for this.

I hope that the machine (*for making hosts*) which is available to us could be brought to you so that someone could bring it over to us. Or you could give it to Mr. Alatorre and ask him if he would please send it safely with someone. Either telephone or write him a letter asking him about it.

Sincerely, I want to spend a few days with you. May God our Lord grant me that wish, and I deeply appreciate both your invitation and the comforts you offer to provide for me. May God our Lord conserve the good heart which He has given you.

Regarding Luisa (*Mother Luisa Josefa of the Virgin of Carmen Reynoso Merino*), it wasn't my intention for her to return to Duarte. Maybe I didn't explain myself. I think that it would be better to keep her in the school and in Los Angeles. The way you distributed the work for the girls is perfectly all right. I hope you already have received the answer to what Pachita (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) has requested.

Don't worry about not telling me about the girl who left. There are times when we all overlook something.

After I had already begun this letter to you, your letter arrived. I'm happy to inform you that I saw your mother who is very well and she told me that everyone else is well, also. Aurelio senior has gained weight. He sent Conchita (*Mother Mary's mother*) and Narcisa to offer their condolences to Salcedo upon the death of his father because he doesn't want to go out yet.

Be at peace. I thank God that I'm able to give you good news and I'll continue inquiring about your family and will be very happy to keep you informed.

Take good care of your health. Don't allow illness to take a hold of you.

May God our Lord keep you well and bless you.

Good bye, and loving regards to all the family (*community*).

Conception

Letter 406

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

January 18, 1935

My very dear daughter, Margie,

With all my love I greet you and congratulate you for your beautiful feast which you celebrated in your new house, blessed be God! What will it be like to reach heaven after so many labors, tears, and dangers? Even though we achieve the success of seeing one of our dreams come true here on earth, it doesn't even begin to measure up to the joy of ultimately realizing our goal of achieving heaven. So, give God all the glory!

I'm always anxious to receive your letters and they're a source of joy to me. God reward you!

You'll understand how happy the little picture with the name of Jesus made me. What a feast we had that day! It came right on

time. May the good God reward you for such a beautiful gift which was the fruit of such great sacrifice on your part. Fortunately, He sees everything and is never outdone in generosity.

Thanks be to God. I've been able to walk and that is very good for me. In these past days we moved quite near to the church of our Holy Father Saint Joseph, and I like the little house. It isn't elegant; it's rather simple and in a good neighborhood. Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) with her large family (*the novitiate*) stayed in the house with us and so we didn't all fit because her family alone is over twenty persons.

You would do well to post lists of the duties you assign to the girls (*sisters*), and I hope that you'll not grow weary of having patience and constancy in teaching them and helping them to carry out their responsibilities.

Regarding Luisa, I didn't want to tell you to send her back to Duarte, but **when Our Lord sends you occasions to practice virtue in any manner whatsoever, don't oppose Him or resist. Accept with good will the difficulties and contradictions of life. I'd like very much for you to become a great soul, strong and vigorous, never looking toward your own gain and self-love, but toward God's glory.**

Regarding the little machine you told me about, I already told Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) what I think. Tell me if she received that letter, and if not, I'll re-write it.

With joy I've received the little magazines. I suppose Father Pedrito (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D.*) sent through you. Those are the ones I liked best. I appreciate them very much. Would you write to my Uncle Albert, in my name, thanking him for being so considerate to us because for me it has been very satisfying and a great comfort in the midst of so many worries? I beg you with all my heart to write this letter quickly.

I appreciate with all my soul the invitation that you're offering me of the little piece of furniture that I'll receive. I'll accept it in the name

of Our Lord next summer.

Grandmother (*the religious persecution*) is very, very sick. God will provide.

Affectionate greetings to the whole family and my dear sick to whom I give my grateful thanks for such a valuable gift. Our Lord will reward you with many graces!

Conchita (*Mother Margarita Maria's mother*) was just here. She's well and so are Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) and Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*). She came with her purple dress with the lilies, and I told her that I would tell you that I greeted you for her. She's so good to us!

Good-bye, my daughter and may God bless you.

(no signature)

Letter 407

Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino

January 19, 1935

For Trini.

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. May you be well and happy.

Daughter, I deeply value the fact that you want me to go over there. I also appreciate your assurance that my aches and pains will eventually get better. May Our Lord preserve your goodness and keep you just the way you always are with this, your poor mother. Thank you for telling me about the tears you shed when you encountered the little old man and thought of me. Be good, my daughter, and Our Lord will bless you.

Jesus, your brother, came. He's well and mentioned that he wanted for us to go work in Tapalpa. I agree. So, I wrote to Salvador and he already answered me that he'll come to talk about it. I hope to

go there soon and I'm already looking forward to contemplating the Sierras (*mountains*)! Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa, Mother Mary of the Trinity's sister*) wrote to me. She's well and still living in Mexico City.

Be at peace. Your debt to Mr. Lepe has already been paid. Blessed be God!

I went through the exact same thing regarding the learning of English. How I laughed when I read about your adventures in English! Nevertheless, it's necessary that you study, and then just see how much you'll learn!

It's really sad that you've such a small number of pupils (*postulants*). I would gladly send you some from over here, but their transportation fare would be too costly. There are other expenses to consider, also. Traveling hasn't easy, and if it turns out that they (*the sisters*) can't adjust over there (in *the United States*), we would have to go through those expenses again to bring them back (*to Mexico*). Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholino Rodriguez*) has a very good number of pupils (*postulants*). Some new ones came in on the sixth. One came in on the fourteenth, and on the fourth of February another one will be added. In addition there are the three that she already had. When you add in the older ones (*novices*) the total comes to ten, and we still have several applications!

Good-bye, daughter. May Our Lord bless you. My regards to everyone.

Conception

Letter 408
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

January 24, 1935

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

After greeting you, may I ask you to let me know when Ramon

Castellanos' sister-in-law will be leaving for Mexico City so that Juana will be able to go with her. Ramon Castellanos is the brother of Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*).

Over here the weather has also been very cold because of this cold front we're all experiencing. No wonder all of us are feeling this cold so much.

I already sent the little present to "tata" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*). I do hope he likes it.

You're right to be embarrassed about the house, but let Mercedes (*Mercedes Villasenor*) make things right without your intervention. Entrust this problem to the Infant of Prague and you'll see how He'll ease the situation for you.

Thanks be to God, I've been feeling a little better, and I want you to know that we now have beautiful flower pots and electricity. The house is looking very nice and we're joyfully enjoying the advantage of having very good neighbors who have been visiting us and offering their help in any way they can. Early yesterday morning Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) came and tried to lift my spirit, showering kindnesses upon me.

I'm very glad you found the girls (*sisters*) well and having a little celebration. Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*) must have been enjoying herself together with all of you. Blessed be God!

The Galvez Family is still living in Morelos. You may send your letters here, addressing them to Miss Florencia Ruiz because I'm not here all the time and that young lady will give them to me personally.

Poor Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*)! But it just hasn't been possible to send more girls (*sisters*) to help in Los Angeles. It's a matter of a large sum of money and other difficulties, besides. And in addition, we'd run the risk of incurring even more expenses bringing them back if they don't adapt to that place. God will provide.

Affectionate greeting to all the family and to Consuelo (*Consuelo was a distant relative of Mother Luisita who stayed at the school so the sisters could help with her character formation and Mother Elena took responsibility for her in the school*).

I know that there is a party every time Catalina (*Catalina Arambula, Mother Luisita's niece who lived in Ocotlan*) goes with your cousins (*community residing in a nearby house*). I know she already has a soft spot for them in her heart and that on Sundays she sends them little dishes. You should also ask her to send something to you, too, and to take the place of Esperanza sometimes. She'll be very happy to be asked. I'm told she doesn't have any friends other than you and the cousins.

May Our Lord bless you.

Gertrudis Ruiz

Letter 409
Mother Beatrice of Jesus Ochoa Lopez

January 25, 1935

For Beatriz.

My beloved daughter,

It has been quite awhile since I've been permitted the pleasure of writing to you. Today, your feastday, I'm allowed to greet you affectionately and congratulate you. I hope that on this day Our Lord will fill your soul with sanctifying grace and that His grace may remain in you always. I'll pray for that.

What a joy it will be for me to spend a few days with you all, and for those days to really be a vacation because that's what I'm hoping. May God our Lord grant it to me whenever the time is right, and then, I'll be surprising you by going there.

How are you doing in your classes? I can imagine how very hard you're working. You must have a lot of sewing to do. Everyone

wants that task to be completed. **May God our Lord help you to be happy in your work because we must do everything out of love for Him.**

Good bye, daughter, and may our good God bless you.

Florencia

P.S. Please tell Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) that Juanita won't be going yet.

Letter 410
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

J.M. + J.T.

January 26. 1935

My dear daughter in Christ,

I received your little letter yesterday. Reading it gave me the consolation of knowing that you all are at peace. Blessed be God! You must have already received the one I sent you.

You have permission for what you're asking, to buy what you want, and to kiss the Child in your name and mine.

If it's possible, Maria Ana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) and another girl (*sister*) will go there. I almost forgot to tell you that I'm very glad that Genoveva (*Sister Genoveva of the Holy Face Ascencio Bautista who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa Ascencio Bautista*) is learning so quickly. My great desire is that as soon as she's ready, she'll take the examination so that she will be able to get her credentials. Another young lady, a relative of Mr. Topete, who is also taking the examination, can go with her.

I can't continue any longer at this time. Please give my regards to the girls (*sisters*) and the Gomez Family.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Carmen Celina (*Sister Carmen Celina of the Child Jesus de la Torre Gonzalez*) is going over. I entrust her to you. Teach her as much as you can.

Letter 411

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

January 26, 1935

My very beloved daughter, Manuelita,

After lovingly greeting you, I beg of you to send Maria Asuncion (*Sister Maria Asumpta of the Sacred Wounds Herrera*) with Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*). Give my regards to all that family (*local community*) so dear to me.

Maria

Letter 412

Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez

January 26, 1935

For Rosa Maria.

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with all my affection, my good daughter, wishing you from my heart, a very happy New Year--1935! May all your actions this coming year be directed only to God. I'm anxious to see your final grades. I'm hoping that you can finish out your curriculum in the Normal School; but, if this isn't possible, then go ahead and take the business course, but complete it. Considering your previous schooling, the business curriculum will be easier for you. There is a woman over here, a member of Mr. Topete's family, and I understand that she would be able to examine you and validate your studies. Prepare yourselves well, and study English with

Inesita. Then an entrance exam will be obtained for you. Be earnest about this, and don't waste time.

Daughter, I'm greatly longing to see you and your sisters. May God our Lord grant me the grace of going over there and spending some time with all of you. It seems to me that it has been such a very long time since I have seen you [sisters] and that makes me unhappy because I'm very attached to you all.

What are you reading now? How are you doing with your new glasses? Do they bother you? **Try to eat well and preserve your good health as much as you can, so your ideals may come true and you will be able to obtain your certification and other things.**

I appreciate your congratulations and all of the prayers you've offered for me. May God reward you for everything.

Good-bye, daughter. Try to be better each day, but only for the love of God.

May Our Lord bless you.

Maximiana

Letter 413

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

January 28, 1935

My very dear daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with all my affection. How are you? Didn't you receive the letter I sent you? I gave it to someone to hand-deliver to you and am very sorry if you didn't receive it.

I was at Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house when the beans and the zapotes (*a fruit*) arrived. You did us a big favor, and we'll really enjoy them. I arrived this morning from Lupe's (*Sister Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) house, which is located right in the same neighborhood as St. Joseph's Church. Although her house is very small, it's

exceptionally clean and very near to where she works, within walking distance. And it's in a very good neighborhood, besides. Blessed be God!

I long to see the whole family, and sometimes I almost start going over there (*Atotonilco*), since you all are very dear to me. Let it be all for God! When you come here, you will be very well received. Ask papa (*the local pastor*) when you can do it.

We have much cause to rejoice because the girls (*sisters*) now have a job, and Angelica (*Sister Angelica of the Immaculate Heart Gutierrez*), Alicia (*Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar*) and Benigna (*Sister Benigna of Jesus Salas*) are studying. This is very good. I hope that they'll be earnest about it.

As for myself, I've been walking around in spite of the cold weather which does me so much harm. We'll see how much longer I can stand it.

About the dentures for Maria, I really don't know what to tell you. The doctor here doesn't charge for his services, and he does very good work, but she can't take the time off. But, then again, perhaps she won't be able to wait until vacation time. In that case it would be necessary for her to come. I leave you free to decide what to do, depending on how she's feeling. She can either wait to come to see (*Doctor*) Fregoso, or go to (*Doctor*) Martin del Campo. Good-bye, daughter. May Our Lord bless you.

Florencia Ruiz

Letter 414
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

January 28, 1935

For Carmelita.

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection, hoping with all my heart that you're well.

I wrote to you, to Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*), and to Carmen T. (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*). The letters were supposed to be hand-delivered, and as far as I can see, they never reached you. Only God knows where they are! *Pobrecitas!* It had been such a long time since I had written to you, with all of the moving from one house to another and the many other preoccupations I've had, and now I find out that none of you ever received the ones I finally wrote! Pray to God that I will be able to be able to fulfill my duty. Don't ever think that there is any lack of good will on my part when it happens that I'm not able to write to you.

I'm very glad that Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is much better. I hope she continues that way. I was going to go over and give you the surprise of my embrace. I had even called Maria to be my companion, but the cold wave stopped me, and since the cold on the way was going to be even more severe, that would have been detrimental to my poor health.

Help Elvira (*Elvira Martin del Campo entered and took the name of Sister Maria Dolores of the Blessed Sacrament*) feel at peace. Please tell her that I always think of her as if she were part of my own family. I've known her for so many, many years! I remember how she spent every day with us as a child and because of that, I now agree to her coming with us. Tell her to prepare her things. And tell Victoria to pray to God that He will grant her what she wants.

Now I'm living in two different houses. I spend some days with Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*), and some days with Lupita, our father St. Joseph's neighbor. It's a very small house, but it's very clean, has a nice roof and is in a good neighborhood. I'm happy because of the location and the house itself. Socorro is in the same place. They had asked her to give up that house, but in the end, they allowed her to keep it.

When you write your sisters, please give them my regards.

If the medication for your eyes is available to us, you'll get it soon.
May our God bless you.

Florencia Ruiz

Letter 415

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

January 31, 1935

My very dear daughter, Manuelita,

Conchita is bringing you the official document which I received a few days ago. I decided not to send it by mail and we need an immediate answer. Send it back with Conchita.

You must have already received the letter I mailed you a short time ago, but I don't remember if I asked you to tell Leonor that I would be very happy if she does take Hildelisa to Ocotlan to take her piano lessons.

How have you been? And Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*)? How is she feeling? Someone is waiting to mail this letter for me, so I'll stop right here.

Good-bye, my daughter, and may Our Lord bless you. Please tell my daughters that I'll be writing to them.

Maria

Letter 416

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

January 31, 1935

My daughter, Elenita,

Today I received your letter dated on Tuesday, and right away I started arrangements for Ines's (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel*)

Chavez) business.

Please be sure to send me the book over with Paulita (*possibly Sister Pauline of Jesus*). Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) needs it to know when Alejo Delgado is coming so that we can let papa know. If Paulita can't come soon, let me know the exact date by mail. Send the answer to the circular letter I'm sending you via Ramon Castellanos, or Don Andres (whoever is the most trustworthy). Send Manuelita's (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) to her with the recommendation to answer right away, but not through the mail.

I already told Maria to fix the crown for the Baby. Be at ease. The two chains are going to be repaired and the heart, too, just like the original.

Enclosed you'll find the picture of your mother. Try to control your imagination and judgment because this time it didn't come out exact. The picture was carefully put away. In all truth I tell you that I hold her in esteem simply because she's a member of your family although I don't even know her. **You get easily excited, and this has its advantages and disadvantages. Although it does help you be very active, it can also make you suffer and do things for which you're sorry sooner or later. Try to balance things out to a happy medium.**

The authorization for Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*) has been obtained already. Pastor Gonzalez already has it. He has asked to be the confessor for your house. Then again, the same pastor might take it, but we've not received the answer yet.

I'm waiting for Mr. Flores to come from Tapalpa, so I can't go out until he comes.

It would be wise to have the pantry well-stocked for any emergency. Good-bye, daughter. Greet my other daughters with affection.

Maria

Letter 417

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

February 6, 1935

Very beloved daughter, Elenita,

Thanks be to God that I've received the clothing and other little things you sent me. May God reward you. I'm already using them and I'm very warm.

Esperanza is going out today with Albertin and on Sunday she'll be already here to receive Mariquita. Esperanza has been worried about her mother because she still hasn't arrived, even though her father said she was already on her way. He also mentioned that she was well.

I'm very pleased that you had your celebration and also that you bought Consuelo's (*a distant relative of Mother Luisita who needed help in her formation and Mother Elena took responsibility for her in the school*) bed for her. She'll soon learn how to keep her things in order, and I hope that she sews enough to be able to sew the things for her bed when she finally has it.

Regarding your coming over here, please consult with Tomas (*Father Thomas Ramirez, S.J.*) as to whether you should or not. In the event that you don't, then feel free to act as you deem necessary.

I'm going over to Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house right now to wait for Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) I have an appointment with him at 5:00 p.m. Good-bye. My regards to all the family (*community*) and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 418

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

February 8, 1935

My beloved daughter,

With all my affection I greet you wishing you good health.

Because I was sick, I didn't personally answer your letter dated the twenty-fourth of last month. Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) answered for me so we wouldn't delay the business regarding the house that good Father Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) has proposed. I hope you've already received it.

If I remember correctly, I think you told me in one of your letters that Maria Gutierrez (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman*) was sick again, but that the doctor said she'll be all right. How is she doing now? Poor little one, she's encountered so many difficulties. Let it be for God! Let's hope that moving to another house with better weather and more fresh air will be good for her. May God permit it to happen because she's a good person for that house.

Perhaps Our Lord will grant an opportunity for the girls to work in either the capital or in San Luis, taking care of a private sanatorium.

They would be able to graduate from nursing school there. I haven't met the gentleman yet who is asking us to go. He went to papa Jose (*Auxiliary Bishop Jose Garibi Rivera*) and he, in turn, gave us very good recommendations. I still don't know how he found out about our family (*religious community*). **I beg you to place this intention in the hands of Our Lord, so that if it's His will for us, it will become a reality.**

It won't be possible for me to go and visit you this summer. Innumerable small business matters deny me the pleasure of seeing you. If I'm still in this world, maybe in the summer of 1936..... If not, we'll see each other in heaven. As St. Augustine used to tell St. Monica, "In heaven, we'll be united, we'll love each other and we'll rejoice together."

I received a letter from Mexico City and I learned there was a rather strong earthquake. My daughters were afraid and Getru (*Sister Gertrude of the Heart of Mary Ruiz*) kept proclaiming God's justice.

Apparently grandmother's (*religious persecution*) sickness is stabilizing and we're relatively at peace, even though the doctors are saying that the symptoms are serious. Let it be all for God! Both grandmother and I are so old already that from one moment to another we can become gravely ill and die. **Let whatever is God's will happen. May He be blessed!**

Remember me to all of the family (*sisters*). I beg their prayers for my soul. Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Letter 419

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

February 11, 1935

My beloved daughter, Mary,

A few days ago you should have received a letter from me. Right now I only want to greet you and enclose some photographs of our family. I think you'll enjoy seeing them:

Picture #1 is: 1-- Piedad (*Sister Piedad of Jesus Arquieta*); 2-- Tarcisia (*Sister Tarcisia of the Eucharist Oroczo*); 3--Maria Loreto (*Sister Loreto of St. Elias Valle*); 4 --Elisa Javier (*Sister Elisa Xavier of Christ Hernandez*); 5--Mercedes; 6--Maria Martha; 7--Patrocinio (*Sister Patrocinio of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Gonzalez*); 8--Columba (*Sister Columba of Jesus Garcia*); 9--Luisa Maria (*Sister Luisa Maria Josefa of the Child Jesus Estrada Gonzalez*); Picture #2 is Carmelita's family: 1--Carmen (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*); 2-- Rita (*Rita Rodriguez who left*) 3--Antonia; 4--Tonita (*Sister Rosalina of the Infant of Prague Villalobos*) 5: Dolores (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Aldaba*); 6-- Victoria; 7--Esther (*Sister Celia Teresa of the Child Jesus Garcia*); 8--Maria Esperanza (*Sister Maria Esperanza of St. Joseph Gomez*), who was taking the picture, is missing and Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*) who is the newest. I beg of you to show them to Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and her family and at another time we'll send some to Margarita.

How have all of you been? Over here, we're well, except that, as always, our grandmother hovers between life and death. Let it be for God! I have many things to tell you, but with the worry of our sick one (grandmother) I can't do it now, but I will as soon as it's possible. Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) spent last week with me, but she left on Saturday. Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) comes over frequently, spends a few days here and then goes back, so we're able to help each other in this way. *Pobrecitas!* They send me whatever they can. Manuelita sends beans and Elenita gives us groceries and already-made clothes. Maria (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) writes to me frequently from Mexico City.

Leave the machine for a time over there, and please don't send the ritual to us yet.

Loving regards to all the family and tell them I'm praying that they'll have a holy Lent. As to who should be the replacement for Luisa, I don't know what to tell you. Only you can decide because you're the one who sees the sisters all the time. May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Conception

Another Sister wrote the following:

Mamacita (Mother Luisita) says not to send any letters to this address. Wait for the new one. Don't send the machine.

Letter 420

Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

February 11, 1935

For Maria de Lourdes (*Mary of Lourdes*).

My very dear daughter,

I didn't want today to pass without greeting you with affection on

this, your feastday. May you have many of these days! Happy feastday! **May the Immaculate Conception be your star leading you to heaven, your model for living on earth and your consolation in this valley of tears.**

You must have received a letter from me a few days ago. I sent it with Maria, and I do hope you received it.

I feel that the more time passes, the greater my desire grows to see all of you again. At the same time, my enemy, the cold weather, is still at work bothering me. Not only that. It was announced that during this month we'll even experience some sleet. We'll have to wait and see if the following month will be any warmer because if becomes too cold for me, it could be fatal. **God our Lord will determine what is best for me.**

May you keep well and use the time that God our Lord gives you [for your sanctification].

Good-bye, daughter. **May our Blessed Mother bless you and cover you with her mantle.**

Conception

Letter 421

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

February 20, 1935

My very dear daughter, Conchita,

What a joy it is for me to greet you, knowing that you're well and happy. I was already worrying about you all and you know what the imagination can do!

I'll tell Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) to bring you to see Albertin (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*), and it's only honest to say that I want to see you, too.

It is good for you to talk to Cata. You can trust her. She has a heart that lends itself to that and she'll be very happy when she sees that

you can count on her. Greet her for me, and the same to her husband, whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet. Please let them know of my gratitude and thank them, in my name, for all the good they are doing for you.

I'm so glad you have a job, so you can help support both your mother and yourself. Blessed be God!
Remember me before the Lord of mercy.

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

Conception

Letter 422
Efigenia

February 21, 1935

My dear daughter,

Ay, Efigenita (*a laywoman, a close friend of Mother Luisita*)! You'll understand how mortified I've been these last days. Fortunately, Amelia consoled me with the information she gave me about the family. The letters I received were also a consolation to me.

I've been suffering from a strong cold and cough, but I haven't felt any fever. I've been trying to get up a little later and to go to bed earlier, out of my fear for the cold weather. That seems to have helped me because, given my chronic aches and pains, the cold always contributes to my getting worse.

I'm very glad that your husband and the boys are working now, *pobrecitos*! Your children are very good, so it was to be expected that Our Lord would help them. I hope they'll be able to settle there.

The little child is leaving in very good health and is very pretty. May God our Lord forbid that the outing would be bad for him.

Good-bye, daughter. May you remain in good health and may Our Lord bless you.

Conception

Letter 423
Sister Genevieve of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Ascencio
Bautista
(who changed her name to Sister Maria Luisa)

February 21, 1935

My dear daughter, Genevieve,

With all my soul I thank you for your loving letter. May God reward you.

It gives me great pleasure to know that you're hard at work in your studies. Your Father (*God our Father*) is very happy because of that, for in that way you'll be able to help Him. He wants you to learn as much as you can. But you must eat and sleep well, take little breaks during the day, and keep in good health lest you become ill due to imprudence. I think you've been over there for a very long time, and I'd like so very much to see you, so whenever it would be possible, let them bring you over.

Pray to the Lord of mercy for me whenever you visit Him and try to be a very good girl.

Good-bye, and may you profit very much from your classes. May God bless you.

Maria

Letter 424
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

February 27, 1935

My beloved daughter, Carmelita,

Here I'm, still trying to make the trip to Mexico City, but it just hasn't been possible because the winter has been so very cold. Besides, my Uncle Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in*

Guadalajara) will not consent to my going unless you're here to take care of the house, and that's where the greatest difficulty lies because how can you leave Tere by herself? How is she getting along? Is she a little better? Is she sleeping well? Please tell me frankly how things are because I surely don't want her to get sick again.

Grandmother (*the persecuted Church*) is very ill, and that's why I haven't written to you, but as soon as she gets well, then I shall. I'm not even able to read the letters, so tell Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) and Ignacia (*Sister Mary Ignatius of Jesus*) not to write.

Good-bye, daughter. May Our Lord bless you. Please give my regards to all the family.

Maria

Letter 425

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, February 28, 1935

My dear Margie,

As usual, I'm very grateful to you and I want to thank you for your good will in wanting this poor old woman to go up there to bother you. I can do nothing but be most grateful, from the bottom of my heart. God reward you, daughter. Maybe I'll not be able to go there before May, but I'd like very much to make the trip before that. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) is busy with Teresita's (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez Jimenez*) girls since she's been sick. She can't stay alone with the girls as the closing of the school is almost upon us. If Teresita gets stronger and is capable of working, which I doubt, I'll be able to make the trip before. Not in March, however, but I'll be very happy if it could be at the end of April. My difficulty is that I may not be able to get a companion until May when the examinations are over. Then I'll be able to get a companion and I'll enjoy seeing the new little house (*chapel*) already fixed up. We'll

rejoice with you and give thanks to God our Lord for the great blessing that He has granted us. We have to do the will of God. Ask Our Lord to permit me to make the trip because even if it can't be for the day of the feast, I still would like to go very much.

It's a good idea if you send Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) and Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) the orders for what you're asking and don't worry about it.

Also, I think that what you plan to do with the parents of the T.B. girls is a very good idea. We must suffer the weaknesses of our neighbor.

I'm going to Mexico City and will write you from there.

I forgot to send the pictures to Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*). Please show them to her. The names of the girls in the pictures are in Mary's letter. Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholino Rodriguez*) is sending you her picture, but I've misplaced it. As soon as I find it, I'll send it to you, unless I enclosed it in Mary's letter.

Very affectionate greetings to all the family (*community*) and to Mr. Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*).

Good-bye, daughter and God bless you.

Conception

P.S. I almost forgot to tell you that Grandmother (*the persecuted Church*) is grievously ill. This is why I don't write. Nor do I read the letters which my daughters write to me. I would even prefer it if they didn't write.

Letter 426
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

March 11, 1935

My dear daughter, Carmelita,

I'm worried because Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is alone, but it's impossible for me to go because of my illness. The bronchitis is still bad. I feel like I've a boiling pot of tamales (*a main dish of meat and hot chile and other seasonings*) inside me. Please go to see my Uncle Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) and tell him what is happening to me and be frank about Teresita's condition so that he can be the one to decide what should be done. As soon as my health, and Our Lord, too, will permit me to leave, I'll go but send me something for the expenses because I barely brought what is absolutely necessary.

Loving regards to all the family. Find out how everyone is and if they've moved to another house.

(*This letter is from mamacita (little mother) who is running a fever and can't write.*)

Consuelo de J. B.

Letter 427
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

March 14, 1935

My dear daughter,

There is only one letter which I still haven't received, the one you sent to Guadalajara. However, I did receive all the other ones you wrote after that one. Please don't send them to that address anymore, but to Maria Castellanos, c/o Trinita or Josefina, Avenida Guatemala 117, and either one will then deliver them to me.

I've had a phenomenal cold and am still a prisoner of the bedroom. I feel very weak and have a very bad cough with wheezing. Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) has been worrying me because she's alone and with so much work. I wish I could go back soon so that Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) could come back to help her, but God our Lord doesn't let me. If I go out in this

condition, the cold could turn into bronchial-pneumonia.

I'm so glad you had such a beautiful celebration. I'm very happy when I know you're happy.

Send Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos Ramirez*) as she wishes. A little old one is needed there, and you can bring Luz (*Sister Luz of St. Luisa Gonzaga Aceves*).

My regards to the family whom I do not forget before Our Lord and tell them I appreciated their letters very much. Good-bye.

Maria

P.S. Please give me again the Catalina Arambula's address. (*Catalina Arambula was the niece of Mother Luisita, the daughter of Mariquita de la Pena.*)

Letter 428
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

March 16, 1935

Very dear daughter, Carmelita,

I greet you with all my affection, hoping that this letter reaches you because I can tell you didn't receive my last one. I was anxiously awaiting your answer. I was telling you in it that my illness was advancing, that I felt my chest very tight, and to go out in this condition would be an invitation to pneumonia or another more serious illness than what I already have because I understand that it has been an acute bronchitis. I also told you to tell my uncle (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) what I'm going through, and for him to decide whatever he sees fit. I'm worried about Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) being alone with all that work. I promised him that I would go as soon as I'm able, something that I'd like to do very much. I was also asking you to please send me a money order for \$32.00 (pesos) to buy my ticket.

I'm writing this letter from the bed. I only get up a little and then I've to come right back. I feel very weak and the weather is too cold, cloudy, and rainy for me.

Loving regards to the family and ask them to pray to God I'll be able to go back soon.

Maria

Letter 429
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

March 25, 1935

My dear daughter, Carmelita,

What a great joy it was for me to receive your letter. May God reward you. I would have answered right away but I was hoping to be there in person very soon. I went to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and I got sick and now I'm wheezing again. Let it be for God!

I already sent word for Genoveva (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascencio Bautista who later returned to her baptismal name and became Sister Luisa Maria Ascencio Bautista*) to go help Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*). She's bright and can help a lot, and without comparing the two, I think she'll help even more than Jesus Teresa (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*). I also take you up on your offer. Please do whatever you can for her.

Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) is telling me that Juana de la Cruz (*Sister St. John of the Cross Dominguez*) would like to get married the first Friday in June. You inform the family (*General Council*) so that they will be able to give their consent and then you can simply tell her "Yes."

I appreciate my uncle's (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) concern about my health. Tell him about the setback I experienced when I went to tell Our Blessed Mother good-bye.

I received the money order. May God reward you. So, now I have the money ready for my ticket.

May God grant that you all continue in good health and that we'll see each other very soon. I've been wanting so very much to visit with all of you, but Our Lord has determined something else for me with this illness.

Good-bye, daughter, and my loving regards to all the family (*sisters*).

Maria

P.S. I'm also mailing the prescription for your good eye that gets watery because of the medicine.

Letter 430
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

March 25, 1935

My very beloved daughter,

You have no idea how grateful I'm for your letters and for the \$5.00 (pesos) you sent me. May God reward you, daughter. I got the injections you suggested and I've tried to take care of myself, but don't feel well yet. I am feeling as though I'm all worn out and without any strength to go out on the road. My uncle (*the Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) sent word saying for me not to go out until I'm feeling better because I could arrive there with pneumonia.

I'm sure you understand my worrying about Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) because she's alone with so much work. Send Genoveva (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascensio Bautista who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa of the Holy Face Ascensio Bautista*) right away to help her and once the exams are over, she can return to continue her courses on cloth-cutting and bookkeeping.

How have you all been? I'm very concerned, and especially about you.

I learned that Lucita (*Sister Luz of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Aceves*) is with you. I can imagine how happy she is. Give her my best and the same for the rest of the family.

Try to avoid embarrassing situations like the one that happened with the girl. Go over the procedures regarding going out, but making sure it's always with a companion.

The girls (*sisters*) here have enrolled in the complete business curriculum. They are very enthusiastic about it. I hope they complete it successfully, and I also do hope that their diploma will be recognized. It would be good if Genoveva could take it also once she finishes helping Teresita.

There is an academy here where they're teaching knitting, crocheting, painting, fashionable embroidering; a diploma is given at the completion of the course. As you're free, you should come with one of the girls (*sisters*) to take those classes. Tomorrow they're going to bring me a set of samples that my niece Margarita made.

Good-bye, daughter. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Do you happen to know where my pass (*train pass*) to Los Angeles is? If you remember, send it with the first trustworthy person, even though I don't think I can go soon.

Letter 431

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

March 25, 1935

My dearest daughter, Teresita,

Your loving letter arrived. May God reward you, daughter.

In view of circumstances which aren't allowing me to travel because my chest is so congested, I just told Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) to send Genoveva (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascensio Bautista who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa Ascensio Bautista*) over there to help you out, and I hope you can use her. She is docile.

Just wait and see how soon we'll be with each other again! I'll call you when you're on vacation.

Take good care of your health. Eat and sleep well and try to find some kind of entertainment to distract yourself.

I want this letter to go out right now, so I'll finish it here. My regards to Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*). Tell her, in my name, that Genoveva is going there to help you, and that I'll be writing to her shortly.

My regards to all the family (*community*) whom I remember in prayer before Our Blessed Virgin.

Good-bye, daughter.
May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 432
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

March 27, 1935

My dear daughter,

I just read your letter and I'm answering you right away.

Leave Genoveva (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascensio*

Bautista who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa of the Holy Face Ascension Bautista) there then, and tell Teresita (Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez) to continue as she is. It can't be done any other way.

It wouldn't be right for you to come and then go back right away, but, yes, please come and spend a few days. I would also be most happy to go over to see you and thank you for your kind offer to come and pick me up, but I don't want you to run the risk of becoming even sicker in this weather. If it's possible, leave one of the girls in your place and come over here soon because I'm worrying about your illnesses.

Since I didn't receive the letter in which you're asking me for some things, I don't know what to tell you. It's a fact that it remained in Guadalajara.

I'm very sorry that Helio is leaving for Guadalajara. Could you come over here while he's gone?

In June, Gabrielita (*Sister Gabriela of the Sorrowful Mother Agraz*) will be getting some help.

The girls (*sisters*) here are earnestly taking their manual arts classes. Good-bye, daughter, and my regards to the girls (*sisters*) and to Catalina (*Mother Luisita's niece*).

Maria

Letter 433

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

March 28, 1935

My dear daughter, Socorrito,

Pobrecita! I know that I haven't written to you but now I do so with much pleasure. I've received your letter and also those from the girls (*sisters*) and I deeply appreciated them. May God reward you all!

If the doctor says that Piedad (*Sister Piedad of Jesus Arquieta*) is well enough to get married (*to make profession of vows*), please choose another date. Don't allow the ceremony to be on the exact day she's requested. It has so many memories! Any other day would be fine.

Our Lord is the One who has stopped me by sending me this illness. I'm still not very well, but we should take into consideration that when I arrived here the weather was so cold that we even had hail. However, now that the temperature is relatively mild, I hope my health will improve.

Twice I've had the immense joy of going to visit Our Blessed Mother in her basilica, and both times I had all of you present within my heart. I know that twice is not very much, but I've unfortunately had to spend the greater part of my stay here indoors because of my illness--so much so, that I haven't even attended Mass.

I know that you're all well through a letter I received from Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*), and this makes me very happy. Convey my thanks to my little "granddaughters" (*novices*) for their kind letters and the funny photographs. Gema and Lola made me laugh heartily with the pictures they drew of themselves. Please give both of them my best regards.

Remind Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) that the girls (*postulants*) have completed three months of training already and that they need their exams (*evaluation reports*).

Good-bye, my daughter. Give my best to all the family (*the sisters*) and your neighbors. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Go immediately to Ana Maria Padilla and ask her if the taxes are being paid and to fix that up in case they're not.

Letter 434

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, March 30, 1935

My dear Margie,

I begin this letter with my heartfelt congratulations for the new house (*chapel*) Our Lord has granted you the privilege of building. Let's hope that my physical condition will not prevent me from seeing and enjoying it at the end of May. As you've learned, Mexico City welcomed me with bronchitis. I was in bed for the day of your feast (*March 17*) so it wasn't possible for me to go, but from here, I accompanied you. I imagine how you prepared for it and how happy you were on the very day, naturally, with all the people you invited. We'll have another celebration when I go, and I look forward to it with great anticipation. It seems to me that it will be easier to go through Laredo (*Texas*) as it's only three days from here. A lady in Laredo has offered her house to us for me to rest, and she'll also help us in El Paso. I'll let you know, as the time approaches, when I'm leaving and who my companion will be. You know very well what a great desire I have to go.

The brother and sister (*Monsignor Jose Huerta and his sister*) of your old boss (*Msgr. Edward Huerta was the pastor or 'boss'*) said they would like to be my companions but they are so sick I doubt it would be possible, and I'm sorry that what they want so very much can't be realized. They're so good!

I may be going over to Guadalajara tomorrow or the day after. I'll let you know. It's now the first of April.

Greetings to the family (*community*). Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 435
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

April 1, 1935

Very esteemed daughter, Carmelita,

After greeting you I want you to know that I don't have bronchitis

anymore, and I'm able to go there to see you. Please inform my uncle (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) about this, and ask him if he thinks it would be all right for me to go or would it be better for me to remain because of the condition of our grandmother (*the persecuted Church*). Ask him to please give me his permission. My frail health, together grandmother's grave condition, makes me become sick, also, and yet I'll still go if he so determines. Tell me immediately of his answer. Send me a telegram and I'll be able to leave tomorrow, April 2. My regards to the family (*sisters*).

Maria

P.S. Ask uncle, in case grandmother does get better, if he would give me permission to go visit Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*), being that she's so close by.
M.

Letter 436

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

April 4, 1935

My very dear daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you and all the family (*community*) with much love. I wish you every good thing.

It would be just fine for Maria de Jesus Flores (*Sister Francis Xavier Flores*) to help Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) in her shop (*school*). Invite her. It will be very beneficial to her.

My bronchitis is finally going away, but I had to remain in my bed in order to get well. I feel much better now, thanks be to God. I'm thinking about remaining here in the Capital (*Mexico City*) for a few days.

Whenever I visited Our Lady of Guadalupe, I had you and your girls (*sisters*) in my thoughts. How are all of you? How are Cuquita (*Sister Refugio*) and Jesus Teresa (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the*

Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega) doing?

Take good care of your health and stay well so that, hopefully, we will be able to see each other again, and soon.

Maria Castellanos

Letter 437

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Chavez Martinez
(under the name of Miss Efigenia Castrejon)**

April 5, 1935

Miss Efigenia Castrejon

My dear daughter,
I'm deeply grateful for your kind wishes and those of your girls (*sisters*). May God reward you. I thank you and in due time, I'll be writing to you all.

It has been a consolation for me to learn that you have such excellent neighbors and that you now have work to do, something which I hope you'll always have.

I did think of going to stay with Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*), but I didn't dare do it because she's so close to you and grandmother's (*the religious persecution*) condition is very serious right now. As soon as she either gets better or dies, then I'll be able to go and spend a few days with you, but it will have to be a short visit.

I don't need what I asked you for, so don't go to Guadalajara just for that. In case there is a possibility for you to give the clothes to the girls (*sisters*), go ahead and do it, but don't promise it to them because I know that you're also short of funds.

When I go there or to Guadalajara, I'll get my little presents for the first of April. The *arrayanes* (*a fruit*) preserves will be impossible to send by mail because of the juice, and to send it via express would be very expensive, so it would be better for you to send me a little bit of chocolate. You know I take a little of that in the afternoons.

You make me very happy telling me that Celina (*Sister Carmen Celina of the Child Jesus de la Torre Gonzalez*) has improved very much in her embroidery, and that she is beginning to cut clothes also. I'm hoping that she'll become an expert. Those two things will be very useful for her in the future. If Genoveva (*Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face Ascensio Bautista who returned to her Baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa*) is unable to continue with the cloth-cutting course, she can leave it for later on. Over here (*the United States*), the business course isn't called bookkeeping. Bookkeeping is an extra subject which is included in another curriculum called advanced business school. The program here (*in the United States*) is different from the one in Jalisco. The girls (*sisters*) here have improved very much, but the fact that they're very earnest in their studies, contributes very much to their success.

My affectionate regards to all the family (*community*) and I hope that we'll be seeing each other soon. Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 438
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

April 5, 1935

My very dear daughter, Carmelita,

It is all right for "Chuy" (*Maria de Jesus*) and Maria to go with Socorro. I hope they'll be happy.

Do what you think needs to be done with the machine you were telling me about and see to it that they fix the old one. You could ask Manuel, my nephew. His employer would be able to order it [the new machine] or you could find another merchant.

I deeply appreciate Dr. Gonzalez Arechiga's prescription and tell him that I'm well-covered, as he suggests. Give him my regards and tell him also that I'm working on his recommendation (*praying for his intentions*) and that I'll continue doing it as long as I live.

My daughter, I would be grateful if you would send me the clothes I left behind. The injections that were prepared for me to use when I got dizzy are still at Socorro's house and also a little tube of granules that Dr. Navarro had given me. They might still be in the little night stand that was in my sister Concha's home.

The doctor's opinion is that the climate and altitude of Mexico City aren't good for me. I had thought of going over to where Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) is staying, but I don't have the courage to leave you. Perhaps I can still be of use to you somehow, even if it is from here. Whatever you need, please don't hesitate to ask. Now with grandmother's (*the persecuted Church*) serious condition, I can only be with you in spirit. In case she dies, and you won't be able to remain there any longer because of lack of work, there is plenty of sewing to do here.

The girls (*sisters*) make dresses for little girls. These jobs come from a factory. Therefore, there is plenty of work and you'll be able to support yourselves. I'll go over to Maria's when grandmother is better.

I think it would be a very good idea for Maria de Jesus Flores (*Sister Maria Francis Xavier Flores*) to help Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) in her shop (*school*). I've learned that she was in the Pueblito ("*little town*" of *Atotonilco*). If she is now there with you, invite her, and if it's possible, both you and Teresita can join in her vacation while she is there with you because that's what she would like.

I hope that the injections, or rather the prescription for Jesus T. (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) are in the night stand in either Concha's (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) house, or in Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house. Look for them.

I'm deeply grateful for the notes that I've received from the girls as well as their valuable gifts (*spiritual bouquets*). Thank them for me and tell them I shall be writing to each and every one of them personally. Please give them my regards and let them know I

received their letters precisely on the first.

Give my regards to Socorro and her family (*local community*), and ask her if she received the letter I sent a few days ago. I addressed it to Conchita Gonzalez, fearing that she might have moved already.

Good-bye, daughter. Give my regards to Alberto, Delfina and her family and to Mr. Alfonso. May God bless you.

Maria Tomasa Carrillo

P.S. Send us the typewriter. Chuy (*Maria de Jesus*) had it but now that she's graduated, I suppose she already has turned it in to you.

Letter 439

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

April 6, 1935

My beloved daughter, Mary,

I greet you with much affection and praying that all is well.

The same day on which I wrote to Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*), just as I was closing her letter, I wrote you a few lines regarding Juanita's wedding (*Sister St. John of the Cross Dominguez*). I had already sent yours when Lupe's (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez's*) letter arrived, which I'm herein enclosing so that you will be able to read and answer it.

I appreciate very much that you missed me on the day of your beautiful feast. I would have been very happy to attend, but that was impossible because I had severe bronchitis during those days.

Now, even though it would be easier for me to travel via either El Paso or Laredo, since there would be fewer travel days, nevertheless, I hesitate to leave my family (*community*) alone because grandmother's (*religious persecution*) sickness is now critical. As soon as she gets better we'll see each other in that house. I have a great longing to see you. I'm anxious to see you

because three years seem a very long time without seeing you. As long as grandmother's condition remains so grave, I'll stay in Mexico City. Please tell Lupe, my sister, and Ramon (*Mother Luisita's brother*) of my plans to go there to spend a little time because I want to see them as well as their little children.

Before I came from Guadalajara your mother, Conchita, and Aurelio (*Mother Mary's brother*) came to see me and gave me the news of Aurelio's (*Mother Mary's brother's*) marriage. That was the reason why Conchita went to see me. Aurelio senior did not go. No one can get him out of the house for anything, but his health is good.

Through a letter that Maria received, via Mrs. Huerta, I learned that you and Margarita have both been sick. How are the two of you doing now? I'm a little better myself.

Regards to all the family (*community*). Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 440

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

April 8, 1935

My dear Margie,

I greet you with all affection, my dear friend. When will I have the joy of seeing you?

Please excuse this short note on this very poor piece of paper, but circumstances require it. I've a lot of sewing to do. (*Mother Luisita means that she's very short of funds*).

I'm writing to tell you about a friend of mine who finds herself in difficult financial circumstances and wishes to sell an orchard (*Mother Luisita is referring to her own family's orchard called "La Labor."* She wanted an American citizen to be the buyer of this orchard to protect the community from losing it, but she did not intend that any money be transacted.) She wants to know if you'll be able to buy it with the money you've saved in that country. It's a

real bargain. So, dear friend, you're already an American citizen and already have your citizenship papers. Answer me immediately and tell me if this is true because she may not want to sell the orchard to people from another country. You know how much provincialism there is in our Mexico. In case you buy that orchard, perhaps, you'll have to give the power of attorney to someone here so they can take care of the deeds. Well, think it over very carefully, and if you wish to purchase that very beautiful piece of property, let me know soon.

Good-bye, dear friend. Greetings to your mother and sister.

Maria Carillo

Letter 441

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

Mexico, April 10, 1935

Miss Socorro Cholico

My beloved daughter, to whom I wish the peace of God!

I happily received your latest letter. A few days ago I received your other letter--the one in which you enclosed the letters from your daughters (*novices*). I greatly appreciated them and I did answer right away. I addressed a letter to Conchita Gonzalez (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart's mother*) for you and am very sorry you didn't receive it. In it I was apologizing for not having written to you and I had enclosed a message for Ana Maria. Her father wanted to know if the taxes on his property had been paid yet. The orchard that Carmelita sold to him is also in danger. If those taxes aren't paid, the results will be fatal. I was also telling you in that letter that Piedad (*Sister Piedad of Jesus Arquieta*) could get married (*make profession of vows*) only if she's totally well. If not, we'll have to wait until the doctor says she's well enough to do so. Moreover, she can have the ceremony on any day you choose except on the day she mentioned. In the same letter I brought up the fact that the little girls (*postulants*) should already be evaluated, since they've been in for three months and the older one for nine months already. I wonder if that letter got lost.....

Stop wasting your time thinking of what you told me and of what I told you. Be at peace! This must be a temptation from the devil.

It is a great consolation and joy that the girls (*postulants and novices*) are happy and behaving very well. Blessed be God! Do they have enough to eat? I worry sometimes that they might not have what is essential.

My bronchitis is better and so is my appetite. Everything I tried to eat tasted insipid even though the sisters tried to prepare "little goodies" for me. Now, however, everything tastes delicious.

I decided to wait out the serious illness of grandmother (*religious persecution*) over here. When things get a little better, then we shall see. Take extreme precautions with the girls (*sisters*) so that they'll not get infected. Get together with Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) so you will be able to put into effect all possible means of avoiding the least danger of contagion! *Pobrecitas*, whom I love so much. Give them my affectionate regards and tell them, also, that I'm sorry to hear that Esperanza (*Sister Maria Esperanza of St. Joseph Gomez*) is sick. May God grant the restoration of her health!

As you've been the person who has spoken more at length with Victor (*Mr. Victor Gonzalez Luna, a lawyer*), it would be good for you to accompany Carmelita to see him and ask if it would be safe to sell what we have.

Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez*) is becoming a citizen of the U.S. She was missing the last papers but is expecting them soon. I asked her if she had them already, and in the event that her answer is yes, I'll inform Jose and Abundio (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) because they should know about it.

Good-bye, my daughter. May Our Lord bless you. Answer me through Miss Soledad, the bearer of this letter.

When you write to me by mail, send the letter to Mar Espiridino 16.
Tacuba, D.F.

Maria

Letter 442
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Note: Only half of this letter has been preserved. The leading dots indicate where the expression or phrase is not finished.

On the front:

Mexico City, April 10, 1935

Miss Carmen Chavez, [Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez]

My beloved daughter,

I greatly fear that you didn't receive the immediate answer you wanted, but which I sent to you as soon as I had read your letter. In it I was asking you to send me the clothes I left behind, the injections for dizziness that Gonzalez Arechiga had prescribed and which are at Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house and, also, the little bottle of granules that Dr. Pablo Navarro gave me. I think the bottle is in the night stand in my sister Concha's home. Please greet her for me. The same to Pachita (*Pachita Rivera was especially loved by Mother Luisita. Pachita had worked in the de la Pena home and had cared for Mother Luisita's mother during the last years of her life*) and tell both of them, that if they would like to go to the United States, Lupe (*Mother Luisita's own sister, Lupita, who lived at that time in the United States*) wrote to me telling me to bring Pachita, also, with me.

I was telling you that I'll put off going to go see Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) until we see how grandmother (*the persecuted Church*) is getting along. I want to remain here and be sure that you all are all right, and be with you in spirit that we will be able to suffer together. God our Lord

On the reverse side:

..... also with Jose and Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) after Victor sees that it's a good buy.

A friend of my nephew, Chuy (*Monsignor Jose de Jesus Angulo, who later became the Bishop of Tabasco*), came to ask for personnel from our family. He wants to establish a school, but he would like to begin with an academy in a town in the State of Michoacan, adjacent to the State of Mexico, near Toluca. "*Es mineral*" (*literally, "it is mineral"--this could be that there are mineral waters, that is, water with a salt solution in it, or it could also mean a town where there are mines*) and it has a good climate. It's called "*El Punto Tlalpujahua*" (*Point Tlalpujahua--A foundation was made in this town but it was closed at a later date. Mother Ines Angelica Olvera O. was a vocation to the Congregation from this little town*). I told him to submit his petition in writing to Papa Grande (*the Archbishop*), stipulating how much we would be paid and the other details. If he brings the permission and if there is a private messenger, I'll send it to you, and in view of the proposition they make, get the family together (*have a General Council Meeting*) and see if it is God's will for us. Come to an agreement with Jose (*Monsignor Jose de Jesus Angulo, who later became the Bishop of Tabasco*) and Abundio (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) and in accordance with everyone's opinion, and having obtained the permission in writing, tell me if you if this meets with the approval of all of you and if you have the license.

Over here, the girls (*sisters*) are very enthusiastic studying their commercial careers (*typing, shorthand, accounting, etc.*). It was very difficult for them to continue their secondary school, and they had to transfer so that they could at least acquire their commercial certificate so they didn't waste any time. They're with a lady teacher

On the back of the letter:

.....family go to work in Laredo because they're so.....

.....lives there and he(she) has very good friend connections and dis.....

.....says that we can work there. Write to papacito immediately di.....

.....does to us for him to decide and let me know soon because the gentleman.....I can go, I'll see if it is possible.

My regards to everyone. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 443

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

Mexico, April 13, 1935

My unforgettable and beloved daughter, Teresita,

With great pleasure I received your little letter. May God reward you.

How very much I've been thinking of you! Every time I see the Child [Jesus] in the Chapel of Popotla, I pray for you (I see Him every morning!) He's surrounded by toys, and the people show great devotion which I now share.

Daughter, pray to Our Lord to grant me the grace of going over to see you. I'm longing to and hoping that He'll allow me to do it. If I continue recuperating as well as I'm now, I'll go see Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and you, even though I don't really think that I'll get well. But that's the way it is with me--sometimes I feel all right and the next minute I feel as if I'm dying. You must have known that I had bronchitis and spent several days in bed without any appetite and not liking any food. All food tasted horrible to me. I don't remember ever feeling like this before.

I'm hoping you'll do well in your exams. Just you see how well you'll do!

As always, I want you to eat well and take your warm milk before you go to bed, so you will be able to sleep well. I want you to be very healthy, very *gordita* (*putting on alot more weight*) and happy. Try to become as I'm praying that you will be--content.

I'm glad you're going to be wearing new dresses.

Warm regards to Elvira and Victoria. Tell them that they'll be granted what they desire (*to enter the Congregation*). Lupita is very good, and I'm sure she'll agree. In the meantime, Elvira should practice a great deal of patience and wait peacefully for whatever amount of time is necessary, and Victoria should pray that it will be granted to her in July. On your part, get the necessary information as to what kind of sicknesses the family may have suffered and find out if any sickness is hereditary. By way of summary, get all the necessary information from them so that they will be able to enter the boarding house (*novitiate*). Then when you see that it is possible, start making the arrangements. Good-bye, daughter. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 444
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

Mexico City, April 15, 1935
My dear daughter, Carmelita,

I've received your letter and am answering it as you've asked. You have the permission you want.

I hope you received my letter which was hand-carried by Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*). How have you been? As for myself, I'm a little better from my ever present aches and pains, but now my nose is giving me trouble with pimples inside the pores and the same ill feeling I had that time when I went to Dr. Gomez, who prescribed some kind of powder to clean my stomach and ordered lab work. Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) was the one who went with me that time. I wish she could go see the doctor and remind him of who I'm so that he could

renew the same prescription and refill it because it was doing me good. Now I even think that I perceive my own bad odor. Please look for it (*she is referring to the bottle of granules*) in Socorro's house, or in the night stand that was in Concha's house.

Loving regards to all the family (*sisters*) and may you have a very happy Easter.

Good-bye.

Maria

P.S. I'll be writing to the girls (*sisters*) and answering their loving letters.

Letter 445
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

April 15, 1935

My dear daughter,

I've received with great joy the very good chocolate and excellent cheese with almonds. I'm very grateful to you, to the girls, and to Brulita who made it. Thank her and greet her for me.

I'm in agreement with having an outing to the countryside, but be very prudent. Don't, as (*Doctor*) Gonzalez Arechiga says, let any "bad event" happen to you and I hope you'll enjoy yourselves.

It will be better for "Pera" to wait until August or September. Tell this to Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*).

I'm feeling much better, blessed be to God.

I want to write to my little friends in that town. As soon as I'm able, I will. In the meantime, would you please greet them for me?

Good-bye. A blessed Easter to you.

Maria

P.S. The gentleman's name is not Agustin. That's why the mail carrier didn't want to leave the letter. It will be better if you address it to Miss Elena Curiel, Mar Espiridino # 16, Tacuba, D.F.

Letter 446
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

April 24, 1935

My very beloved daughter,

With great affection I greet you and the girls (*sisters*). May everything be well with you.

There was an error in the address I gave you. The correct address is Lago Espiridino 18, Elenita Curiel's home. Because she is so well-known, fortunately, the letter was delivered despite the wrong address. It was the one where you were asking me to tell Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) to have "Pera" wait a little longer.

With the consent of Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez, who was Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez's cousin*), a member of her family wrote to me requesting that I go there. I don't know if she is sick, or only God knows what other need they might have. But now I'm worried. God willing, Maria and I'll leave tomorrow, Thursday, via El Paso. I'll write to you upon our arrival. In the meantime pray to God that it won't be anything serious, and don't forget me in your prayers.

What you're suggesting regarding the girls of Maria de J. (*Sister Maria of Jesus*) seems all right to me.

In case Trinita (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) is there, ask her in my name to kindly do me the favor of bringing Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias*)

Estrada). Greet her for me and the same for Mariquita (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*).

I wish to send this off immediately, so I'll stop here.

Good-bye, daughter, My regards to all the girls (*sisters*) and tell them I'm feeling much better now.

Maria

Letter 447

Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

May 2, 1935

My beloved daughter (*Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba*),

I greet you with great affection to let you know that I arrived safely last Monday, and I'm well. My only concern is about you, who are so far away. Let it be for God!

How is everyone? It would give me great pleasure to receive a little letter from you.

Good-bye, daughter.

Thank the girls (*sisters*) for their little letters and give them my regards. Tell them I'm truly thankful for their loving little letters.

May God bless you.

Maria

Letter 448

Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo

May 2, 1935

My beloved daughter,

I'm writing just to let you know that I arrived safely last Monday. I'm

concerned about you all, as any mother would be. Write to me and tell me how you're.

My regards to all the family. I'm well, and am feeling a little better.

Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 449

Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(Note: This letter was written by another sister in the name of our Mother Luisita. The ending sentences were written by Mother Luisita herself.)

Queen of Angels Hospital (Los Angeles, California)
May 28, 1935

My dear little cousin, Maria del Refugio,

In the name of *mamacita* (*little mother*) I'm writing to you because she's unable to do it. She's been very sick.

She says she's sorry that you're so ill and that she thinks of you very much, wishing you were over here (*in California*), and that perhaps you would even get well here. Mother Luisita adds that if there is money, now is the time for them to send you here with Mariquita Pena who is coming, even if you only spend the summer with us. She believes that with the food we have over here you would improve, and that if she doesn't die, she'll remember to do what you asked about your cousin Maria.

Mother Luisita says to pray to God our Lord very much for her because the illness that our Lord has sent her is serious, but not to worry because "*que es poca la ventaja que se han de llevar*" (*the advantage they'll get is very little--difficult to translate. editor*). Pray also to your D.E. (*Divine Spouse*) for your little sister who loves you and prays to God for you.

Francisca Teresa, C.D.T.

(Mother Luisita) Cuquita, look! I'm sending you a little greeting with my own handwriting, wishing for you to be well and always in God's hands. That's the best.

Maria

**Letter 450
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez**

June 1, 1935

My very dear daughter, Carmelita,

With the little strength I have left, I'm writing you these lines. I'm better, but not out of danger. The infection doesn't disappear. Only God knows what will be the end of this. Pray for me.

When I was there, Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) told me that the doctor wanted to go see her to talk about Elvira's problem (*Dr. Esteban Martin del Campo was a benefactor of the hospital in Atotonilco and the father of Elvira who took the name of Sister Maria Dolores of the Blessed Sacrament*). I gave her my instructions and I authorized her to arrange the meeting. As my return from Guadalajara was so sudden, I didn't get to see you and let you know about this. I've been so sick that I did not even think to tell you about it. Is Elena going there each month as was the custom? If because of her many occupations she hasn't been able to go, make her go and try to see to it that the family keeps its unity, for I think that it's your sacred obligation to watch this.

In case I might die soon, I want to see you so that I will be able to give you some instructions because it's impossible for me to do it in writing. God knows. Tell Him to let you know if I get worse.

I wish I could write to everyone, but that would be impossible. But I haven't forgotten you and I am shedding tears for you.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Don't forget the celebration for Juana Bermas (*Sister Juana Maria Berkmans Garcia who left the Congregation*).

Today is the second. I woke up a little better and without any teeth. Last night they extracted the last ones I had.

I was telling you in my letter that I'd like Maria del Refugio (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*), to come over to see if it would be possible for her to get well here, but on second thought it's better that she doesn't because I was told that this climate is not good for people with lung problems-- that on the contrary, it's worse. Don't send her after all.

Letter 451
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

June 6, 1935

My very dear daughter, Carmela,

I received your delayed letter because the address was incomplete. I'm sending you the correct one in this letter.

Thanks be to God, I came out of the hospital already but the infection is still lingering. Yesterday I saw the doctor and he told me that if it got any worse to let him know immediately. I'm still, therefore, in danger. Doctor mentioned that it was one of the worst infections he has ever seen.

As the rainy season approaches, as you tell me, please ask Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) about Carmela Moreno (*Sister Veronica of Christ Moreno, who left the Congregation*) and the young lady Benjamin recommended, and the other Lopez girl as well. Find out if they still want to go on vacation with all the other girls, and if it is that way, you will be able to make the necessary arrangements. Teresita's (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) girls wrote to me asking for permission for them to go, too, but it won't be possible for everyone to go at the same time because there are no accommodations. Let some go now and the others can go

afterwards.

I think it's prudent to give in to [Father] Alfredo to name the child (*new novice*) as he wishes.

From my heart I congratulate Piedad (*Sister Piedad of Jesus Arquieta*) very sincerely for her wedding, and I hope she'll always be very happy in her marriage. I'd like her to go some place to rest. She could go to Manuelita's (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) during the rainy season. Lastly, you arrange the vacations for the poor little girls, so that next year they'll be very happy and strong enough to come to the school. Teresita may come to Guadalajara also for a well-deserved change.

Poor Manuelita, it's difficult to overlook the love of Alberto's (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J. was the superior of the Jesuit Fathers*) children for her, and with good reason because they've grown up together. I wish it would be possible for Alberto to let one of them (*one of the Jesuit Fathers*) go spend some days with her (*probably Mother Luisita is asking for a Jesuit priest to give the sisters a retreat*) and that will make her very happy. Give him my regards.

Greetings to the family (*community*). Good-bye. Pray for me.

Maria

P.S. I agree that Victoria may accompany Elvira.

Carmela:

Please go to my sister, Refugio, and ask her for the document which states that my mother's money was loaned to Ramon and my sister Lupe (*Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Ugarte, Mother Luisita's sister and brother-in-law*) and then left to me. Many years have passed since that document was drawn up, and Cuca (*Mother Luisita's sister, Refugio*) put it away in the safety box. Please ask her to pick it up for me.

Was the amount given already for my mother's Masses?

Letter 452

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

June 17, 1935

Very beloved daughter, Manuelita,

With much love I greet and congratulate you on your day of days. May you spend it very happily.

How are you? Are your girls (*sisters*) all right? Several days have already passed since I've heard anything from you, and I'm preoccupied wondering about you all. Write soon so that I can be at peace.

As for myself, I've been feeling a little better. Today I have an appointment with the doctor, and if he allows me, I'll go to Margarita's (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) house this afternoon. So, if you write to me you should send it to that address.

I think of you very much and am happily looking forward to going back there to be with you all. If possible, I'll return either next month or at the beginning of August.

We were talking about you and both Maria Gutierrez and Maria Reynoso (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) asked me to convey their regards. Almost everyone remembers you often, but they don't send their greetings right now because they aren't aware that I'm writing to you.

Today, I received the three letters--Imelda's, Maria's, and yours. Please greet them for me and tell them I'll write to them shortly. Would you also tell Nacha (*Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar who left the congregation*) that I agree with her and will let her know when.

At this moment I'm leaving for Duarte (*California*), so I'll cut this letter short. Although my health is much improved, the doctor is still worried and wants me to continue coming for check-ups. Continue praying for me because I'm still with my aches and pains.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you. My regards to everyone and to Tomas and Benito.

Maria

Letter 453

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

June 22, 1935

My beloved daughter,

As fast as a bird can fly, I come to greet and congratulate you on your day of days, wishing with all my heart that it will be a very happy day for you and that Our Blessed Mother will obtain all the graces you need for your sanctification.

What's happened to you? You haven't written to me at all. What a naughty child who doesn't write to her poor mother. Amend yourself and do it when you can.

I'm better, but the doctor is still concerned, fearing that I might have a relapse. So he continues watching me ever since I was so gravely ill. At the last examination he thought that I was having a relapse, but then decided that I wasn't after all. I'm very weak, and by my handwriting you can see how shaky I'm.

I'm longing to see you all and I would be very happy to leave now, but I can't. May Our Lord grant me the grace of going back to die in my own country after seeing you all again.

[The sisters] here have been very kind to me. Yesterday there was a big party to congratulate me on the occasion of my feastday. I feel deeply grateful.

How is everyone? I want to send this soon, so I'll end it here. Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. In my name, thank the girls (*sisters*) for their little letters and prayers they offered for me and tell them that I'll be writing to them

soon.

Note: This letter could possibly have been written to Sister Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez, who was the Directress of Novices at the time.

Letter 454

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

July 4, 1935

My dear daughter, Carmela,

With much affection I greet you, wishing you God's peace.

I'm deeply grateful to all of you for the prayers which you've offered for the recovery of my health and the congratulatory letters which I've received with much joy. May God reward you all for your kindness to me.

I think it's a good idea to move from that house just as you suggest. Let's take advantage of this opportunity before someone else does.

It's all right for Carmen and her companion to wait six months before they begin their cloth-cutting and sewing practice, and the granddaughters of Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) can also wait until they finish the sixth grade.

Your mother (*Mother Luisita is referring to herself here*) was getting a little better and then she took a turn for the worse. Right now she's bedridden and the doctor said that if she continues that way he'll have to re-admit her to the hospital. As I understand it, she would need to have surgery again. Besides, her feet and eyelids are more swollen than usual. She wishes she could go back home to die, or for Dr. Gonzalez Arechiga to be her doctor again, but the best thing will be for her to resign herself and accept whatever God wants. Pray for her.

Carmelita: See to it that the girls (*sisters*) go back to their studies

as soon as they come back from vacation, but to really study very hard, and the same goes for Manuelita's children. Regarding the paper that Cuca (*Mother Luisita's sister, Refugio*) gave to you, would you kindly take it to my uncle Victor (*attorney Victor Gonzalez Luna*) and put Isabelita junior in place of your mother, and let them know.

If your mother gets better, she'll go there soon.

About the order you placed, it will leave here tomorrow, I think by express mail. You should go pick it up at the warehouse. Pepe (*Joseph*), Tona (*Antonia*), and all the family, are going to be very happy to receive it. Let me know as soon as they do.

I hope you'll be very happy on your vacation (*yearly retreat*) and that you'll come back full of life and enthusiasm to begin anew your occupations. Please give my regards to all the family (*sisters*) and tell them all that I have to make myself wait to answer their letters until I get better.

Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) has incurred debts; nevertheless, she'll be making the effort to send a little something for the trip of the young lady my aunt recommended. Will you kindly greet her for me? And Albertin (*Alberto*) also?

Good-bye. Your grandmother who blesses you.

Maria

P.S. May you spend your day of days very happily. Please tell Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) that everything she told me about will be just fine.

Letter 455
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

July 6, 1935

My dear daughter, Nenita,

What a pleasant surprise I received when I saw all of you, at least in a picture. Maria Amada's (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) school children are so cute. We've been showing them off so that the people here (*United States*) may see that in Mexico there are pretty girls and good looking boys! The feastday letters you sent were also much appreciated and also the present you mentioned, but it hasn't arrived yet. God knows where it is.

Thanks be to God, I've been feeling so much better lately. Two days ago the infection finally began to subside. I was beginning to become sick again last Monday and the doctor told me that it was possible that I would need to go back into the hospital. I could see in his face that he was worried, and I even could feel that the sickness was advancing and that I would probably be undergoing surgery again, but it didn't happen. I'm constantly applying hot compresses to my throat. I remain lying down because my feet and eye lids are very swollen, and by doctor's order, I'm supposed to stay in bed.

I'm also taking care of my gums. Pus was extracted again because a couple of little tumors came up, but that's almost over now, blessed be God. I've spent the greater part of this season in bed and waiting for death because the doctor says that if this infection would become worse it would go to the heart, and I could die. The swelling is going down rapidly.

My case has been serious and the other aches and pains don't help me either. It seems that they were undecided whether to operate or not, and apparently it was urgent to do it. I'm told that I looked as if I had another face under my chin because I was so swollen. But at the moment, I feel better. **Everything passes in this life; that's why we shouldn't worry about it. We should only worry about that which is eternal.**

Are you enjoying your vacation? **I suppose that you're experiencing some bitter days and others that are sweeter. Such is life. Great sorrows precede joys, and vice versa.** Let us bless Our Lord for everything. As for the cash for my return

ticket which you sent me, I hope it appears.
If I continue feeling better, we'll see each other soon. I'm very anxious to leave. I hope that God will grant me this grace. My regards to the family. I shall write to them later.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 456
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

July 17, 1935

My beloved daughter, Carmelita,

I've been thinking of you very much these past days because your feastday was fast-approaching and I wanted to write and greet you, but it just wasn't possible. Now I'm very glad to do it and to offer you the present of my poor prayers which I hope will be helpful to you.

How did your vacation (*retreat*) go? All of you must have been very overcrowded and uncomfortable because there are so few rooms there and no privacy at all. To tell you the truth, those conditions would make anyone sick.

What did you do with Tarcisia (*Sister Tarcisia of the Eucharist Orozco*) and her sisters when you came back? Your house is also very crowded. Consuelito (*Sister Consuelo*) is asking me for one of the girls (*sisters*) to go help her with the sewing. She has to take care of some big orders and she doesn't have sufficient time to fill them all. Martha would be the right one to send. She could cook for them and help them with all the sewing. I wish someone could go with her as her companion. Loreto (*Sister Maria Loreto of St. Elias Valle, the sister of Mother Maria de la Luz Valle*) could accompany her and she could take some embroidery and painting classes, or whatever she can learn. See if you would be able send them because I'm aware of the ever-present problem of paying their travel expenses.

Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) and Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the*

Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo also should get together, so they will be able to have a vacation (*retreat*). They should go to the *pueblito* ("*the little town*"--*Atotonilco*) where the big house is because it is close by and the expense wouldn't be very much. Make arrangements with Albertin (*Father Alberto Urdanvivia, S.J.*) about that. It has already been two years since they've gone out, and they've been working and studying so hard that they might get sick and that shouldn't be.

Thanks be to God, I feel a little better. There was no need to have the surgery. It has been sufficient for me to have a hot water bag on my neck all day long and be in bed. Right now I'm resting from both and I feel well. Blessed be God! May Our Lord keep you in good health and bless you. Good-bye, and regards to the family (*community*).

Maria

Letter 457

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

July 18, 1935

Very dear daughter, Manuelita,

Pobrecita! It has been quite a while since I've written to you but I'm happily doing so now. After greeting you and wishing you well. I have a question for you. How are you? **Take as much care of yourself as you can. Eat well and try not to worry about anything. Allow Our Lord to do His part. Let Him take care of everything that worries you.**

It would be good if you speak with your *patron* (*the priest in charge of the apostolate*) and tell him that Teresita (*Sister Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez*) needs to work so she can help you with the expenses. Ask him to find out what type of [teaching] job could be arranged for her. Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez*) will come to help Teresita and I hope that she'll be able to teach some business classes. Right now, Rosa Maria is in Mexico City. She's finishing up the courses for her teaching certificate and is expected to graduate in September.

It would make me very happy if you could go on an outing (*make your yearly retreat*) like Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) did. If someone from Alberto's family (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J. was the local superior of the Jesuit community*) can't go (*give the retreat*), then you could go alone (*make a private retreat*), or invite some friend (*one of the local parish priests*) of yours from the town (*Atotonilco*). What I want is that you go.

I'm a little better. Blessed be God! I became sick again from the same infection but recovered. Then I had surgery on my gums for a little tumor, but I'm all right now.

It was wonderful that you lasted through your celebrations, and I'm no longer worried about Teresita's illness.

My regards to all the family (*community*). Good-bye, and pray for me.

Tomasa Carrillo

Letter 458
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

August 18, 1935

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

May you have many days like this one, filling them all with merits for heaven. It's crucial that you make good use of them.

I already spoke with Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) and she promised to tell the lawyer what you requested, and I told her that would be all right with me. Chole would like Mercedes Villasenor (*representative of the ladies in Ocotlan who asked the Carmelites to come to Ocotlan*) to be the one to speak with the lawyer because he knows her and thinks very highly of her. You be the one to ask her, then, so that she will be able to come and the two of them can go to see him.

I have to stop now. I'll write to you at length, later. My regards to the family (*community*). May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Don't be sending any letters addressed to Josefa Navarro (*Mother Luisita herself*). It would be better to send them to any one of the children (*the other sisters*).

Letter 459

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez
(under the pseudonym of Efigenia)**

July 30, 1935

For Efigenia.

My dear daughter,

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of receiving your little letter which made me laugh and cry at the same time. Perhaps it's because I'm weak, but with any little manifestation of affection toward me, or any little recollection of things past, I just cry. I guess I'm very sensitive.

I just got over having to spend some time in bed, and when I received your letter I was still confined there because of a little tumor I developed above my waist. The doctor told me to remain in bed and apply hot compresses dipped in Epson salts. Fortunately, I'm already able to walk around and am hurrying to get back home in case I become unable to return again. Pray that we will be able to see each other soon.

Don't count on Maria of S.J. (*Sister Maria of St. Joseph Espinoza*). She's going to work somewhere else when I leave here, and I'll let you know who will take her place.

I hope that you'll go to Manuelita's (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) house for vacation and will take the little girls (*probably the novices or postulants*) who didn't go to Guadalajara to Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house. May you have a safe trip and a wonderful time!

Good bye, daughter. Give my regards to the girls (*sisters*) and to Don Antonio's family.

Maria

P.S. Margarita tried very hard to buy the books you asked for, and I have them with me now. They're of the current year and I hope you'll like them and find them useful.

Letter 460

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

August 19, 1935

My very dear daughter, Margarita,

What a joy to greet you and talk with you through this present letter since we find ourselves separated again by many so miles. Let us bless our good God in everything and for everything.

How is your health? Are you losing any weight? **Don't be worrying about so many difficulties in this life. We must have serenity in all the circumstances which present themselves. We should be encouraged by the same words which encouraged St. Therese, "Life is your boat, not your dwelling." Also, remember that everything that bothers us in some way, God our Lord is permitting for our own good.**

I regret Sister Mary Esperanza's (*Sister Mary Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*) illness. Let's hope she'll get well, if such is the will of God, but if He takes her to Him, it's because the fruit is already ripe and Our Lord, being the Owner, will pluck the fruit from His tree. Give her my greetings, congratulating her on going through what St. Aloysius Gonzaga went through. Tell her to make the same good use of her disease as this beautiful saint did of his.

I suppose you have learned that Ernestina changed her mind and left. I'm glad it happened in time. Columba (*Sister Columba of Jesus Garcia*) is ready to leave in the beginning of October. The more I see her, the more I'd like her to be the companion of Juanita

(*Sister St. John of the Cross Dominguez*) and the other young girl preparing to go. They're ready to leave right away when you send the money and the letter they're required to have. Maria Cristina (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) goes from bad to worse. On the way there were moments when she asked me to take care of her. She's continued to have moments of consciousness, but at times she's all confused, getting up and talking aloud. Be it for God! This has been very difficult for the students because they become shocked and can't rest well at night. Pray that she gets well.

Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) received notice from Mr. del Valle that the machine was going to arrive, but it hasn't as yet. He said he would send it from Mexico City. Maybe it will get here soon.

I'm afraid that grandfather will not be pleased that they've offered us the house in Azusa because he thinks Mercedes (*superior of another congregation*) has been evicted. He says that she's suffered much, been considered crazy, and that the others have rebelled against her. He's very sorry for her and it seems he feels we're not on good terms with her. Go slowly in this matter.

Teresa and Juana just came back from the American Consulate. The consul says there are too many Mexicans in that country and they can't permit any more to leave. I'm very sorry that I can't help you, but immigration is impossible. May it be for the love of God! Greetings to the family and to all, I wish blessings from heaven for the goodness they showed me during my stay there. Particularly I'm grateful to you, daughter, because you don't fail to make any sacrifice, expense, or expenditure for my welfare. God reward you!

Maria
Letter 461
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

August 22, 1935

My dear daughter, Elenita,

I greet you affectionately in Our Lord, wishing for you above all else, God's peace.

I shall begin with the beautiful words of Our Holy Mother Teresa: "Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you...." I wish these words would be your motto in all circumstances of your life because really and truly, nothing should be a cause of depression within our spirit; rather, we should always lift it up, trusting and strong. Let's go ahead, then, firm in our determination to be submissive in all that obedience commends to us.

Regarding Alicia (*Sister Mary Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar who left the Congregation*), she'll get there. We have to wait a little while and this delay is not Manuelita's (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) fault.

You can and you must give the present to Aurea (*Mrs. Aurea Corona, piano teacher*); it's only just.

The classes should be taken by all those who are able to understand, as many as possible. The ones who wouldn't understand shouldn't be there just occupying space. It will be very good to avoid going out, particularly the young ones (*sisters*). You may go out only if it's strictly necessary and this concerns all of you. **You should remain at home availing yourself of the opportunity to spend more time with the Blessed Sacrament. No one should teach any classes without preparing herself by prayer and study and all should comport themselves in a natural manner, with graciousness and dignity in their association with people.**

Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) told me the lawyer's answer, but at the same time she told me that he's going over to speak with you and Mercedes (*Mercedes Villasenor*) and I think that it would be better to discuss the problem verbally with him.

(*Doctor*) Gonzalez Arechiga ordered some lab tests of blood and urine, and the only thing I know is that I'm very weak, but I'm feeling all right.

How is everyone? Do you have any pupils? May God our Lord grant me the grace of going there as soon as I finish my retreat. I'm making it alone. Perhaps next week.

Give my regards to Don Antonio, his family and the girls. Good-bye. God bless you.

Maria

Letter 462

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

August 25, 1935

My very dear daughter, Manuelita,

With sincere love I greet you. From the bottom of my heart I wish you God's peace.

I was very happy to receive and most grateful for the presents you gave me. I liked them very much and may God our Lord reward you.

Our sister Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) wants the painting of the chapel (*Calvary Chapel in Atotonilco*) so that it will be able to serve as model for the chapel in Duarte. I'm hoping that Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) or Carmen Josefa (*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) will be able to paint it--the arches, the cupolas, the walls, the altar--everything with the right color and as soon as possible.

Convey my thanks to everyone for their presents and letters, and tell them I'd like very much to go and spend a few days with them. One of these days, when you least expect it, I'll be there. Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Tell Carmen Josefa (*Sister Carmen Josefa was a gifted painter*) to do the painting.

Letter 463
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

August 29, 1935

My very beloved daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

I beg your forgiveness because I've taken so long to answer you, but I don't know how to allow myself enough time to do it. Please pray to our good Lord to help me fulfill my duties.

Before anything else, I want to thank you and your family (*community*) so dear to me, for your kindness toward me. May God reward you.

Maria (*Mother Maria of Christ Castellanos*) is still sick. Actually, she's already in her mother's house because it wasn't possible for her to be with the little girls (*novices and postulants*). Fortunately, on the way over, she was more or less normal. Pray for her. Poor little one, what a terrible disease that is.

I imagine Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) already told you that the American Consul is reluctant to allow the girls to come over. However, I'm hoping that when you send the document you've used before, he'll consent to their crossing. Juana or Carmen Dominguez (*Sister St. John of the Cross Dominguez*) are prepared, as well as Lupe Villalobos. Could Maria de Lourdes (*Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba*) go in the meantime to help you until Juana arrives? How is Esperanza (*Sister Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*)?

I suppose you all are very happy because of the present you gave to the Chapel in Duarte. Blessed be God! Naturally, I'm happy, too. The whole family (*community*) will give thanks to God our Lord. I hope that the drawing for the little Chapel of the little town (*Atotonilco*) will get there soon. I asked them to send it so that, in case you like it, you would get ideas to decorate the Chapel.

The business of Teresa (*Sister Ana Maria of St. Teresa Rubio*) and Amparo (*Sister Luz Maria of Saint Therese Guevera who later left the community*) is all ready. I hope you'll receive the answer soon, if you do don't find it enclosed in this letter.

Affectionate greetings to each and everyone of the children, grandmother and other friends.

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

Maria

Letter 464
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

September 3, 1935

My very dear daughter,

I received your last letter and I deeply appreciate it. The moment I received it, I told Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) to ask about the money that you sent to Aurea (*Aurea Corona, piano teacher*), but I don't know the answer yet. I've already sent someone to ask and I 'll let you know the results.

It's not possible for Carmen C. (*Sister Carmen Celina of the Child Jesus de la Torre*) to remain alone in the house. I was going to send you Getru (*Sister Gertrude of the Heart of Mary Ruiz*) and Elisa Javier (*Sister Elisa Xavier of Christ Hernandez*), but the former is still taking care of the "do not touch me" that she has on her face, and Elisa will leave as soon as she has a companion. I'll send her in place of Alicia (*Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar who left the Congregation*), so she will be able to avail herself of the opportunity to take the classes, and if it's possible I'll also send Maria Loreto (*Sister Maria Loreto of St. Elias Valle*) to help you. In this way they can both get trained and learn as much as they can.

I noticed that Mr. Flores (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) is going to go to the house. Then, let everyone go to their classes.

Forgive me for not answering sooner, but please believe me, it's not for lack of good will. Pray to God that I may learn to fulfill my duties and give myself time to answer your letters as soon as I receive them.

Come over to rest for a few days and avail yourself of the opportunity to go with Aurea to the classes. You could take the "*tachigual*" (*lace-making*) class. The girls (*sisters*) here are making beautiful things--dining room sets, bedroom sets, dresses, hats, purses and many other things, and I think you would be able to learn in just a few days.

Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) has been told already to send you Magdalena (*Sister Magdalena of Mary Immaculate Castellanos*) while Gertrudis goes, or Lucita (*Sister Luz of St. Luisa Gonzaga Aceves*) comes back.

Someone is waiting to take this to be mailed. That's why I can't continue. Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 465
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

J.M. + J. T.

September 6, 1935

My dear daughter,

With much affection I greet you, wishing you God's peace.

How quickly you rash judge! That's why you suffer so much and for nothing--as in this case with Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*). How can her sickness be your fault? Is her suffering now the same T.B. as before? I did not want to tell you, and over here hardly anyone knows what kind of sickness she has. I thought it better not to make it public, simply because even if she gets well,

there might still be some who would be afraid to be with her, and I also hoped to avoid gossiping or uncharitable remarks. If it's through her family that it's now known, well, let it be for God. She's better, a specialist is taking care of her, and she's with her mother and Consuelo who keep her company and care for her, and she's already sleeping well. She wrote to me and her letters are all right. She reasons well, blessed be God. I've hopes that she'll soon be totally well.

Bring the fish for Abuelito (*Archbishop Francisco Oroczco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara who had returned from his exile in the United States*). If I can't go, Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) can. She visits him often. The band is already finished. It turned out very well and we want to give it to him right away so it won't get damaged or dirty. Come and we'll take everything over to him. I'm going to make an appointment for you with (*Doctor*) Gonzalez Arechiga for the thirteenth, so he will be able to prescribe something for you. I'll no longer tolerate that you remain sick and not take care of yourself. You will not go back to Ocotlan until the doctor says so. I'm telling you this so you will be able to leave everything in order, even though you may be returning soon or delaying your return for some days until you feel better. Any of the ones (*sisters*) who would like to accompany you'll be welcomed, but if you have to remain here they'll be needed back there in the school. I wish you could come with a lay person. I know that Leonor (*Mrs. Cervantes*) is coming to see Gema (*her daughter, Sister Gema of the Passion Cervantes*). You could write to her and get together with her at the station. I'll try to arrange that Luz (*Sister Luz of St. Luis Gonzaga Aceves*) will go there soon.

Good-bye, daughter. Mary Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. The children (*sisters*) are going to Los Angeles soon. I need to be here to see them off. We were unable to arrange their permission from the Consulate until just today. It was hard to get it. Some day when you least expect it, I'll be there! In the meantime, you come.

Letter 466

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

September 11, 1935

My dear daughter, Margie,

Thanks be to God because the difficulty has been overcome and the girls (*sisters*) are now ready to come to you. Let's hope that they'll be able to help and that you'll be happy with them. Both Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) and I've received everything you sent, including the oven (*to bake altar bread*). Blessed be God! His Divine Majesty will repay you for all the good you've done to us.

This life is filled with sorrow. Remember the life of your great saint and how much she suffered. If you examine the life of the saints and above all, the Saint of Saints (*Our Lord Jesus Christ*), you'll discover that there is no way to heaven, except the road covered with thorns. At every step they pinch us and make us bleed. Let us bless our good God in every circumstance in our life and, smiling, let us look up to heaven. I understand your worries, and I'm happy that Our Lord has sent them to you, as they're so profitable.

Mary of Christ (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) continues to be sick. The opinion of the specialist who is taking care of her is that her new illness is a result of the other disease she had before. Pray for her.

Really, you can understand my joy when you tell me about the gifts they're making for the chapel. In my imagination, I can see how beautiful it is.

With great pleasure, I'm going to ask Vizcarra to tell us what it would cost to paint the medallions (*the two paintings in the Duarte Chapel, one of St. Teresa of Jesus and the other of St. John of the Cross were painted by the famous artist, Jose Vizcarra in Guadalajara*). Perhaps he needs the measurements and the models. Tell us if you prefer them full-size or how you want them. Give me that information and I'll send you his answer very soon. I asked for the painting of the chapel in the little town (*Atotonilco*), but

they couldn't do it, so they sent me a photograph. Maybe this will give you results. Do you want it?

(no signature)

Letter 467

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

September 23, 1935

My beloved daughter, Manuelita,

May the peace of God be in our souls.

Really and truly I'd like very much to go there to see my beloved Sister Ana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*), especially now that she's so gravely ill.

How is she feeling? I would be most grateful if you would continue up-dating me regarding her condition, and my desire is for her not to lack anything, either materially or spiritually.

Lucita (*Sister Luz of St. Luis Gonzaga*) is going to be a few days with the children. Then when Maria del Espiritu Santo (*Sister Maria of the Holy Spirit Ruiz*) arrives, Lucita will go back to Ocotlan.

I don't have time for more.

Maria

Letter 468

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, October 2, 1935

Miss Teresita Chavez
Atotonilco

My very beloved daughter,

With much affection I greet you today, the feast of your great patron saint. I've prayed to St. Therese for you very much. May she obtain

for you the grace to follow her "Little Way" here on earth and to be her companion in heaven. May you have many of these days, and may you spend it very happily. We'll be with you in spirit.

I'm glad to learn that you're overwhelmed with work. Blessed be God! What is imperative, though, as I'm always repeating to you, is to try to keep in good health by every possible means.

Carmen Josefa (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) will go there soon to continue helping you. Perhaps she's already there.

I want this to go out right now, so I finish it here.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 469

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

October 5, 1935

My very dear daughter, Manuelita,

May the peace of God be in our souls.

I, too, have deeply felt the death of Father Gomez. We do owe him very much. May God our Lord repay him, and we should pray for him.

There is no time for more. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 470

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

October 7, 1935

My very beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,

I've just read your affectionate letter at this very moment and right away, I'm trying to have a chat with my dear Margie. Easily I can imagine how busy you're, expecting such a visitor (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*). **I hope that everything you do will be for the greater honor and glory of God and that nothing human will be mixed into your actions.**

My daughters did not want me to continue being without teeth. Having been without them for five months, they had a provisional denture made which I just put on. I've been wearing it for three days. It cost eighty (pesos), so, with pleasure we accept your charitable offering, especially now, since they tell me the exchange of the dollar has gone up. It's hard for me to wear it, but what can I do? They tell me it's not noticeable. This is one of the troubles of old age. Let us bless our good God because He moves the will.

When Ramon came (*Mr. Ramon Ugarte, the husband of Mother Luisita's sister, Lupita*) I wasn't home. They tell me he came for the painting of St. John of the Cross. I've sent it to him, but he hasn't come yet. Perhaps, he has been very busy. I hope the medallions will be very beautiful. I think they will be because Ramon has very good taste.

I'm sorry Columba (*Sister Columba of Jesus Garcia*) didn't profess in time to help you. She's so good, I would have liked to have kept her here to accompany me in my infirmities. Because of you, I sent her, thinking she could help you due to her abnegation. Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) will let you know what we decide here.

I saw your sister, Lucita, this morning. If you could only see how kind and refined she is toward me. I'm grateful to her and respect her always. How is Sister Esperanza (*Sister Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*)? I think of that dear patient and ask our good God to make her well. Give her my greetings and also to the other families (*local communities*), to whom I'll write as soon as possible. Good-bye, daughter. May God bless you.

Maria

P.S. I'm going to ask Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) to send you the St. Therese hymn you

wanted. Thank you for the books you have for Elenita and Cecilia (*Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman*). Please don't direct your letters to Reforma Street, but to your mother, Conchita, until I let you know.

Letter 471

Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez

October 13, 1935

Rev. Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart
Duarte

My beloved daughter,

On this beautiful day I greet you with great affection wishing from the bottom of my heart that the Sacred Heart of Jesus will send upon your soul very many graces, as He did upon the soul of your great patron, Saint Margaret Mary. I'll ask Him to do so, instantly. You, likewise, please pray for me to Him through the intercession of such a great saint. Ask her to be my advocate before God.

I pray that no cloud will darken the sky of this beautiful day and that you'll pass it prayerfully.

Your mother who blesses you,

Maria

Letter 472

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, October 14, 1935

Miss Manuela Rodriguez.

My dear daughter,

The marriage is all arranged. Tell Benigna (*Sister Benigna of Jesus Salas*) and Alicia (*Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar*) to be at

peace. How is Benigna feeling? Has she had any complications after her surgery? I wish you would be able to send her to study nursing. If she's already recovered from the operation and her health is fine now, send her as soon as you can. And Ana? How is she coming along? *Pobrecita!* I wrote her when you told me she was critically ill, but I lost the letter and didn't find it until later.

I've been going to the dentist and am wearing dentures now. I find it hard to get used to them and am eating with much difficulty, but because we've already incurred this expense, I'll have to make use of them.

Luisa Maria (*Sister Luisa Maria Josefa of the Child Jesus Estrada Gonzalez*), Carmen T.'s (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada Gonzalez*) sister, was married (*professed her vows*) on the third of this month. She lives with me. You should see her. She's very charming, so young, but very formal. She's precious.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) wrote to you yesterday. [Doctor] Martin del Campo's wife, Lupita, will bring the letter over to you. In it Carmelita talks to you about Agustin. Let me know later what all of you think.

Now that the winter season is approaching, take care of yourself. You need to be very well covered to protect your kidneys (*Mother Luisita suffered from Bright's disease, a disease of the kidneys*).

The nursing classes have already started, so it's urgent that Benigna come soon.

I'm glad that the children are excited. Greet them for me.

Maria

Letter 473

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

October 31, 1935

My very beloved daughter, Conchita,

With all my affection I greet you. I hope that you're well.

Really and truly, I'm very thankful for your kind letters. May God our Lord reward you.

Please answer Mr. Xavier. Tell him that I accept the proposal he is making to me through your letter for the admission of Cuca (*Refugio*) to the boarding house. Also let him know that it will be a great joy for us to have her among us. Mr. Anaya (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar for Religious in Guadalajara*) is the one who has to dispense the one thousand (\$1,000.00) pesos *was the dowry a candidate was required to bring*) that should be given, but I'll contact him regarding that. If he agrees, I'll let you know when she can come.

I want to send this out right away so I'm not adding anything else, except to remind you to take care of yourself, especially now that you have the flu. You know that you'll be sorry if you don't because you're so prone to contracting such bad colds.

It makes me very happy to learn about the order for altar bread which *el senior (a priest)* has already placed. It's a great help for us.

Good-bye, daughter. Pray for me. May Our Lord bless you. My regards to all the family (*community*).

Maria

Letter 474
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

November 2, 1935

My beloved daughter, Elenita,

I appreciate so much all you do for me. God our Lord will repay you. Thank you, daughter, and may God bless you in the way I'm asking Him.

Do you know why Our Lord brought me back so soon? He had a very pleasant surprise waiting for me--that we can now start making arrangements to get the money for that business which my "*Compadre*" (*godfather*) Mariano helped us to undertake last year in Mexico City. It's a fact that it is now favorably settled, but they need the money for expenses. Let's give many thanks to our good God.

How is Maria Ines (*Sister Mary Ines of Carmel Chavez*) feeling? I'm worried about her, and so are Conchita and Beba. Give my regards to everyone. The truth is that it was very hard for me to leave them. Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 475

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

November 30, 1935

My very dear daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

This is just an affectionate greeting. I can't write to you for very long because grandmother (*religious persecution*) is very sick and when she's sick we all get disorganized in this house.

I'm glad the girls had their celebration and that they're happy. Luz Maria (*Sister Luz Maria of St. Teresa Guevera*) is so zealous and no less is Ana Maria (*Sister Ana Maria of St. Teresa Rubio*). I can imagine them both. In my name, congratulate them as well as Maria del Carmen (*Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*) and Columba (*Sister Columba of Jesus Garcia*), and give them all my best regards.

Thanks be to God, our health has been good. As for myself, I'm getting more used to the dentures every passing day, and now I'm finding it difficult to speak without them. I actually feel more comfortable using them. May God reward you for such a wonderful gift.

I'm happy to learn that Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) is feeling better. I do hope

that she gets completely well. I didn't tell Conchita (*her mother*). It would be better if she tells her mother herself because if Conchita receives the news directly from Margarita, then she'll believe that she's well.

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

Maria

P.S. Considering the circumstances, I'm well. At least I'm doing some walking. Blessed be God!

Letter 476
Mother Margarita Maria Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, November 30, 1935

My very beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,

I had the joy of receiving your letter yesterday with the good news that you're better which makes me happy. May God be blessed! Now you'll be able to eat what your nature asks and will be in better health.

I think it would be a good idea if you stay away from the sanatorium for the time being. Make up your mind to deprive yourself of that satisfaction until you're stronger, when the work and the germs in the sanatorium will not be harmful to you.

I appreciate the wonderful way those good sisters treated you when you were in the hospital (*the Franciscan Sisters at Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles, California*). Give them greetings on my behalf and tell them I'll never forget their goodness toward me. Give my greetings to the good doctor and tell him my infection is better, that I've good teeth now and that I'm comfortable with them.

I was with Conchita (*Mother Margarita Maria's mother*) for a few days. Carmen Josefa (*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) and Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) were with me during those days and they treated us very kindly. It's not a remote possibility that I'll go

again and spend a few days with her. She's so wonderful and wants me to live with her, in spite of the trouble I cause. Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) and Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) also have been very kind toward me. May God reward them! They're fine and in the same house where you left them. Luis and his wife live there as well.

I can't write more because of grandmother's illness (*religious persecution*). Grandfather sends greetings. It would be a good idea if you would send the money directly to Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*). Greetings to the family (*community*).

Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 477
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

Guadalajara, December 10, 1935

My beloved daughter, Elenita,

I'm very concerned because I still don't know yet how your trip turned out. Let me know soon. We're all right. As for myself, I remain with my worries, but that's the way that mothers live, and you're only girls. It would be worse if you were men. (*Mother Luisita is talking about her responsibility--both the physical and spiritual welfare of the entire Congregation as well as each sister individually during these difficult times.*)

Tell the doctor the name of the person Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) is referring to in her letter the eighth of December. Tell him I'm very willing for my daughters to go to teach cloth-cutting and painting as he requested, but only on the condition that they can live there in Jamay, in order to avoid going back and forth. It would be very good for him or Mr. Curiel (*Father Antonio Curiel, pastor in Jamay, Mexico*) to come to talk it over.

Write to Maria Ana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) offering your condolences. It's only natural for her to feel sad.

We've not found a house yet, and that's why we're all divided up. I'm writing to you from Conchita's house and falling asleep at the same time. That's the reason why my lines are very crooked. Ask the Lord of mercies to find one for us because we're in dire need.

I can imagine the celebration the girls (*sisters*) had for you upon your arrival. *Pobrecitas!* They're right to be happy because you're, indeed, a mother to them. Greet them for me and ask them for their prayers so that we can go to Jamay and have some good fish and soup!

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

Maria

P.S. Now don't forget to take your medicine and keep your diet.

Letter 478

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

December 17, 1935

My beloved daughter Margie,
I've received your last letter and I agree to the remodeling which you tell me is indispensable in that house. Although it seems to me that you must be very careful with the money you spend, make sure that this expense will not be over \$2,000.00 (dollars), the amount which you say this work will cost, because this time I don't want you to be going deeper into debt.

I think my last letter already arrived. Perhaps it crossed yours in route. I don't remember if I told you in that letter that we've left the house on Reforma Street and are staying in the meantime with Conchita. As usual, she's all goodness and giving us hospitality. I do understand how much you've suffered with the death of Francisco (*the brother of Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist*

Nunez Hernandez). Above all, Maria, let it be for God. I've sympathized with the family and have started to offer suffrages for him, as should be done.

I did like the paintings of St. Teresa but the headdress doesn't seem proper for her. The color of the habit seems too light and the white mantle and the neck seem too long. I told Ramon (*brother-in-law of Mother Luisita*), but I don't know if he'll tell this to Vizcarra.

I've been in better health and more comfortable every day with the new dentures. Blessed be God!

Daughter, your coming here will be the first days of July. Conchita (*Mother Margarita Maria's mother*) already knows and, naturally, is looking forward to it with great anticipation. I think I'm no less happy about it than she is. Let us ask our good God that you Sisters will be able to come. Start making the savings for the trip.

Greetings to the family. May Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Letter 479
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

December 17, 1935

My beloved daughter, Elenita,

I'm anxious to learn how Beatriz (*Mother Maria Beatrice of Jesus Ochoa Lopez*) is coming along. Is the diagnosis of typhoid confirmed yet? Let me know soon how she's coming along.

We finally left the house we've been occupying on Reforma (*Avenue*), and until we find another one, we're at Conchita's (*Mrs. Conception Hernandez, the mother of Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) house. *Pobrecita!* She's giving us hospitality, again.

Lupe's celebration is getting closer. What does her mother say?

Isn't she coming to make arrangements about her daughter? Well, the same thing will happen to her that happened to Elvira if the doctor doesn't come, and then she'll be sorry because they're getting ready.

I'm going to entrust a very great sorrow to you--that I've needed to just hang myself from the neck of Our Lord and leave everything in His Divine Heart in order to endure what's happening with calmness and peace and, thanks be to God, I've been able to do it.

Do you remember what happened to Cuca (*Refugio*) when she was at Mrs. Arce's house? One day after our meal, without any kind of warning, one of the girls (*sisters*) said that we'll see a second case like that happen. I answered that I wanted to know whatever it was, that there was no reason to be ill at ease because "R" is there to arrange anything in a satisfactory manner. We all wondered who she was talking about, if it were this one or that one, and she just laughed. I couldn't even sleep during siesta. That night I thought the same thing would happen, but no, Our Lord allowed me to sleep peacefully. The devil really struggles with this *cascaron de nuez* (*nutshell*); the storm that came about with Maria's craziness has been very strong and with very serious consequences for this family (*Congregation*), and if what I was told happens, the devil's attack will be formidable. How amazing! These things have been a real battle, beginning with what happened with grandfather, both the craziness that went on and the final results which came out of it, and to top it all off, an unfaithful one in the house, which is far worse than anything else.

The devil is very astute. He knows well from which side to attack best. What kind of honor can be left to this family? How many strokes with the ax will it take before it falls? Only God can sustain it.

Tell Carmen that I'll not mention the monthly payments to her uncle, but to be at peace, and to be prepared for the moment when she's told to come.

Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 480
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, December 19, 1935

My beloved daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

I was surprised as well as shocked by the death of Francisco (*Mother Mary's brother who was a leader in the "Cristeros Revolt" and was killed by the government*). I have the family very present in my mind. Let it be for God, my daughter! I immediately began the suffrages due him, and I do hope they were accepted by God our Lord on his behalf. I didn't dare to write to you about it until I was sure that you knew. I didn't want to be the one to give you the sad news, but now I can tell you I feel with you and I'm with you.

Take care of your health because it's a sacred duty to preserve it. It doesn't belong to us and we can't destroy it. Only the One who gave us life can dispose of it. You have to overcome your sorrow and see it as coming from the hand of God and that will help you to be at peace.

Your coming in July will be a consolation for Aurelio (*Mother Mary's father*) and Conchita (*Mother Mary's mother*). Tell them that you're going to be here at the beginning of the month so they will be able to have that joy in the midst of their sorrow. Encourage them in your letters, and then you will be a means of consolation for their souls.

As for myself, thanks be to God, I've been better and happy with my dentures. They are really very useful to me.

There was a need to leave the house we were occupying on Reforma and we're currently looking for another one. I'll send you the new address whatever it's.

I stand informed that the "Azusa" business has been solved. Blessed be God! When I was there and saw how excited you were to acquire that house, I really did not want it. I had a bad feeling that something was going to happen, as indeed it did and very

disagreeably at that. I'm not in agreement with you regarding going into debt, especially heavy debt. I've told you before and have given you the reasons why not, and I'm still of the same opinion because circumstances haven't changed, and neither has the fact that you're still not definitively accepted in that country. Any time that the court thinks your work is unsatisfactory and decides to take away the patients, we'll no longer have any means to secure payment. Try to save and we'll see what we can do in the future. First of all, secure a monthly income to support yourselves, and don't be financially obligated to anyone. I'm happy that the celebration of the girls (*sisters*) went very nicely and that I had great joy of seeing them even if it was just a picture. Please give them my regards.

May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 481
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

December 20, 1935

My beloved daughter, Elenita,

Your letter just arrived and I'm hurrying to answer it so you will be able to tell Carmen to be with Lola on the sixth (*to enter the Novitiate*), even if there are no monthly payments. God our Lord will pay for the classes she'll receive.

Papa "Cheve" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) visited us. I had a very pleasant conversation with him. Fortunately, I was at Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) house when he arrived.

I'm very happy that Beatriz (*Mother Maria Beatrice of Jesus Ochoa Lopez*) is much better. I hope she'll be strong enough to be at

Cuca's (*Refugio*) reception. (*Father*) Alfredo is leaving tomorrow to be at the celebration.

Lift up your heart! I'm at peace regarding the sorrow I told you I was suffering, and now I think that there is nothing to fear from that girl (*sister*) doing such a bad action. Pray much, as you tell me you're going to do for this family (*Congregation*).

How are you feeling now? Are you following your diet? You should really keep it, you know; it's your duty.

There is a two-story house for rent near Jesus Maria's (*Mr. Jesus Maria Garcia who administered the property of Mother Luisita*) house. I'll let you know if we take it and send you the exact address. I like the location.

I do understand that Mrs. Gomez is coming over. I think it's all right for Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) to go to Mexico City, but that family (*community*) is so poor, I wonder if it can continue in such poverty. Lack of money makes us stay at home, but there is a lot of joy in going out. God will provide.

Maria

Letter 482
The Community

December 25, 1935

May the peace of God be in our souls, my very beloved daughters,

Thank you very much for your charming and valuable gifts. I was deeply touched, and I liked them very much. I wore the dress for the first time today. I like it very much because at the same time that it's such a light material, it's also wool and so I can even wear it outside of the house.

The ship is really worthy of contemplation. We sent it to grandfather (*the archbishop*) and I know he was very pleased to receive it. Blessed be God! In addition, there was the relic, the crest and the rosary. I was happy to get everything. May God our Lord reward

you all.

Naturally, I wish you much happiness during this Christmastide and new year. May the coming year be filled with merits for heaven. This intention will be in my prayers for you, and I do hope that my intentions will be in yours.

We already found a two-floor house in a very good location. The address is--Mezquitán 3.

Mr Urdanivia (*Father Alberto Urdanivia S.J.*) told me that it's impossible for him to go over there, so I'm sending you the book of regulations, which was very helpful to me. I'm hoping that it will be useful to you, also, and once you finish with it, return it to Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*).

May God our Lord bless you all.

Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 483
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

December 31, 1935

Very beloved daughter, Elenita,

With great affection I greet you and all the family (*community*). A very happy new year to you! May it be filled with merits for heaven.

Sincerely, I'm very happy you enjoyed your outing so much. I expected that you would because there are beautiful places in that locale. I hope the strength you've recovered will be lasting, and that you'll be ready to go back to school without being anemic any longer.

Blessed be God! I'm also happy because you're feeling better. Don't stop taking your medicine and continue the diet that (*Doctor*)

Gonzalez Arechiga prescribed for you.

Papa "Cheve" (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*) gave me a very good report about the lady. Therefore, Cuca must be at peace and come with Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*). She'll be taking her classes there until she graduates and in that way she'll be able to work here in her own country without any need to go abroad. But we'll see. What I do suggest, is that she graduate here. Tell Alfredo (*Father Alfredo*) we're waiting for Cuca with open arms.

We already ordered the frames for the mattresses. Manuelito (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) will take them.

As you've asked, I'll try to send Carmen Josefa (*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) to help you do the sewing you need.

I don't want to write anything else for now because I want to send this out soon.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

(no signature)

Letter 484
Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

(no date)

For Maria de Lourdes.

My beloved daughter,

Thank you so much for your loving little letters. May God our Lord reward you for the joy you give me with them.

I'm happy to congratulate you for the job given to you. It's difficult, but very satisfying. God our Lord will help you. Don't doubt it.

So, Maria is already with Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*). That's good. At least she has company now. It must have been sad for her to be alone.

Don't be discouraged to see your faults. They are simply part of our human nature. Let them serve to keep you humble and in that way they'll be a great help for your soul.

Dolores (*Mother Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba*) hasn't written to me. It's been quite a while since I've heard anything from her. She must be very busy and happy in the new house. Greet her for me.

Daughter, I'm truly grateful for the invitation to go over there. I'd like to very much for it's very difficult for me to remain any longer without seeing you. I'm very attached to my daughters. I hope that our Lord will grant me the grace of going this summer and spending a few days with you all. It would be a great consolation to me. God will provide.

In spite of the cold front we've just experienced, I haven't felt any sicker than usual and I've been walking, blessed be God!

With all my soul I appreciate the valuable gift you gave me, congratulating me. May God reward you by making you a saint.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Conception

Approximate date: 1935. (Mother Dolores of Jesus Jimenez Alba, the sister of Mother Lourdes was assigned to the United States in 1934. Mother Lourdes had expressed her appreciation for having her sister with her in the United States.)

Letter 485

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

(no date)

Miss Josefina of the Infant Jesus.

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

With much love and united in the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord, I send you an embrace, praying that your day of days [feastday] may be filled with God's grace and that you will be intimately united with Him. Pray that we obtain the many graces of which we are so much in need through the intercession of your great Patron Saint.

I've been sick with a bad cold and coughing very much, but it's nothing to worry about. I've been told that I'm very thin, but I was so heavy before that it's more noticeable.

Through the intercession of Mother Maria de Jesus, we're obtaining a miracle because Guadalupe Escoto (*a life-long friend of Mother Luisita and the community and the second Director of the school in Atotonilco*) is getting better. She'll be getting up very soon and that miracle will serve for Mother Maria's beatification.

If God our Lord permits it, I'll be going over to see you and then we'll converse without having to hurry like this.

May you be a saint.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1935. (Testimony of Sister Josephine)

Letter 486

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

+

Jesus

J.M.J.T.

Miss Josefina

My beloved daughter,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

I greet you with an embrace, even if it's only in spirit. I received your note, which I appreciated very much, and I'm answering with a few lines because time won't allow me to write more than that.

How good it was that you spent a peaceful Holy Week. A righteous soul, eager to please our worthy and deserving God, shouldn't have any ambitions other than those that Our Lord gives her, and she'll always be happy.

Much prayer, my daughter! Don't offend God for anything, even if the whole world is sinking. Above all, you already know what is abhorrent to God, what He curses. It's all those who lie. For the life of you, Josefina, even if it goes against you, which can't be, don't ever tell even one lie. I just thought right now of telling you that. Don't neglect this advice.

My regards to your little sisters.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Approximate Date: 1935.

Letter No. 487

Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez

(no date)

For Maria Amada.

My beloved daughter,

Your letters have been received. May God our Lord reward you because I really do appreciate your writing to me and your desiring for me to go visit you. I, also, would like to pay you a visit because I do want to see your little house and, of course, all of you. The days that I would spend with you would be a rest for me. I assure you that as soon as it's possible, I'll be going there.

I'm happy you have so many toys (*Mother Maria Amada worked with kindergartners and so the toys were very useful to her*). I liked toys very much too, and I hope they'll be giving you more, but be very careful lest you break them.

May you be very good and profit from the many graces God our Lord has bestowed upon you. Prepare yourself to receive the Divine Infant on the beautiful feast of Christmas. These are the wishes of your poor mother who entrusts herself to your prayers.

Good bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1935 (Testimony of M. Maria Amada)

Letter 488

Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez

(no date)

For Maria Amada.

Very beloved daughter in Christ,

Your letters fill me with consolation for I can see in them how very loving you're. May God our Lord reward you.

I hardly saw you upon my arrival there. I thought I was dreaming. May God our Lord grant me the grace of visiting with you when there is ample time.

How have you been? What do the little tots say? Do you have many of them? What a beautiful mission our good Lord has entrusted to you! He's entrusting you with those He loves most. Let us bless Him for it! I do hope that you will imprint upon their little hearts both the love and holy fear of God, which will serve them as wings to go to heaven. Pray with them for the other children, poor little souls, and also for me because I do need your prayers very much.

I hope to see you soon, at least I desire to do so.
Good-bye. **May you become a saint.**

Tomasa

Approximate date: 1935. (Testimony of Mother Maria Amada, who was the kindergarten teacher in Ocotlan.)

Letter 489
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

For Maria del Carmen.

My beloved daughter,

The license to go to Jamay hasn't been obtained yet. There has been no answer whatsoever, but blessed be God, that day will come when we'll be told either yes or no, so in the meantime, take the opportunity during your stay there of learning something, whatever you see that's easy and useful for you.

Too bad you were not able to talk with Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*), but God willing, you'll be able to do it with his substitute. He's a good person and Alberto recommended us to him. The sisters who have gone to see him have been well received and they seem to be happy.

The girls (*sisters*) are still roaming around (*moving to different houses*). Let it be for God!

Are you taking something to give you strength? Have you lost the little bit of fat you acquired in the little town (*Atotonilco*)? I want to see you very plump and rosy and full of enthusiasm for your house in Jamay.

Give my regards to your sisters and tell them, I keep them all in my heart.

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

Maria

Approximate date: 1935. (Probably toward the end of that year because the Foundation in Jamay took place on March 19, 1936.)

Letter 490
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

M. Carmelita,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Because today is the feast of Our Holy Father St. John of the Cross, I wanted to greet and talk to you for a little while, even if it's only in writing.

Ay, M. Carmelita! How I envy the children of that parish, so well-behaved and so many of them receiving daily Holy Communion. It is beautiful! Go to the pastor of that parish, in my name, and offer your services in behalf of those children since you're now living in that parish. Of course, everything with M. Guadalupe's (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) consent. I'd like to begin a Crusade or start an apostolate of daily Communion. In other words, try to bring these children very close to God our Lord. This is my desire. But that doesn't mean that you're going to go everywhere in the streets with them. That would be unthinkable, but within the church, yes.

(Note: Incomplete letter without end and signature).

(no signature)

Approximate date: 1935. (This year Mother Luisita was in the United States. Mother Carmelita Chavez was the Vicar General of the Congregation and Mother Guadalupe Vazquez was the director of the school in Guadalajara.)

Letter 491
Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

(no date)

For Conchita.

My very dear daughter,

At least I can give you an affectionate greeting from my heart, and God's peace.

How are you feeling? I want to see you gaining weight and healthy, working and reaping in abundance. It doesn't matter if you don't see the profit [of your labors], for some day you'll see it in God our Lord's granary.

You must already know that I had planned to stop by and spend two days with you, but we were delayed, and when we passed through there it was kind of late and I didn't dare step off of the train at that hour. Nor did I want to be the cause of you opening your doors so late at night, but everything turned out all right in the end because now I can go at a slower pace and stay eight days with you and have a good rest.

May you be more humble every day and may your prayer increase in its love and fervor.

Maria

Approximate Date: 1935. (Mother Conception was in Ocotlan that year and it was possibly that train station to which Mother Luisita is referring.

Letter 492

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

(no date)
For Conchita.

My very dear daughter,

With great joy I've received your kind letters and the invitation for me to go there to visit you. I assure you, daughter, that I'm deeply grateful and I would readily go if it were possible because I really want to go. Let's ask Our Lord to grant me the grace of going and

spending a week with you [sisters].

Since Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) hasn't been able to leave, could you come to spend your feast day here? It would make me very happy, and I'm hoping you'll be coming during one of those approaching vacation times.

How are you feeling? Have you taken your medicines and have they helped? Take care of yourself, Conchita. In conscience, you have to do it, so that you will be able to work as you want.

I hope you have a very happy feastday. It will be my pleasure to ask our Blessed Mother to obtain for you the grace of great purity of soul. That's the present I give you. Good-bye, daughter, and be good. May God bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1935. (This letter follows the previous one of Mother Luisita to Mother Conception. Mother Elena was the superior in Ocotlan in 1935.)

Letter 493

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

(no date)

For Conchita.

My very dear daughter,

I've received your loving little letters. May God reward you, and especially for your details about feeling much better because that's a cause for celebration for me. Take care of yourself, daughter, and do whatever you can to be in good health.

I'm pleased because you found work and I'm supposing that you're happy about it. **Don't pay any attention to the sorrows of this life. We find them everywhere. Rather, avail yourself of those opportunities to enrich your soul.**

Good-bye, daughter, may Our Lord bless you, and pray for me.
Amparo

Approximate date: 1935.

Letter 494

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

(no date)

My very beloved daughter, Conchita,

I'm very happy that your father is doing better. Greet him for me and Tona, also.

Oh, my daughter, Our Lord is now asking you a very great sacrifice. After giving you the consolation of seeing your father get better, you have to go back to Atotonilco to spend eight days and then return to Ocotlan. Because his health is delicate now, we have to be very prudent, and so you can tell your father that you're just going to Atotonilco, but you have to come back.

My regards to Beatriz, and tell her that I'm happy she's in that area.

Good bye, may Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Approximate date: 1935. *(In 1935 Mother Conchita was in Ocotlan. Mother Elena was the superior in Octolan. Letter from Mother Luisita to Mother Conception, dated February 20, 1935)*

Letter 495

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

(no date)

The peace of God be in our souls, my M. Elena,

I greet you with all my affection hoping that you're feeling better.

How are you? Have you been taking your medicine? Remember that it is a duty of conscience to take care of our health.

I beg you to send Lucita (*Sister Luz of St. Luis Gonzaga*) for a few days to take care of the little orphans until such time as we can resolve the problem of lodging for the ones (*sisters*) who make the altar bread.

Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) is already in the new house, which is very appropriate for that purpose [novitiate]. Blessed be God! I hope that if you've received more pupils, you might be able to help us with \$10.00 (pesos) to pay the rent because, as you can see, our circumstances do not allow us to do it ourselves.

Now that the girls (*sisters*) are no longer so overcrowded, they won't be getting so sick, and there will be adequate order. The house is regal and the location most beneficial to their health. They are in a beautiful little forest. What a beautiful place! Blessed be God! But heaven will be more beautiful still!

I've been feeling better these days. How good God is!

I'm very pleased that Carmen Josefa (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) went to help you with the sewing. That's the way it should be--each one helping the other. It's one of the means of preserving unity in the family (*community*) which is the important thing for us.

Maria

P.S. Let Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) come soon.

Approximate date: 1935. (*Letter of Mother Luisita to Mother Conchita, dated February 20, 1935*)

**Letter 496
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

(no date)

Elenita,

Praised be Jesus Christ! May God give you good days, as *nuestro padre Velazquez* ("our father, i.e. *Father Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*) used to say. With pleasure I would simply leave right now with Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*), but I should be the first one to obey, so I'll be leaving on Monday. Than that means that you should leave either that day or on Tuesday. On Monday I'll leave very early. Better still, you come early on Monday, have your breakfast here and be ready to go on the nine o'clock train. Taking Mercedes with you. She's all excited about going with you.

The business regarding the priest was that he won't be able to invest the money we're depositing at 6% but only at 4 1/2% interest. I'll explain it to you when you come, but that's what it was all about.

I'll be sending the silk sometime. Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) didn't have it so she has to order it.

Tell Consuelo that they want a beautiful brooch. She can send word with Magdalena as to what materials she needs.

I hope there is something pretty for *las cuatro Conchas* (*four women who had the same name of Conception*), such as rosaries or scapulars, or relics. Either ask Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) for her family (*the novices and postulants*) to help us with these little presents, or you could make something for us.

I'm very glad that the scarf turned out so beautifully.

Please send my little letters for the "H" ("*hermanas*" or *sisters*) with Lupe. Don't take them yourself just in case something might happen on the way.

My regards to all and may Our Lord bless them.

Maria

P.S. Please tell Socorro that I'm sending her the rent payment for this house. It should be paid on the fifteenth, but I don't want her to fail paying the rent for over there either. If she already has the monthly payment, tell her to adjust it. If not, ask her to send for the money for the clothing to complete the amount we need.

Approximate date: 1935. In 1935 Mother Luisita made her last visit to the United States. (Chronicle, p. 109)

Letter 497

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

(no date)

Lupita Botello

My very dear little granddaughter,

With this letter I'm sending you my desire to give you an embrace as both my salutation and my congratulations because I've learned that you're becoming very adept at playing the piano. Because you're so earnestly studying, and with such a good teacher, (you'll continue with Miss Aurea) very soon you'll become an accomplished pianist. This is urgent for you because you're going to take the place of Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*). You'll find out that it probably won't take a great deal of effort on your part to learn. Learning to play the piano should be one of your main occupations.

How sad it is for someone who is so big-hearted and with such a generous soul as yours--so charitable and so much loved by Our Lord--to become depressed and wanting to die. It's obvious who your advisor is right now and that you're lacking in moral strength. I advise you to pray and do spiritual reading, to eat well, to exercise and to bathe. If possible, every day before breakfast take a very fast bath so that it won't weaken you.

Pray to God that you can finish fixing up the house so that I'll be able to go right away because I've great desire to be with you all.

You should see this beautiful city where I'm now staying. It is very pretty and the street is a very quiet one. I've been resting from the noise of Los Angeles which tired me out very much. If you don't have a job over there, you can have one right here. Yes. Start saving little by little because the transportation is very expensive. In order to come over here, you'll have to study English. You can study with Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez*) because without knowing any English, it's most difficult to live here and even more difficult to find work. An American lady was just here, and I did not understand her and she did not understand me either. She would speak in English to me and I would answer her in Spanish.

Pray to God our Lord for your family and don't you be worrying about them too much. You can leave that to God. He loves each one of them even more than you do, and He is the One who will remedy everything.

Good-bye, daughter, and may God bless you.

Your Grandmother,
Josefa

Approximate date: 1935. (Letter of Mother Luisita to Mother Elena dated August 2, 1935. Mother Luisita was staying in California at that time.)

Letter 498

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

For Lupita.

My beloved daughter,

As you well know, a mother never forgets her children. She always wants to see them and to look after their needs and that's how I feel toward all of you. It's only God our Lord Who can demand from me the sacrifice of being separated from you. To be away from my country doesn't matter that much to

me. Anyway, aren't all of us away from our true Country--heaven--and isn't it the same distance to travel there from Mexico as it is from the United States? You're the ones I'm concerned about. You're the ones for whom I suffer. Let us bless God our Lord in everything--both in tribulations and in joys.

Behave well, daughter, and give good example to your little sisters. God our Lord has His eyes fixed upon you all and He loves you very much.

As far as I'm concerned, I'm still all swollen, and it's to be expected that the swelling increase as the days go by. Still, I'm well more or less, and it's obvious that when I'm tranquil, I feel better. If I don't have it [tranquillity] my heart gives me trouble. Because of my illness, I need to be tucked away in a little niche (*Mother Luisita was hospitalized and had to be put into isolation at Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles*).

My regards to everyone.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1935. (In 1935 Mother Luisita was hospitalized at Queen of the Angels Hospital in Los Angeles, California. Letter of Mother Luisita to Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez, May 28, 1935).

Letter 499

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Maria Ana.

My very dear daughter,

I am most grateful for your letters. May God reward you.

I hadn't written to you because what is going on at this present time is affecting me like a nightmare. To me it seems as if something very extraordinary is taking place, with all those little things

happening.

How are you doing? Are you feeling a little stronger? I do hope that the physical and moral rest you are having and the abundance of fresh air and sunlight you are getting in that big house will help you recuperate, and that you will be feeling a lot better. Try to eat, to sleep well and to be happy, so you may restore your worn-out body.

I thank you for praying for me, because I truly am in great need of prayers. Continue doing it.

A visitor just arrived.

Good bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1935. In this year there was a change of house. (Chronicle, p. 109): The house on 1341 Hidalgo Street was the novitiate. Mother Maria Ana was in the house for a short time. (Testimony of Sister Elisa Javier of Christ Hernandez who was a novice at that time)

Letter 500

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

Marianita,

I greet you with all my affection. How have you been? As for myself, here I'm just listening to other people talking, praying, reading, and attending conferences in English. So you can just imagine how I'm, and without understanding anything! Let it be for God! It seems to me that I'm in another world.

I learned through Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) that she already sent her family there. Tell Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*), that if Nacho agrees, both Maria and Victoria may get married. They already made up their minds and you know how that is. There is no

alternative but to let them, in order to avoid having them wait, for that can be very embarrassing. And you have to be the one to decide what to do with Maria's uncle. You know how difficult it is to deal with him.

How were your exams? Carmelita told me that everything came out all right. I do fear, however, that if you did have some sorrow, you wouldn't want me to know about it.

The teachers are studying very intensely during the school vacations and they themselves are attending classes in an academy. They're very earnest about it and they don't allow themselves even a moment of diversion, but study, study, study. They're doing this in order to become very professional in their fields and not have to study during the year. You'll see if you want to imitate them. An Augustinian priest gives the classes in that academy and the teachers themselves go through examinations.

Eat well, Marianita, and take care of yourself because when I go there, I want to find you a little plumper. I hope to go there soon, maybe in September. Good-bye. My regards to all the girls (*sisters*).

Josefa

Approximate date: 1935. (In 1935 Mother Luisita was in the United States. Mother Carmelita and Mother Maria Ana were members of the Council. Mother Carmen was the Vicar General.)

Letter 501

Sister Luisa Maria of the Infant Jesus Estrada Gonzalez

(no date)

For Luisa Maria. (*Sister Luisa Maria Josefa of the Infant Jesus. Maria de Jesus Estrada Gonzalez was born in Moyahua, Zacatecas, and entered the Congregation on June 21, 1933, at thirteen years of age. She made her first profession of vows on Oct. 3, 1935. She died on July 14, 1985, after being purified by a very long illness, for her system had a weakness that lasted all of her life. She was very intensely involved in the apostolate of preparing*

children for their First Holy Communion, something that she did with true devotion. She had the gift of motivating the little ones to live the love of God. She was the youngest sister of Mother Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada. Maria Engracia, the person that Mother Luisita mentions in her letter to Sister Luisa Maria, was her next older sister. Both of them were in the orphanage when Mother Carmen Teresa entered the Congregation. Since this is the only letter to her, we saw it as necessary to record this information.)

Beloved daughter,

I've received your little letter, and I'm happy to see you very formal and wanting to fulfill your promise. With much joy we'll arrange what you desire--October 3 will be the date. Is it all right?

How have you been? Are you growing up and getting plump? I want you to mature and become like Maria Engracia. Write to me every time you have the opportunity and talk to me with confidence. Tell Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) to let you know when there is someone coming over, and then have your little letter ready.

I greatly desire for you to study, and it would be a good idea for you to take a little refresher course with Rosa Maria (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*). She can give both you and Eulalia some homework to do. Become educated--both of you--so that you may be able to work soon. Commit to memory those things you already know, and take care with your spelling so you won't misspell words. **Good-bye, little girl, and may you do a little better every day in everything you do.**

Maria

Approximate date: 1935. (Sister Maria Luisa's profession of vows took place on Oct. 3, 1935. Book of Admissions and Professions, p. 8)

Letter 502

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

For Marianita.

I greet you with much affection. Thank you for your loving letter and for your kind offer to come and take care of me. I know you well enough to know that you would do just that! I, too, would take great pleasure in seeing you. I just don't want to accept the fact that I won't be seeing you again. Perhaps Our Lord will permit me to spend my last days over there in my little corner. I'm better, but not out of danger yet. Fortunately, I'm already at home and even though I was surrounded by all kinds of comforts in the hospital, I was feeling sad because I couldn't be with my family (*community*). Still, this sorrow has already passed, as does everything else in life. Blessed be God! Give my regards to your father, your sisters, and pray very much to Our Lord for me.

If you would like to go away for a little rest, take the opportunity now during vacation. Go to Manuelita's (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Valdivia*) and take Piedad (*Sister Piedad of Jesus Arquieta*) with you. The change could be good for her because of her anemia. Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 503

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

(no date)

My dear daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with all my affection, wishing you well.

It wasn't possible for Genoveva (*Sister Genoveva of the Holy Face Ascensio Bautista who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Maria Luisa of the Holy Face*) to go there to help Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*). If Jesus Teresa (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) can help her, let her do it. As far as I'm concerned, I gladly allow it. I only hope that (*Doctor*) Mercado will

approve it.

My regards to all the family (*community*), and because I want this to go out now, I'll end it right here.

May Our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Date: 1935. (Sister Genoveva (Genevieve), who later went back to her baptismal name of Maria Luisa, worked in Atotonilco in 1936. In 1935 it wasn't possible to go to Ocotlan, Jalisco. Mother Manuelita was the superior and Mother Teresita Chavez was the director of the school in Atotonilco.)

Letter 504

Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez

(no date)

For Rosa Maria.

My beloved daughter,

It seems to me that I haven't written to you for a very long time now, poor daughter of mine, so please forgive me. I'm praying to Our Lord to help me learn how to be more considerate in the future.

Congratulations for having finished out the school year! I'm hoping that you'll soon be receiving good marks when your report cards are given out, and then take a very nice vacation.

I truly long to see all of you, and if this problem with the albumin improves, I'll be seeing you right after the winter season.

How are you feeling? May God our Lord provide us with the necessary money to buy your glasses, and you'll be all right once you receive them.

I really would like for you to take the business curriculum, but with the necessary prudence because you've been studying so hard and

are already very tired. In case you can't continue in the Normal School for some reason, you can always avail yourself of the business course, and it will be very useful to you.

May the Divine Infant of Bethlehem bestow abundant graces upon your soul.

Conception

Date: 1935. (Letter of Mother Luisita, dated January 26, 1935)

Letter 505

**Sister Genevieve of the Child Jesus Ascencio Bautista
(who changed her name to Sister Maria Luisa)**

(no date)

Just a little greeting to my unforgettable granddaughter, Genevieve, congratulating her for being so happy during her vacation. I hope that your health is good and that you're profiting by your studies because I want to see you as a full-fledged business teacher. I'd also like you to take the cloth-cutting course, if it would be possible; but on second thought, it's better that right now you concentrate on your business classes, so you won't be overwhelmed with work and become sick. Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Date: 1935. (Testimony of Sister Maria Luisa Ascencio (Sister Genevieve) that in 1935 these business courses were taken by her.)

Letter 506

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito,

Tell Maria de San Jose (*Sister Mary of St. Joseph Espinoza*) and Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) that I'm expecting them for lunch and I'll be staying here until it's time for them to go to their houses. Ask them to bring me

the purse of the Holy Viaticum, the stoles, and the little stamp, and please ask them to look for the new little handkerchiefs that were in a small box. I can't find them either.

May God our Lord bless you all.

Good-bye.

Maria

Approximate date: 1935.

Letter 507
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Miss Socorro Cholico

My dear daughter, may God grant you good days ahead.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would send this little letter to my Uncle Abundio (*Father Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*). Cecilia will be going over after lunch to study at the Fonseca's house. After she calls, would you please go pick her up and take her.

For now, until further notice, send us the groceries. By experience we'll know what to do next. Send us candles always, as well as matches and coal. No, forget about the coal. I'll get it myself.

Send the pretty box for the Blessed Sacrament, purificators, and two corporals to me via Cecilia. There are two new purificators that Catalina brought me--the ones without the little red crosses. Besides these, send me also a lamp and oil and whatever else you think we will need for the Blessed Sacrament, and also the reliquary. If it's not in your house, then it must be in the other. Tell Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) to get the table made for Our Lord.

May God our Lord bless you all. Good-bye.

Maria

Don't forget to send out the things for the Mass and call Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*), so that she may agree to come if it ever becomes necessary. You may read the letter before you deliver it and please tell Marianita to take every possible precaution.

Approximate Date: 1935. (Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman studied piano during 1935 according to Mother Luisita's Letter to Mother Elena of the Cross, dated January 27, 1936.)

Letter 508

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorrito,

You may give the typewriter to Maria de Jesus so she can take it to Conchita's house.

Do away with the altar right now. If you wish, you may send for a little table on which to place the Blessed Sacrament.

Today take out the organ, the sewing machine, and everything else that could give away who you're. Remember the metal tabernacle, monstrance, candelabra, books, etc. Leave only what is strictly necessary.

Two sisters may come in the morning and two at dusk. May Our Lord bless you.

(no signature)

Approximate Date: 1935.

Letter 509

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

For Teresita.

My very beloved daughter,

What a joy to greet you! It has been some time since I've wanted to write you, but I just don't give myself time. Pray to God our Lord that I will be able to fulfill my duties.

Daughter, I'd like so much for you to come and spend a few days with me. May God our Lord grant me this grace. When Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) leaves, you can come and receive piano lessons. This will be as soon as we have the money for it.

It is a great consolation for me to learn that you're in good health, well-recuperated and happy. I bless Our Lord for this and I beg of you to do whatever is on your part to remain well.

It's a good thing that you're taking those little walks while looking up towards heaven. You were missing that tranquillity and now you have it back. They will be of benefit both spiritually and physically. How good our God is! He is always watching over His children. We should rest entirely in His hands, understanding that He's always watching us, that we'll lack nothing, and that He'll grant us anything we need, if it's for our own good. Let our good God do with you whatever He wants. Let Him mold your soul in whatever way is more pleasing to Him. Try to be at peace within your soul, freeing yourself and letting yourself be guided by our father (*Father Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*). Let him direct you.

Good-bye, daughter. Pray for this, your poor mother, who prays for your well-being so much.

May you have a very happy feastday, giving your little saint many little gifts and obtaining blessings from heaven for us all. Celebrate her feast in the chapel and place her picture on a little altar and have someone come and give you a talk.

Good-bye.

Josefa

P.S. Read this in your cell.

Letter 510

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez, O.C.D.

(no date)

Teresita

My very dear daughter,

What a joy I had in receiving your letter! It had been such a long time since you had written to me. Perhaps it was because you're so overworked at the school, and that's a good reason, but, thanks be to God, now I can see that you're well and playful, which makes me very happy. You understand that the happiness of mothers is to see their children happy, or is it the other way around?

Take good care of your health, try to be at peace, and eat and sleep well.

Here I'm in Los Angeles with my daughters, but wishing to be back there with you. Let it be for God! As far as I'm concerned, complete happiness can no longer be mine as long as the family (*Congregation*) is so scattered, but when I get to heaven I'll be joyously happy! Fortunately I'm already very close to heaven. At my age my illnesses are but the vehicles which will help me get there very soon. Pray very much for me.

I wanted you to have your vacation, but if it isn't possible, tell Carmela (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) not to worry and to act as she deems fit. **We do what we need to do, not what we want to do.**

Tell me later how your exams came out.

Good-bye, daughter, and may God bless you.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1935. (1935 was the year of the last visit of Mother Luisita to the United States. Chronicle pg.109. Mother Carmelita was the Vicar General that year).

Letter No. 511

**Possibly Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez,
OCD**

(no date)

My very dear daughter,

How are you in the new house? I'm a little concerned, wanting to know about you and what you might be lacking. Pachita (*Francisca*) is offering to lend us some dishes so we won't have to buy any; and Maria del E. (*probably Sister Maria of the Holy Spirit Vargas*) is going to send some to you. Therefore, don't buy any, but please let me know [what you need] so that I may send it to you.

Send your address to Mr. del Alba (*Father Gabino de Alba, Pastor of Merced Church--the sisters used to take care of the altar linen there*).

As soon as you've finished building the cabinet to enclose the tabernacle, you'll have the Blessed Sacrament. That's what Mr. Anaya (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar for Religious in Guadalajara*) said. He also said that the priest who will go there to give you Holy Communion should come in with much prudence. Almost every time I've passed by on my way to San Miguel Church (*St. Michael Church*), I've seen [some men] standing on the corner of the street with the rail, looking toward Morelos Street. I mention this so you can be made aware of it.

My Uncle Anaya repeated that the two families should get together, so as soon as you're settled, let me know so that I may send you the girls (*novices*).

Do you have light bulbs? Do you have electricity already? How is

the pantry? Do you like the house? Tell me everything and let Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) know your new address.

I'm well, thanks be to God; I've just returned from Mass at San Miguel, which is over by Circular [Street]. Visit Him from your house and pray for me.

Try to be happy and make good use of your time and all of the graces you receive from God our Lord. Give my regards to the sisters and may you all be saints.

Good-bye. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph accompany you.
Maria Toledo

Approximate date: 1935. (That house was situated on Hidalgo Street. Chronicle p. 109)

Letter 512

Possibly to Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

My daughter,

Let us bless God our Lord for His goodness, which I hope will help us to serve and love Him. As soon as possible write to Mr. de Alba (*possibly Father Gabino de Alba, pastor in Merced. The sisters used to earn some money by taking care of the altar linen of that Church*) telling him to give us whatever he wants. Let him know that we don't have any experience, but that you'll be most happy to help him. Ask him to send you whatever linen you're missing.

Give P. (*Padre, i.e. the priest*) one peso and you'll have [it] for Friday and Saturday. Then offer to launder his surplice. Does he have a little purse to carry the Blessed Sacrament? If not, make one for him, and thank him. Also, let him know that we're only going to be giving him one peso on those days when we can't give him any more than that, but whenever we're able to give him two pesos, we will.

Accept Holy Communion on the days it is brought to you, even if it's daily.

Renew your vows tomorrow with the Priest at Mass.

If Mr. Alba sends you money, use it. If not, they can come by to get some this afternoon, but send me [a record of] the expenses so that we can record them in the book.

I'll be sending you the things you've requested, as well as the machine for the tortillas.

Regards to all my daughters, and ask them to pray for me.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1935.

**Letter 513
To the Community**

January 1, 1936

May the peace of God be in the souls of my beloved daughters in Christ.

What a joy it is for me to greet you on this very first day of the year and have a little conversation with all of you, even if it's only in writing, until such time as Our Lord grants me the grace of seeing you personally. Of course, my great desire for all of you, is that your new year will be filled with blessings. May they, like the valuable rain, help the seeds of those virtues most pleasing to God our Lord to germinate within your souls, embellishing them with virtue. I'll pray for this intention with all my heart because your happiness is my happiness. I have as much concern for your souls as I do for my own (I think I'm saying too much), but it's a reality--I'm deeply concerned in an extraordinary way for each and everyone of you.

My hope is that the house will be a consolation to Our Lord, and that [the love of] His Most Sacred Heart will rest in each

person who dwells within it. I did receive the great consolation of knowing that peace reigns there, and the Holy Spirit dwells where there is peace. May you all see each other with true sisterly love and be helpful to one another without any discord among you.

It is not lack of good will that impedes me from going there to see you. I think it's prudent for me to abstain from visiting you now in order to avoid difficulties, but whenever you least expect it, I'll be among you.

I wanted to send you a little present for the new year, and I hope that each of you'll let me know what little thing you desire and need. Little by little as I'm able, I'll be sending them to you. **May you be very happy and in God's grace. Pray for me.**

Maria L.

Letter 514
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, January 5, 1936

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles, California

My beloved daughter,

With great affection in Our Lord I greet you. How are you feeling? What were the results of the general medical examination you underwent? Answer me soon, and if you can't write yourself, have one of the children (*sisters*) write to me letting me know because I've been worried.

Did you receive the last letter I sent you? In it I told you to write to Aurelio and Conchita (*Mother Mary's parents*) so they will be consoled with the thought of your coming soon.

Ramon (*Mr. Ramon Ugarte, the brother-in-law of Mother Luisita*) is telling me that you and Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) won't be able to come right

away after you become citizens because you'll need to wait three years before you can leave the United States. Find out if this is true.

I think you did well taking Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) and Pilarico (*Sister Maria Pilar Padilla*) to Los Angeles to get a good rest from the patients and that contaminated environment.

Over here, Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) family (*sisters in the novitiate*) continues to increase. Yesterday, the feast of the Three Kings, a new one named Lolita arrived, but Socorro is plump and happy as if nothing is happening.

If you come, you'll see how numerous her family is when you count all her daughters and granddaughters. It's a good thing she's not being eaten up by the little ones as happens with the scorpion mother.

Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) and her sisters are very enthusiastic studying nursing, and grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez*) said that it would be a good thing if the girls over there do the same, but I think they've no time. Is that correct?

We had to move to another house. We had already left the house we had on Reforma, and then we found one on Mezquitan, and I like it. Still, it's too small and our family is too big. Pray to God that we'll find another more suitable one.

Affectionate regards to all the family and I hope you remain well.

Even as I'm still writing this, I've just now received a letter from Margarita and the joy of knowing that you're much better and won't be needing the surgery after all. **I think that all your illnesses stem from all the suffering you've had. Once you're at peace, you'll be all right. Blessed be God!**

Maria

Letter 515
Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

January 7, 1936

My beloved daughter,

Today I received your letter of the first of the current month and am hurrying to answer it immediately.

The date fixed for you and Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) to arrive is July 1, so that we can celebrate the feast on the twelfth of the same month (*general chapter*). If you give me the pleasant surprise of coming in June, it would be a great joy for me. I really look forward to the reunion of the family with great anticipation. I hope that the trip you and Mariquita are planning will not fall through because Ramon (*Mother Luisita's brother-in-law*) tells me that neither one of you will be able to leave the United States for three years after becoming citizens. Find out the facts on this particular point. If you sisters can't come, I'll be very sorry and both Conchitas (*both mothers were named Conchita*) will be filled with sorrow. Poor things. And Aurelio (*Mother Mary's father*) will feel the same way. Get the permit to come for six months. Take all the information necessary to find out about your trip. It would be a good idea for Lupe (*Mother Luisita's sister, wife of Ramon Ugarte, who was living in Los Angeles at that time*) to take a little trip, too. Than that would be a great joy for me. May God our Lord permit us to see each other.

Mariquita should notify Papa Juanito (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*) that you're coming down here. I'll ask grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) who should be the one to ask for the permission to have the house remain there definitely (*The canonical establishment of the houses in the United States*). Either Mariquita or I should ask for that grace.

Carmelita (*a statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel*) will be finished one of these days. I hope so and I hope it will be very beautiful.

I'll close this letter here as I want to mail it today.

Greetings to the family (*sisters*). I wish all of you a new year filled

with heavenly blessings. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 516
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

January 20, 1936

My beloved daughter,

Pobrecita! I wrote to you several days ago, but the letter was never sent. I went over to Carmelita's (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) house and then Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) couldn't find the letter afterwards, so I'm rewriting it now. Quite suddenly I began having fever with chills these past days. I got some injections and I'm well now, although I still feel a little uncomfortable. It must be because my albumin is high. Then again, it could also be caused by age.

With all my heart I'm so very glad you all enjoyed your outing. I'm hoping the weight that you all gained will last.

So "Refugito" (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) is nervous. You do the right thing in sending her to the countryside, but give her chores and other things that will keep her occupied and distracted and bring her with you when you come over so she can have a little change of environment.

How are you feeling? It would be a very good idea if Arechiga (*Dr. Gonzalez Arechiga*) could see you. I'll make an appointment for you. I'll let you know the exact day so you will be able to arrive the day before. What do you say? Do you think you need it?

There is a possibility that Refugio Hernandez will not be able to continue in the boarding house (*novitiate*). She suffered an attack that seems to be epilepsy. Apparently, her first episode happened before she entered. It's too bad because she's a very good girl and seems to be happy. The rest of them look well and happy.

Don't be too surprised that you have days of difficulties and sorrows. It has to be that way. We would be poor indeed if we never experienced these kinds of days which ultimately, as you will see, are for our own good. Time will tell.

I can imagine what a lovely feast you had for the Infant of Prague. He deserves it. Pray to Him for me.

Regards to all the family (*community*). I can't continue with this letter because a visitor just arrived.

Maria

**Letter 517
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

January 24, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Elenita,

I wrote you two letters lately, and because you didn't receive either of them you're probably wondering what the reason for my silence could be. At any rate, this circumstance must be what you need because it simply happened that way. I'm hoping that you'll receive this one. I became ill with a fever and even though the fever left me, I was still quite uncomfortable because my blood pressure was and remains very high. Arechiga (*Dr. Gonzalez Arechiga*) has prescribed something for it, and he wants to see me again. I'll let you know how I'm getting along.

And you, how are you feeling? If it's necessary, come over for a visit. I'll make an appointment for you, too, letting you know the exact day so that you will be able to come the day before, especially now that we live so near the doctor's office.

I think it's a very good idea for Refugito (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) to go out to the countryside and make sure she has the necessary spending money and many things to do. She may have a long stay there with you. *Pobrecita!* Greet her for me.

I thought of surprising you and going over to celebrate the feast of the Infant of Prague, but the doctor still needs to see me. We'll see. Maybe I can go for another occasion.

We have a small two-story house. It's very well-aired, sunny, and with a big roof. Although small, it's very close to everything and the room I'm occupying is very warm. I invite you to come for two or three days so that the doctor may see you.

The girls (*sisters*) look happy, but it has already been a few days since I saw them. I had been staying at Carmen's (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) house, and while I was there, they looked well to me.

There is no news about the house in Jamay (*a new foundation in the city of Jamay*). I wonder what happened? You should see me! I'm so excited about that house that I'm even thinking of it as a recreational house for us. God will provide.

Regarding your neighbor who is supposed to be bringing the list, I haven't seen him.

Gema's (*Sister Gema of the Passion Cervantes*) marriage is already arranged for March 19, and we've invited Narciso (*Monsignor Narciso Avina Ruiz, a great benefactor of the congregation*). I invite you to come to the wedding (*profession of vows*) ceremony. It's going to be very nice.

I'm worried about the sewing you're doing. I hope you're doing it correctly, that it's coming out pretty, and that the owner will like it. May God help you.

Good-bye, daughter. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 518
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

January 27, 1936

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

You must have received my last letter which Maria Barrera hand-carried, and now here I'm writing to you again, giving you my heartfelt greetings. How have you all been?

Elenita, I know you're aware of how much Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) is paying for the corn and of how expensive it is over here. I thought that maybe you could avail yourself of Maria Magdalena's (*Sister Maria Magdalena of Christ Ibarra*) father, or some other grain dealer, to do us the great favor of buying half a ton for us when the time is right to buy it, and to let us know how much it costs so we will be able to send the money. But this has to be done right away; otherwise, we'll lose the opportunity.

I'm enclosing the drawing you wanted. Copy whatever you like and then return it. It belongs to Angelita (*Sister Mary Angela of the Blessed Sacrament Huerta*).

Aurea (*Aurea Corona, a piano teacher*) is here. She gave classes to Cecilia (*Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman*) last Saturday. You could come to receive yours.

On the second of next month we'll be having the celebration for Jovita (*Jovita Ochoa who left the Congregation*), Lupe Padilla (*Sister Clara of Our Lady of Guadalupe Padilla*) and funny Refugio (*Sister Catarina of St. Augustine*).

What can you tell me about the sewing you're doing? Is it turning out pretty? Don't you dare to fail. May God our Lord help you all.

At this moment I'm at Socorro's house but I'll be returning soon. I feel the cold here very much, but not in the other little house because the room I'm occupying there is warm.

Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) is dreaming that she's already here. Ay! What a girl! She's one constantly erupting volcano. You should read the letters

she writes telling me about the trip. My regards to all the family, your father (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*), and the Gomez Family.

May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 519

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

February 9, 1936

My beloved daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

For several days now I've been wanting to write to you, but I don't know how to give myself the time to do it. Pray to God our Lord to help me to get rid of this defect.

If Luisa (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso*) is the oldest, she should be the one to stay in your place while you're away, and Soledad (*Mother Soledad of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) should help her and Maria Magdalena (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*) from Duarte as suggested. May God bring us to the day when we'll be able to see each other again, for I desire it so much.

Today, the fourteenth, I'm continuing this letter. I'm now in Ocotlan. I came here last Monday in order to visit Nena's (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo's*) family. They've been very persistent in inviting me to spend a few days here, and I took the opportunity to do so on my way to Jamay where there is a job opportunity awaiting my girls (*sisters*) to teach cloth-cutting and sewing. I'm going there to look into a little house where they can live, but I'll soon be back in Guadalajara.

How have you been feeling? Have you felt that attack anymore? I'm told that your family is afraid that you'll get sick when you see them in mourning for "Pancho" (*Mother Mary's brother, Francisco*). Do you think that would happen? I'm leaving it up to you whether to come or not. If you don't feel you have the strength and the

serenity to face their tears when they see you, then send one of the girls, but you make your own decision.

Grandfather (*In 1935 Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara, returned to Mexico from his exile in the United States*) has been gravely ill, and so I've also had that worry. When I go see him, right away he asks for all of you. Grandmother (*the religious persecution*), thanks be to God, looks a little better, though. Than that's fortunate for us because what would we do if both of these little old people became seriously ill?

My intention was to write to my granddaughters (*novices and postulants*), but since it has been such a long, long time since I've written to you, I'm anxious for you to get this. Meanwhile, please greet them for me and tell them that, God willing, I'll soon be answering them.

I almost forgot to tell you. You did the right thing in putting the matter of Lupe "on hold". (*Lupe left the Congregation.*) I'll let you know what Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez, Vicar General*) and her family (*councillors*) have to say.

Good- bye, daughter, and may our good Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 520

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Ocotlan, February 14, 1936

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez.

My never-forgotten and very beloved daughter, Margie,

Yesterday I had the joy of receiving your very affectionate letter. I have to confess to you, I laughed when I read it. Oh, little one, what a hodge-podge you're with your projects and difficulties. I hope you've received the pictures that you desired so much. Perhaps what you mention about fixing up the house is a good idea. It's also a good idea for you to try to do it economically and in good taste.

Ah, daughter of mine, how long since I last wrote to you. Nevertheless, and in spite of a very great desire to write, I've had to take care of my illness. I had a high fever and later on high blood pressure, and some other preoccupations besides. Or perhaps it's just that I don't know how to find time to do things. This is how I make you practice your patience. I hope these acts of patience will help toward your sanctification.

Ramon (*Ramon Ugarte, brother-in-law of Mother Luisita*) gave me \$100.00 in your name on December 24, exactly. May Our Lord reward you for such a good gift. It has helped us very much. We purchased a little set we needed for the parlor very much, and some other indispensable things. Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) tells me she also has the money you sent to her. You may continue sending it directly to her. She's already bought dresses for the little girls with that money.

I'm in Ocotlan spending a few days with Nena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) and her family (*community*). It's most beautiful, and we can even see the lake from the house. I'd like to send the girls there for vacation every year. Maybe I'll already have returned to Guadalajara by the time this letter reaches you. Grandfather (*the bishop*) is grievously ill and grandmother (*the persecuted church*) is better, fortunately. What could we do if both of them were dying? At this very moment I just received news that grandmother (*the religious persecution*) is sick again. Be it for God!

In order to mail this today, I'll close now. I've chatted with you long enough. Mariquita (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) is much better. They've given her calcium injections since the doctor said she was lacking calcium. Doctor says she'll be much better than she's been.

Greetings to the family (*community*). Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 521
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia

Alonzo

February 25, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Elenita,

I greet you with all my affection, wishing you God's peace.

It would be a very good idea if you could write soon offering your condolences. I went over to personally offer mine. (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara died on February 18, 1936, in Guadalajara, Mexico.*)

My family (*the community*) over here is still on an outing (*had to move to another location*). I hope they return soon. Even Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) and her family (*the postulants and novices*) went out and they are still out.

I arrived here safely. Blessed be God! My regards to the family (*community*).

In order to mail this today, I bid you good-bye.

May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. I've not received yet Mercedes's (*Mercedes Villasenor*) money.

Letter 522

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

February 25, 1936

For Conchita.

My very beloved daughter,

Now, don't you be foolish! I don't have any resentment toward you, nor any one of you [sisters]. Be at peace, and don't be thinking

anymore about those things you mentioned in your last letter. Kindness and love is what I receive from you [sisters]. May God our Lord reward you in abundance, and I'm thankful to all of you.

Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) must have gone already to his new assignment. I learned that he was leaving today. I'm sending a little remembrance that he left for Elenita and to you. Rafaelita is bringing it to you.

If, at any time you want to come over for a consultation, even if it is not with Albert, we'll most gladly welcome you. I'll let you know as soon as we have a little house and then you will be able to come.

Good-bye, daughter. Become better every day.

Maria

Letter 523
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, February 27, 1936

My beloved daughter, Mary,

With great affection I greet you wishing you, above all, God's peace.

I hope you've already received the letter I wrote to you during my stay in Ocotlan on my way to Jamay. If not, please let me know so I may repeat what I said to you in it.

It seems to me that we should wait until you arrive so that we may come to an agreement as to who will be with Lola (*Sister Dolores of Jesus Jimenez*), and since it's only a short time, I think it's the right thing to do. Tell Lolita to adorn herself with that act of patience and not to let it go by her.

The death of the Prelate (*Archbishop Francisco Oroczco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara died on February 18, 1936*) was deeply felt. I'm told there were at least 80,000 people at his funeral Mass and internment.

Let us bless our good Lord. He also took our beloved grandfather (*Mother Luisita is still referring to Archbishop Francisco Orocozo y Jimenez*), and even though we see that what God does is for the best, we've deeply felt the separation, but that's natural because I did feel that I had his support. **However, we shouldn't let ourselves be overcome by sentimentality but, rather, see all things as coming from God and receive everything with serenity.**

I received the cards showing the first communion girls (I suppose). I'm very glad. Blessed be God!

Pray for us very much. Times are very difficult. Imagine, our youth only want to go on picnics. Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) and her family (*novitiate*) are on an outing (*have had to move to a different house because of the danger from the government*). What kind of little ones do we have? Blessed be God!

I congratulate you for the new nephew. Aurelio and Conchita (*Mother Mary's parents*) must be very happy with the new grandson-godson.

Affectionate greetings to the little ones (*novices and postulants*) and tell them I appreciate their little letters of condolence very much. May God reward them. Good-bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Do you think the letter with the report you say you sent about the girl (*sister*) stayed behind? I didn't receive it.

Letter 524
Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

Guadalajara, February 29, 1936
Miss Maria de Lourdes.

My very beloved daughter,

I greet you with much affection, hoping that you're well.

As always, I was thankful for your little letter. May God our Lord reward you.

The sorrow for *abuelito* (*grandfather, i.e. Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) is deep in my soul, but I'm very hopeful that through his intercession our needs will have a happy solution.

Are you a little saint already?

I'm continuing this letter today, March 28 because I've been sick. Thanks to be God, I'm a little better now and so I take this opportunity to visit with you through these lines. Well, my daughter, when are we going to see each other again? Perhaps Our Lord will reserve that joy for when we're together in heaven. There we'll enjoy ourselves all the more because we'll be in the midst of the greatest joy one can have. We'll be no longer here on this earth in the midst of sorrow and life's miseries. Let's work to get there. Pray for me.

Has your sister written to you? Is your business resolved? **Try not to lose God's peace or His presence.**

Maria

Letter 525

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

March 7, 1936

For Lupe (Guadalupe) Botello.

My very dear daughter,

God's peace.

Today I learned through Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) about the death of your *mamacita* (*your dear mother*) and I'm hurrying to write to you so that I will be able to

greet you and offer you my heartfelt condolence. **Believe me, my daughter, that with all my heart I'm with you in your sorrow. May you receive that consolation which only comes from God alone.**

Let us bless His Divine Majesty in the midst of our suffering. Let us adore His high designs and offer up your sorrow to Him. This is what pleases Him the most.

On Monday I'll begin the triduum of the little I can do for the eternal repose of the soul of your mother. You could tell she was a very good lady, one who left a legacy of good example to you, her children. She died in the fulfillment of her duty in spite of lacking [medical] attention. What a beautiful example! Imitate her. Be faithful in keeping your obligations, even when you're suffering, and I recommend to you most earnestly not to lose your peace of soul. Rest assured that what your mother suffered during her illness, God has already weighed and rewarded. He loves her even more than you love her. Nothing is hidden from Him and He solves anything. Nevertheless, He has permitted things to happen in this way and it was not by chance. He allowed to happen that which was for the good of her soul. In eternity you'll find out the "why" and you'll thank God for that momentary suffering which has brought so much glory to God.

And now a personal word for you. Take a laxative so you will be able to get rid of the bile and not become sick. I'd like to go visit you, but you can see that it just isn't possible for me to do so. Let it be for God!

Than that you may stay well and be resigned in the midst of your pain is the ardent desire of this mother who blesses you.

Maria

**Letter 526
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

March 9, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Elenita,

The peace of God be in our souls.

I received your letter which I appreciated so much and am answering you now. I wasn't the one who decided that Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) family (*novices and postulants*) should go out. When I came back from their house, they had already separated into groups by higher orders and it was only last Friday that they received the directive to come together again. We received the same order, so now things are back as they were before and we're at the same addresses as before.

The celebration for Gema (*Sister Gema of the Passion Cervantes*) will be, as it was decided, on the nineteenth of this month. You're invited to attend.

Today I received the license for the house in Jamay. Angelica (*Sister Angelica of the Immaculate Heart Gutierrez*) is going there to join her companions. They'll all arrive on the day assigned by Mr. Curiel (*Father Antonio Curiel, pastor in Jamay*). Please write to him in my name, asking the exact time he'll go to receive them, so they'll be ready. I hope that they'll be provided with the necessary furniture. Find out.

We've been sending Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) \$15.00 (pesos) monthly and even a little more sometimes. It was proposed that the doctor give her a regime to follow, and we'll do here whatever Maria (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) orders. Hopefully, Mariquita (*also referring to Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) could persuade Trini to come with you, and then Trini would be at peace, knowing that Mariquita is close by. Maria was telling me that the eye doctor's opinion was that it could become necessary to change the glasses. I asked them how much it would be so I can send the money. Any food donations we've received have been shared with them. I hope that it will count before God that we've done whatever we possibly could for Maria.

Regarding the discipline in your house, I think you need special permission from the motherhouse if you want to do more than what is prescribed by the "C" (*Constitutions*). In an individual instance the one who wants to do extra could do so privately with the permission of the local council and superior who see the health conditions of each person. To my way of thinking, the best and most secure way is to abide by the *Constitutions* and not try to be doing extraordinary penance out of self-will, but with humility be subjected to the judgment of the superiors. "Obedience is better than sacrifice." To act independently from the will of the superiors is to act independently from the will of God. The devil! How clever for him to appear as an angel of light!

Because Angelica's renewal is so close at hand and since the one who is going to preside is already appointed, she should leave on the sixteenth at the very latest.

The answer to the question about fasting was affirmative. It was left to my discretion who should be dispensed from it. Mr. Anaya (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) has always told me to observe who should always be dispensed from fasting.

I'm very happy that the painting you did turned out so beautifully. How much will the material cost for the vestment I'd like for the twelfth of July?

My regards to all the family (*community*) and our friends in that town. May God our Lord bless and keep you all.

Maria

P.S. I didn't even notice that this paper was stained. Please forgive me.

Letter 527

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, March 16, 1936

My never-forgotten and dear daughter, Margie,

Thanks be to God, I've received your letters and with them the joy of learning that you liked the things which you ordered.

With great pleasure I accept the honor of being the godmother of such a beautiful girl (*the sponsor of the blessing of the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel*). You let me know what my gift should be for her on that occasion.

Administration of hospitals will be very useful for you sisters to learn. This kind of training is the best for those whose work is in that area. I congratulate you sisters for the wonderful opportunity which has presented itself for you to do this.

I've had a cold and have been very swollen. Doctor says the swelling is due to the disease I have. Who knows if I'm going to be alive in June? **We shouldn't preoccupy ourselves with what might happen. What comes from God or is permitted by Him Who loves us so much and wishes our greatest welfare shouldn't cause us to worry.**

Maria Castellanos (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) is much better. Her letters show that everything is well in every sense. The specialist takes care of her and gives her injections. We shouldn't expect our good Columbita (*Sister Columba of Jesus Garcia*) to learn how to speak English. She only knows the language necessary to speak with God and the fulfillment of her duties. I'm glad that it's easy for Juanita (*Sister St. John of the Cross Dominguez*) to learn how to speak English.

On the nineteenth of next month, we'll have the celebration for Leonor Cervantes (*Sister Gema of the Passion Cervantes*). She seems to be very well prepared.

Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) with her family (*novices*) and my sisters have returned from their vacation (*retreat*). They seem to be very happy. Blessed be God!

Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament (*Sister Carmen of the Blessed*

Sacrament Hernandez) is going to establish herself in Jamay (as *local superior in Jamay, Mexico*) with her family (*sisters*). The opening of the new house will be on the nineteenth. I imagine the Spouse (*Our Lord Jesus Christ*) is pleased.

Affectionate greetings to all.

Maria

Letter 528

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

March 22, 1936

May the peace of God be in the soul of my very beloved daughter, Manuelita.

With all my affection I greet you and answer your note. Didn't you receive the letter that I enclosed with Lupe Botello's (*Sister Maria Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gomez*) letter? It was the one in which I was offering her my condolences. Please let me know if you've received it or not.

What does Don Doroteo say about Alicia's dowry (*Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar who left the Congregation*)? Tell him that he should fulfill this responsibility of his either by sending us the papers or taking care of this matter by any other means of his choice. This is a matter of conscience for both him and myself--that we both fulfill such a great obligation lest death come to us and find us without having settled this sacred debt, which should have been paid two months before the profession (*of Sister Alice*) as the Church specifies it.

Send the same message to Heliodoro, and also to Francisca Teresa's (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was later changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and of St. Martin de Porres*) mother. Then ask Joaquin if he would try to sell Jesus Teresa's (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) house. By the way, are the \$5.00 (pesos) interest payments still being paid to Don Domingo Lomeli?

Carmelita (*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) is already in Jamay. The opening celebration of that house took place on the nineteenth of this month and in his introduction, Mr. Curiel (*Father Antonio Curiel, pastor in Jamay*) told the people of that town that the girls (*sisters*) are angels and should be respected as the consecrated persons they are. Pray to God our Lord for them. Their house will be under the protection of our father, St. Joseph, as well as St. Therese.

I can't turn in the applications (*for entrance into the Congregation*) without the following: Baptism and Confirmation certificates, medical examination results, and permissions from the parents and priests. Once everything is together, I'll forward them to the vicariate. Didn't you receive the circular letter informing you that Mr. Anaya (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) is no longer the vicar? Than that means that the applications which we had directed to him can't be used now; therefore, new ones have to be made when you've all the documents together.

I'm sending you three gurneys (*stretchers to transport the patients scheduled for surgery*) for the surgery patients. Mr. Sanchez Aldana (*Father Arcadio Medrano Sanchez Aldana, pastor in Atotonilco*) bought them by paying \$20.00 (pesos) as a down payment for us. Let him know when you receive them and thank him. Although he bought them at the beginning of the month, I didn't send them to you until I knew of someone who could bring them over safely.

Regards to all the family (*community*) and ask them to please pray for me.

Maria

Letter 529

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

March 22, 1936

My very dear daughter, Teresita,

I greet you with much affection. May God's peace be with you.

Our father St. Joseph gave us a wonderful gift. Regarding the young lady you were telling me about, I think her soul is in very great danger because of the environment in which she finds herself. She's inexperienced, young, and simple, and her parents taught her not to be worldly. I'm afraid that she'll be impressed by the allurements of the world, becoming one of its sad victims. I spoke to her in a very frank manner, telling her that I was interested in saving her soul which I saw in danger, but I wanted to be sure that Our Lord was truly calling her. I suggested for her to go see Mr. Zambrano (*Father Zambrano*), so that he could find out about her vocation because he's experienced in these matters. He was Master of Novices for seven years in Islita.

Something just occurred to me. Tell her to come right away with her Aunt Gregorita and to remain with us for awhile so we will be able to be sure about her vocation. Tell her to prepare herself to enter into an atmosphere of tranquillity. Then, her entrance will not be so noticeable, and the persons around her won't even notice either, and if she obeys, that will be taken as a test [of her vocation].

The birth certificates are missing for those girls who sent in their applications. Without them, we can't do anything. We need to send everything together to the Vicar [of Religious].

I'm very happy that the shop (*school*) is going so well. I assure you that it gives me great consolation when you tell me that and even more so when we see it bearing such good fruit, as those applications are. Blessed be God! It's obvious He has blessed your efforts. Continue, daughter, working for the glory of God. Maybe you'll have to make up for the month that you did not work so that there will be no deficiencies. Instead of the exams taking place in May, let them be in June, but you make the decision. I'm only suggesting it.

It will be very nice to visit Asia. I already know of some things I especially like because they are made in that place so dear to me. (*It is unclear what Mother Luisita means here, possibly a school program or an entertainment of some kind.*)

May God bless you.

Maria

Letter 530

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, March 26, 1936

My beloved daughter, Mary,

With much pleasure I greet you, giving in to your desire for me to write back immediately so you won't worry. I understand that the reason Ramon (*Mr. Ramon Ugarte, Mother Luisita's brother-in-law*) hasn't come to see me is because he's such a busy person. I think I haven't seen him since December, even though I've been at his house. Twice I went out to see the little girls when they were leaving, but they're back already and now that I've had no reason to go out, I haven't seen him. It seems to us, grandmother (*the religious persecution*) is in more or less satisfactory condition, but we don't know the doctor's opinion.

Conchita, Mother Margarita's mother, is having financial difficulties. Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) is a very good girl and she sacrifices herself for her mother, but sewing jobs are scarce. From what I can see, they're even lacking what is essential. If you think it's all right, you could send about \$4.00 (dollars). Taking into consideration the exchange, that monthly amount should be sufficient. Ramon Ugarte is offering Conchita a position for Lucita as soon as the factory is ready to start. Then we'll see how much she'll be getting and perhaps it would be all right to stop the monthly help or we'll do whatever is prudent.

The girls established themselves in Jamay on the nineteenth. May St. Joseph and St. Therese help them because they are their Patrons. The ones in Jamay are: Carmen del S. (*Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*), Alicia (*Sister Alice of the Love of God Aguilar who later left the Congregation*), Maria de Jesus (*Sister Mary of the Blessed Sacrament Garcia Torres*) and Carmen J. (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*). Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) took them. I couldn't go because of the celebration for Gema (*Sister*

Gema of the Passion of Christ Cervantes) which was on the nineteenth, and my health has been poor besides. Today, I feel a little better. Blessed be God!

We have a job offering in Mexicacan. It's very probable that by Easter my girls (*sisters*) will leave to work in that place.

One of Socorro's (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) daughters almost died last night. She has heart trouble and it was failing her. Last night she was very happy because she was going to die. This morning she's doing a little better.

Regards to the family (*sisters*). Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 531
Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez

Guadalajara, March 27, 1936

My beloved daughter, Carmen del Santisimo (*Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament*),

With all my affection I greet you, hoping that you're well.

Through your letters I can tell how everyone is doing. Yes, it's true that you need help, but we'll have to wait a little. As soon as the [*sisters*] exams are over, you'll be receiving the help you need. In the meantime, arrange everything in whatever manner you can without worrying about it. Regarding the matter you discussed with me in your letter, you're free to do as you see fit because you're the one who needs to weigh the pro's and con's.

What I don't like is that Jesus (*Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament*) is left alone. He needs someone to stay with Him.

Regarding the people you mentioned in your letter, go ahead and ask them for the book and the material, and then send me the measurements of the tabernacle.

The piano classes may be taken, as long as the teacher goes there.

If not, they [the sisters] can go to Elenita's (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) because it's relatively near to you.

God our Lord will help you and slowly, little by little, all of you'll adjust. At the beginning, everything is difficult. One doesn't know what to do at first, but then Our Lord makes the difficulties vanish, and when one least notices, everything is running smoothly like a little machine and working very well. Just try to remain at peace because you'll think more clearly that way.

I already asked for confessors, but I haven't received an answer yet.

We received a proposal to go work in Mexicacan, and perhaps by Easter time my daughters will leave. Pray to Our Lord that everything will be all right for them there.

I'm a little better. I was sick with a cold and my face was very swollen. My eyelids looked like balls and I didn't have any appetite at all. I still am not drinking any chocolate nor eating any bread because it totally upsets my stomach, and without being able to discover any reason for it, my legs are very swollen. Maria de la S.F. (*Sister Maria of the Holy Face Quintanar*) almost died on us. She received the last Sacraments because her heart was giving out. She's better now, but she certainly is happy thinking that she's going to die!

My regards to the family (*community*) and may Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

**Letter 532
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

Guadalajara, March 30, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Elenita,

I greet you wishing you, from my heart, God's peace.

I had wanted Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa*) to go over to that house so that Mercedes (*Mercedes Villasenor*) would teach her how to paint with the same method that Carmen Josefa (*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) taught her and for Consuelo to try, insofar as her ability allows, to master it. And I would also like her to see the sewing that Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*) and Beatriz (*Mother Beatrice of Jesus Ochoa Lopez*) have done. Please take her to see how they work so she will be able to assume that line of work later. I sent word for her to go, but she wasn't told. I wanted the same to be done for Angelica (*Sister Angelica of the Immaculate Heart Gutierrez*)--to learn how to paint to perfection and also how to sew the way Carmen Josefa does. Did she already leave for Jamay? Carmen T. (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*) has to go to Mexiticacan, and by the time the month of July comes, Consuelo will go to substitute for her in Mexico City. Find out if someone is going there so that she may be the companion. Carmen T. has to be here the week of Easter, which is when Manuel (*Father Manuel Flores, the pastor in Mexiticacan, Jalisco*) wants to take them. Take this seriously.

Mr. Curiel (*Father Antonio Curiel, pastor in Jamay*) has been appointed as the ordinary confessor. Let them know, and I'll be sending you the official letter with someone. I have both official letters here, including the one about the extraordinary confessor.

Refugito (*Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez*) is feeling better. She had an x-ray taken and some lab work done. Her lungs were clear. She's been suffering from bronchitis, and it's not T.B. after all. Blessed be God! Her mind is all right now and she's earnestly studying, and she wants to be put to work.

I've laughed when reading your letters. May God reward you for the little moments you've entertained me with them.

Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) will be here during Holy Week. Perhaps Mr. Zambrano

(*Father Zambrano who took the place of Father Alberto Urdanivia*), will be very busy and she'll not be able to talk to him in detail as she needs. You do whatever is best.

My regards to all the family (*community*) and to all of our friends in that town.

Maria

P.S. Please send your letters to Rafaela Navarro - Morelos 709.

Letter 533

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, April 3, 1936

Miss Manuela Rodriguez
Atotonilco

My beloved daughter,

With this letter comes my heartfelt wishes that God's peace may be with you.

I received your letter and I did understand it. Now, don't you be worrying anymore about my not understanding you.

Tell Don Doroteo (*Don Doroteo Aguilar, the father of Sister Alice of the Divine Love Aguilar who later left the Congregation*) that it would better for him to give his daughter cash even if it's in installments. Tell Heliodoro that we've already received the \$50.00 (pesos). Ask him to let you know when he's going to send the rest. Ask Joaquin to make arrangements with Heliodoro.

We're about to open a little house in Mexxicacan where we'll be taking care of patients. Dolores of Santa Teresa (*Sister Maria Dolores of St. Teresa Barrera*) has been appointed to go to that house and, if at all possible, she'll be leaving at Easter. Tell her to be ready to come at any given moment.

Do whatever is necessary for Teresita (*Sister Teresita of the Child*)

Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez) and greet her for me. I'm sorry she's ill.

The box of oranges hasn't arrived yet nor has any ticket to claim it. We thank you for your kindness, anyway, and may God reward you.

As far as I'm concerned, I'm more or less well. At least I'm still walking, and that in itself is good for me.

Refugito (*Sister Refugio*) is feeling much better, and she's writing to you now. What the doctor found out was that her heart isn't functioning properly, but we don't want to tell her so she won't worry.

In July you will have to come to the Chapter. We'll be making our retreat before that, so come on the first. The Chapter will take place on the twelfth.

Pray very much to the "Lord of the Trapiches" (*a novena of three days of prayer*) for Mary of Christ (*Mother Mary of Christ Castellanos*) that she will be able to come back to us. *Pobrecita!* I'm very worried about her.

Just send the documents for Josefina (*Sister Teresa of the Heart of Mary*), Rafaela (*Sister Pauline of Jesus*), and Socorro Velazquez (*Sister Maria Celina of St. Teresa Velazquez*). They already have the dowry. Send the others later because if they all come at the same time, I fear that our superiors will say no because the others have no dowry.

[The sisters] in Mexico City have already graduated. Pray that nothing will happen to them on the way back.

Give my regards to all the family (*community*) and to Tomasito and Benito. Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 534
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

Guadalajara, April 15, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Elenita,

The day to write to you has finally arrived! I hadn't written before this, not because of any lack of good will, but because that's what happens to me. I get distracted with anything.

How happy I'm to be well for Holy Week! Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) will let you know how we spent it over here. Blessed be Our Lord!

It's a very good idea for you to come over to pick up the lists. In that way you can ask any necessary questions that might arise because putting these things on paper would be a little difficult.

Don't be foolish. I don't think badly of you because you make suggestions. I would be the foolish one if I ever thought that I, myself alone, knew everything. Nonetheless, there have been some things that I feel I should explain to you, but that's all. Therefore, get that idea that doesn't favor me out of your head and be like you've always been, and don't worry about it.

Conchita shouldn't have started out so late the day she left and if I would have known about it, I would have been very worried. I'm pleased to learn that all of you're very responsible in the performance of all your duties, but I don't want you to expose yourself to the extent that you did on that night. On another occasion, if you find yourselves in a similar situation, return home and you will be able to leave the next day.

I do appreciate the beautiful little gifts and congratulations that you all sent me on the first of this month. May God our Lord repay you all, and I assure you that I'm full of gratitude toward you. Greet them all for me and tell them that I hope, little by little, I'll be writing to them.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 535

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, April 15, 1936

My beloved daughter, Margarita Maria,
What a great surprise I had when I saw the valuable gift you sent to your mother for me. Immediately I thought of how much it cost you sisters and that worried me. May God our Lord repay you by making you all saints.

The girls (*sisters*) had no trouble on the way and arrived perfectly well. Let's hope that the business of Maria de las Victorias (*Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel Rodriguez*) comes to a happy conclusion. Ask Our Lord that it will be so.

We regret that you're overloaded with work and so much in need of help. Fortunately Rosa (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman*) is coming to help you very soon. You ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten me as to which one to send--someone who will be able to help you and who also has the necessary aptitude.

I'd like to have a picture of the beautiful baby they gave to Sister St. John and a picture of the conversion of St. Ignatius like the one you now have in Loyola cottage. Will you please bring them to me? I would be very grateful to you for it and also if you could please bring me a pair of shoes for my use, but no more. You sisters have provided me with everything else.

Your trip over here is fast approaching. Blessed be God! This thought makes me very happy. Start thinking about what matters we'll talk about and bring everything in writing. Pray all together to the Holy Spirit for His light to help us. Do this every day (*in preparation for the General Chapter*).

Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) and Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) are well. So are Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) and his wife.

My affectionate greetings to the family (*community*) and to Mr. Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*). Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 536

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, April 15, 1936

Very much beloved daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

I was anxious to send this to you so that you may be at ease about the little girls (*sisters*), who thanks be to God, arrived here safely last Monday. Now we only need much prayer to have happy results about the painful business of Maria de las Victorias (*Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel Rodriguez*). Let it be for God! As I was told, the only ones left are Luisa (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) and Bernardita (*Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos*). You may send them any time you want to if you're afraid of contagion. I leave it up to your prudence.

Grandmother (*religious persecution*) is looking a little better. She doesn't look excited and we hope she remains that way so that when you arrive (*for the General Chapter*) you won't be afraid.

The answer from Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) for Pachita (*Sister Francisca Teresa who later changed her name to Sister Mary of Christ and St. Martin de Porres Castellanos*) is here. You'll soon have it there and in the meantime you will be able to arrange the wedding (*profession of vows*) of Maria Rosa (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman*). The consent has already been granted.

Affectionate regards to all the family (*community*) so dear to me.

I deeply appreciate both your charity in sending me gifts and the gifts themselves. Both mean very much to me. May God our Lord repay you. Good-bye, daughter, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 537

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

May 1, 1936

My beloved daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with all of my affection. Before anything else, may God's peace be with you. How are all of you? Over here, all of us remain more or less well. Maria de las Victorias (*Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso*) has had a fever for the last two days, but the rest of us are all right. Blessed be God!

You may remove Ignatius (*Sister Mary Ignatius of Jesus*) from being with the children and replace her with whomever you think is best.

I don't remember if I mentioned to you to ask Antonia not to give their daughter the house (*as dowry*). It would be better for her to give money. If I didn't tell you, I'm telling you now.

A little house has been established as a boarding house (*novitiate*). So we're now divided into two little houses. Pray to God our Lord that we'll do whatever is pleasing to Him.

May you spend this month very fervently, and please pray to our Blessed Mother for me. May God our Lord bless you all. My regards to all the family (*sisters*).

Maria

P. S. Give the picture to the owner.

Letter 538

Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez

May 6, 1936

My beloved daughter, Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament,

May God's peace be in your soul.

At last I'm allowed to write to you, daughter, and how much I've been wanting to do it. I hadn't written to you, not because of any lack of good will on my part, but because I simply don't know how to give myself time to do it. Pray to our good Lord, asking Him to make me very responsible, and don't be thinking anymore that I'm not writing in order to punish you.

I think you should consult with Papa Tono (*Father Antonio Curiel, pastor in Jamay, Mexico*) about the children's vacation because you've only been working for a very short time. I think that the older ones should probably continue their classes because they're just beginning.

Arrange the congratulatory party for Papa (*the pastor*), but make it during the day, never at night.

You'll be coming back here either in July, or after the celebration. We're looking forward to your coming to this, your house, so you that will be able to have a talk with Nacho's son (*a Jesuit priest*).

Everyday, as I think I told you, you should be spending half an hour if you can, or even less, with the Blessed Sacrament before you begin your ordinary duties, asking for His help and presenting to Him your difficulties. As God, He knows everything. You should tell Him everything as you would to a Father.

Pray to God our Lord that we'll be able to purchase a typewriter. I'll send it over to you, and then you can pay us back.

Have great courage to withstand all difficulties and worries, which one way or another you will have to endure. They come along with the job, but Our Lord will help you.

Later, in another letter, I'll talk to you a little longer. I have to stop for the time being because it's already growing late.

My regards to everyone.

Maria

Letter 539

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, May 11, 1936

My dear daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with all my affection, wishing you well.

Today I had the pleasure of receiving your last letter and I'm hurrying to answer it.

I don't think that it's a good idea for Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) to go and spend the day at Peter's house. You know how Jesus (*Our Lord Jesus Christ*) is and I'm afraid that He won't like it. However, you may ask Peter if he would be the one to go over often to visit Chole personally. I've always held him in high esteem. For the same reason Chayito (*Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) will only be going if Modesto gets sick. If that happens, then she may go. (*This paragraph talks about sisters having home visits with their families.*)

It seems to me that the house over there (*Atotonilco*) shouldn't be used as a rest home because it would need to have separate rooms for the patients supplied with items for their special needs. Make this clear without mentioning my name, but at the same time make equally clear your good will to help find a comfortable place for her.

Pray to God for the necessary tact in order to tell them in a such a way that they won't become hurt.

On Wednesday one of Socorro's daughters (*a novice or postulant*) will arrive there. She's suffering from some seemingly chronic affliction. Four different doctors saw her and agreed in the diagnosis of hysteria. Some said that they knew her before she entered and thought she wouldn't get along very well leading our kind of life. They agree that she needs to live out in the country. (*Doctor*) Gonzalez Arechiga's diagnosis is also hysteria. Therefore, we shall not receive her (*into the Congregation*). Would you kindly keep her under observation for an extended period of time? Keep

an eye on her and let the doctor know what you notice. Take her on outings and provide for her the best way you can, but don't encourage her to stay. Rather, lead her to come to her own decision that this way of life is difficult for her so that she herself will ask to leave. The reason that I'm sending her over to you is that she became hysterical over at Socorro's house when Socorro told her that she would have to leave. She began screaming and saying that she wanted either to throw herself from the roof or kill one of us. So, don't leave her alone. Ask one of the girls (*sisters*) to take care of her and she can be as a postulant. Tell her not to say anything to her about all of this. I think that with Chole (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) taking care of her, she'll do all right. She can distract herself for a period of time at the hospital, but I prefer that she spend most of her time outdoors where she'll get plenty of fresh air and sun.

Good-bye, and greetings to all the family (*community*).

Maria

Letter 540

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

May 16, 1936

May the peace of God be in the soul of my very beloved daughter, Guadalupe.

I greet you with all my affection. **May you always belong entirely to God.**

I like your frankness with me. It's a good sign. Blessed be God! In that way I can help you, and the mere fact that you're so sincere with me is proof that you're a good daughter.

I'll tell you what St. Francis Xavier used to say to those in the religious life. He said, "Overcome your own self." To me, this is very clearly a temptation from the devil and a very formidable one at that--to try to separate you from your religious superior. Why? This is most beneficial for him and at the same time it's more harmful for you. Get rid of it by coming closer to your superior and opening your heart to her

by telling her what is making you suffer.

When there is someone coming over here, write to me.

I can't continue anymore.

Maria

Letter 541

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, May 18, 1936

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez
Duarte, California

My beloved daughter,

May the Holy Spirit descend upon you.

Your loving letter is in my hands which I'm answering with pleasure. My greatest desire is that you'll come with Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*). May God grant us this, as we are awaiting you with true joy. I hope the girls (*sisters*) agree on this, even because of health reasons, it would be a very good idea for you to take a little rest. You let me know if the girls agree. Ask Mary to find out if it would be possible for her to come.

It's probable that the girls (*sisters*) will go to Mexicacan to work. They've been invited to teach sewing and other subjects in home economics. Pray for them. Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*), Mary Ines (*Sister Mary Ines of Carmel Chavez*), Chole (*Mother M. Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*), and Benigna (*Sister Benigna of Jesus Salas*) will go.

The people here wear shawls. (*Mother Luisita is advising the sisters from the United States what to wear while they are in Mexico because the religious persecution does not allow religious to wear the habit.*) Those with money and also those in mourning wear circular ones with gloves. They look all right with short skirts. Other ladies wear transparent shawls, white, and with gloves. You sisters prepare yourselves the way you think is best. Carmen Josefa

(*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) wants you to bring a garment like the one Mother Mary bought for her in Los Angeles. She'll send you the number and explain to you what she wants, since I don't have her letter anymore.

May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 542
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, May 18, 1936

Miss Maria Nunez
Los Angeles, California

My beloved daughter,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

God will reward you for sending me your little note. Here is my answer.

I think you should bring your linen, such as sheets and zarapes (*serapes--a heavy cape-like covering worn in Mexico in cold weather*), which will be useful to you on the way.

We only have permission for two of you to come in order to avoid extra expense. I hope that the little girls (*the other sisters*) will be in agreement with your proposal that Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) be the other one to come, even if it's for a very few days. May God permit her to come back. Otherwise, her poor mother might get sick, now that she's accepted the fact that she'll really see her daughter again. She's awaiting her arrival with great excitement.

I congratulate you for your new niece and for Aurelio's boy. I hope they will become saints.

It's very probable that part of our family will go to Mexicacan. The

girls are being invited to give cloth-cutting and sewing, embroidery, and craft classes. Maybe they'll be leaving one of these days. Pray to God that everything will go well for them. What else can we do? There is a great need for us to work.

I do want to answer the letter of the little ones, Ana Maria (*Sister Ana Maria of St. Teresa Rubio*) and Luz Maria (*Sister Luz Maria of St. Therese Guevera who later left the Congregation*). I'm waiting for the girls (*sisters*) to go to Mexicacan and then I'll have a little more freedom. Meanwhile, please greet them for me and also the rest of the family (*the community*).

May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 543

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

May 18, 1936

Very dear daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with all my affection and hope that you're well. Daughter, send Maria de la Soledad (*Mother Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) here before Thursday. She needs to travel to Mexicacan. Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines*), who is also going, will meet her at the train station in Ocotlan and then the two of them can travel to Mexicacan together. Let Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) know the date Chole (*Sister Soledad*) will be leaving, so that Inesita may be ready at the station and avoid confusion.

We've really put to very good use all of the beans you've been sending over to us, and I understand that now you've another sack. Could you please send that one over, also, and God our Lord will repay your kindness.

Because the trains aren't running right now, I don't demand that Maria de la Soledad come. Only send her if you're sure that she can travel safely.

My regards to all the family (*community*). Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. I've already recommended to Elena to let you know ahead of time when Ines can travel easily so that you'll have enough time to send Chole; but remember, only if there is no danger on the road. We really miss being able to use the train, and I'm afraid of the buses.

Letter 544
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

Guadalajara, May 19, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Elenita,

I greet you with great affection. How have you been, and how did the girls (*sisters*) do in their exams?

If there is someone coming in this direction who could provide transportation for Maria Ines (*Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez*), I would appreciate it very much if you send her over. I want her to go to Mexticacan to teach sewing and cloth-cutting classes. In case it's possible for her to leave, tell Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) right away, and if they're able to come, ask her to send Chole (*Sister Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*) also, so she can be the companion for Maria Ines.

I hope that the train will begin operating again soon because Rosa Maria (*Sister Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez*) and Guadalupe Teresa (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco*) have to be here on the twenty-eighth of this month. Meanwhile, take them to Jamay and that could serve as their vacation and they could come to work after that. See to it that they sleep well and let their brain rest, and the same goes for the girls (*sisters*) because they always have a setback in their health with their worries about exams.

Good bye, Nena. May God our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Letter 545
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

May 22, 1936

Very esteemed daughter,

Your last two letters, which I'm now answering, are in my possession. Before anything else, I want you to know that if I could alleviate the sorrow you're now experiencing, I would gladly do whatever it takes on my part to help you out. But if it is not in my power to help you, I'll earnestly pray that you'll find the solution to your problem.

I did not mean for the girls (*sisters*) to be always going places. You know very well that I'm not fond of you sisters going out. I did think that the change would help them be ready to take the exams, and that to see the exposition would give them ideas for the coming school year. The outing to the *laguna* (*lake*) in Jamay is a very nice place to go to, and it could have served as a boost for their good health. But please don't worry if you can't take them there; the more they're in the house, the better.

Papa did not allow me to go on vacation to any house belonging to our families and said that it would be better for us to go in different groups to our own different houses. Jamay is ideal. So is Atotonilco, and this house (*Guadalajara*) is, too. Here they could learn something useful. He'll allow us to go spend some days in Zapopan, with the condition that we would be alone in a house where Jesus (*Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament*) could also be. Think about where they'll be happier and then let me know. The whole point is for them to rest from their toils and have a wonderful time.

Because of the girls (*sisters*) leaving for Mexticacan * I didn't go to

see you, nor to Jamay. *Tu nino (your child)* told me he wanted to leave the next day when he would be free in order to take them, but he did not have grandfather's permission yet. Perhaps my uncle (*the Vicar of Religious*) could give it.

Try to keep well and please give my regards to the girls. Good-bye.
Maria

*The personnel for the foundation in Mexicacan were: Mother Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada; Sister Soledad of St. Teresa Valle; Sister Maria Ines of Carmel Chavez; Sister Benigna of Jesus Salas. A little later the following sisters were added to the group: Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit Ruiz and Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez. (*Taken from the Chronicles of the Congregation.*)

Letter 546

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, May 26, 1936

My beloved daughter,

Last night I had the pleasure of receiving your letter and I'm hurrying to answer you. I'm glad that you'll be making the shawls. Than that's the way we're using them.

In respect to our sick sister, I think you should speak to her sisters so that they'll know why we want to send her to Tucson. I think we need to pray with great prudence and proceed very carefully. I see that this is very delicate for her, her family, *los patrones (ecclesiastical authorities)* and society, and even for our own families. If we send them away like that when they get sick, wouldn't our families become disillusioned? Her family will never forget what happened if we send her away. Think it over well. At the same time, wouldn't it be better to accept it and take care of this ourselves as a cross that God our Lord has sent us and take care of the sick one as if she were our own mother, and in that way suffer it? God our Lord could change this most difficult situation which calls for such great virtue on our part. If it would ever become necessary that the doctor give a written order that, in conscience,

sister should be changed to another house, then she should simply go, without any repugnance. Both her family, and our family as well, would be completely convinced that the change is indispensable for her health. Well, if that would ever happen, then it would become necessary to bring this matter before the Superiors so they can give their opinion. Prayer, prayer, and more prayer! **This life is full of worries and you find them wherever you're. In fact, these worries, also, are a part of the work of God which He permits or sends to bring about a greater good.**

I suppose that you've already received my letter, although you didn't mention it. It may have crossed with yours or arrived when you received mine. In it I told you that soon the girls (*sisters*) will be going to Mexicacan and now it will be up to Carmen Teresa (*Sister Carmen Teresa of St. Elias Estrada*).

Maria de Jesus (*Sister Maria of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia Torres*) left the hospital recently. They performed two operations on two malignant tumors, but thanks be to God, she's better and with her happy temperament she still keeps us laughing!

Greet the family (*community*) for me and here's a question for you. Has Josefina (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra*) died that I haven't heard from her for such a long time?

May God our Lord give you peace of soul, and may your Pentecost be a holy one.

Maria

Letter 547

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, June 5, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Margie,

I received your telegram last night and am answering you immediately. How is Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*)? She must have been struck down suddenly (*acute appendicitis*). Blessed be God! Conchita and Narcisa (*Mother Mary's mother and sister*) were here and read the telegram.

Because of the special circumstances and because all was in readiness, we've decided not to delay the celebration (*General Chapter*). You come, representing Maria and let the family (*sisters*) choose a delegate to replace you. When the doctor allows Maria to come, even as late as August, we'll be awaiting her arrival with pleasure. We can't excuse you from coming. I suspect you'll not be here on the twenty-first, as you'll want to watch over Maria, but by the first of July we'll have the pleasure of seeing you. No doubt she'll be all right by then, and you can come, worrying less.

My daughter, we would appreciate it very much, if at all possible, you could bring us one magazine like the one you sent for the sewing class at Mexiticacan. It has proven to be very useful. They need one in Ocotlan.

Please keep me informed about Maria's condition. Give her my regards, tell her how sorry I'm about her illness, and that we're all praying to God for her quick recovery. Here, we're all right, thank God, and expecting your arrival.

Regards to all the family (*sisters*).

Maria Luisa
Letter 548

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, June 13, 1936

My dearly beloved daughter, Margie,

I was very much relieved with your letter bringing the news of Maria's (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) improvement. Blessed be God! I only hope that she'll be fully recovered soon. She has the advantage of her youth.

I approve of the election of the one taking your place. Josefina (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra*) is a fine girl (*sister*).

Have you discovered the statements for Elenita's account? (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo was the*

General Treasurer.) She told me a few days ago that she needed them (*the financial statement of the community in Duarte*).

I've no time for more.

Regards to all of the family (*sisters*). We'll see you soon, God willing, on the twenty-ninth.

Maria

Letter 549
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

J.M. + J.T.

Guadalajara, July 24, 1936

The peace of God be in our souls, my cherished daughter in Christ, Elenita,

Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) must have told you that there is a charge of \$30.00 (*dollars*) which will need to be paid by Martin del Campo (*Dr. Martin del Campo was the father of Elvira, who took the name of Sister Maria Dolores of the Blessed Sacrament*) and Mr. Ibarra (*Father Castor Ibarrachevea*) for x-rays that were taken of Elvira (*Sister Maria Dolores of the Blessed Sacrament del Campo*) and Maria Magdalena (*Sister Maria Magdalena of Christ Ibarra*) at \$15.00 (*dollars*) each. The enclosed money will be to cover the dental work of Maria del Rosario (*Mother Maria Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*). I'll soon send you the \$10.00 which are missing.

As soon as Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) comes, Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) will begin her retreat. Send her soon.

Without any more time to continue, I'll say good-bye, desiring for you to become a saint. My regards to each and every member of the family. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 550
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, July 26, 1936

My beloved daughter, Teresita,

I greet you with all my affection. God's peace be with you. I've had the pleasure of receiving your little letters and am very thankful. May God our Lord reward you.

I give thanks to God for the beautiful celebration He granted you on the occasion of the feast of our Blessed Mother, and I hope that every day the people in that little town (*Atotonilco*) will grow in their devotion toward her and that we'll be her instruments in bringing this about.

Congratulations for passing your exams. Blessed be God!

Maria del S.C. (*Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart Flores Rodriguez*) is going in that direction so that she can help you in the shop (*school*) because I know you're missing a helper. It would very good if, upon receiving this, you would begin a novena to the Holy Spirit, asking His help for this new school year.

Please tell Maria de San Jose (*Sister Maria of St. Joseph Espinoza*) to remain a little longer, and that I'll let her know when she can come. I hope that we'll find a bigger house where the boarders (*novices*) can be comfortable. We're looking for one.

My Teresita, may God our Lord preserve you many more years--and very well-spent ones--bringing many souls closer to our good God.

August 8 is the date for the entrance of the three girls that are already accepted. Tell Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) so she will be able to inform the parents and Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) can bring their payment.

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

Maria

Letter 551
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

August 11, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Elenita,

Greetings with much affection and my heartfelt wish that God's peace be with you.

I like your suggestion that the H. (*"hermanas" or sisters*) take part in the jury (*judges for a school competition*). When you invite them, let them know they've my permission to go.

Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) arrived this morning, and by the way, as I mentioned to her, let me remind you that some time ago I wrote to you telling you that I had learned that a sister wanted to leave in order to join another Community, and that I thought it was you, and that by your answer to my letter, I could see if I was right in my thinking. I'm telling you this, so you won't be harboring any ill feelings in your heart toward Socorro. Be at peace.

We're preparing right now for the foundation of Santo Tomas (*Santo Tomas de los Platanos*). This only adds to my reasons that I can't absent myself from town right now, but I'll entrust you to God our Lord with all my heart.

Send me whatever Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) has and anything you might have that pertains to kindergarten. They'll be for Ines who is the one who will be going to Santo Tomas. She could use resumes, references, lessons plans, poems, songs, or whatever else she needs. We'll copy them and then we'll return them to you.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 552

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, August 14, 1936

Very dear daughter, Manuelita,

Enclosed you'll find the letter from the vicar so that you will be able to deliver it right away.

On Monday, the twenty-fourth of this month, the girls (*sisters*) will be leaving on the 7:00 train to Santo Tomas (*Saint Thomas*). Make arrangements for Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo*) to meet them in Celaya, but don't send her alone. I hope that Mr. Campos will be able to find a trustworthy person to be her companion.

Do you think Josefina (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra*) would like to go visit her father in Celaya? I'd like very much for her to be the companion. I can't go myself because I've been sick for several days now. I'm now able to walk a little, but I've many health problems and am very swollen.

There is no time for more. Later, I'll write more calmly. My regards to all the family (*community*).

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 553

Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso

Guadalajara, August 21, 1936

Miss Luisa Reynoso
Tapalpa

My beloved daughter,

Yesterday I received your expected letter. I was anxious to know about you all. May God reward you.

You'll do fine with Isabelita (*the sister of Mother Maria of the Trinity, and Sister Consuelo of Jesus*) there, but try to see that she doesn't tire herself out too much trying to serve you. She might get sick. On the contrary, try to help her out in anyway that you can. Give my regards and my gratitude to her, and to Father, also.

Get up late. It's necessary for you to sleep well and eat as well as you can. Hot milk is very good for you now. Than that is the purpose in sending you there--so that you'll recuperate and come back as good as new, and without illnesses, God willing.

I like it when you write long letters, giving me every detail, just as you did it in the last one.

We're in good health here, except for myself. I've been having dizzy spells and I'm becoming very swollen. It's difficult for me to get well. The girls (*sisters*) are getting ready to go to Santo Tomas, and the rest are working in the shop (*teaching groups of primary school children*). *Pobrecitas!* Everyone here is getting drenched because it has been raining so much.

Enclosed, you'll find a letter that arrived here for you. I think it came yesterday.

All of you try to keep warm and enjoy the country side. It's so beautiful. Good-bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you all.
Maria

Letter 554

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

August 21, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Margie,

Loving greetings to you. How do you feel? I'm worried about your health and hope you'll tell me that you're well.

What a coward I was at your departure. In saying farewell to Maria de los Angeles (*Sister Mary of the Angeles of the Eucharistic Heart Villarruel*) I shed St. Peter's tears and felt too weak to say good-bye to you. I know I caused you to be faint-hearted and contributed more to Conchita's (*Mother Margarita's mother*) suffering. This is why I decided not to say good-bye. Excuse my weakness. Perhaps, next time when we see each other again, I'll have more courage than now.

I immediately sent the letters to Mr. "X". He received them in person. I hope by now he has taken some action, God willing. He said he has the pictures available but he wanted to autograph them for you. Perhaps he hasn't had the time to do so.

The girls will take their place at St. Thomas next Monday, God willing. There is a possibility that they will be going to Villacorona in January.

Conchita and Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) are all right.

Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) tells me that you're in the hospital. May God's will be done.

How is Esperanza (*Sister Mary Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*) *Pobrecita!* Give her my regards. Is she still in the hospital?

Good-bye, my daughter.

I wish you a speedy recovery and that you'll make good use of the time the Lord gives you in this life. May He bless you.

My regards to all and to each one in the family (*community*).

Maria

Letter 555
Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

August 29, 1936

My beloved daughter, Teresita,

I greet you with much affection, hoping that you'll have a safe trip to Ocotlan and feel free to travel on to Jamay, if you've enough hours in the day to make that trip, also. For no reason should you return at night. You'll go on Thursday morning and will come back Friday morning. This prohibition of not going out at night is for perpetuity, and likewise that of not going out alone anywhere.

What happened regarding the celebration (*profession of vows*) of Asuncion (*Sister Maria Asuncion of the Sacred Wounds Herrera*) and Carmen Lucia (*Sister Carmen Lucia of the Blessed Sacrament Garcia*)? Mr Velazquez (*Monsignor Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*) was supposed to go. I was at Conchita's house at the time and didn't read your letter until the twenty-eighth. I hope that Father received the letter of authorization [of receiving their vows] and that everything was done in a satisfactory manner.

Some time ago it was decided that Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) should go there (*as local superior in Atotonilco*), but she hasn't come from Los Angeles yet. She's still waiting for a companion. Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) has been very sick with an intestinal flu and was hospitalized. Now that she's feeling better, I'm hoping that Maria will come. In the meantime, I'm at peace because you're there except for the fact that you still have to also work in the shop (*school*).

Knowing that you're happy in your work is a source of great joy to me, and even though I like the number of little plants (*school children*) that we have now, I still want another fifty so that we can reach 300. You can see how I'm never satisfied.

The girls left for Santo Tomas on Monday. They wrote to me from Zitacuaro. *Pobrecitas!* They got pretty close to Morelia, and that town is very far! Nevertheless, I'm told that they all looked very happy traveling along the road.

Take care of your heart and then you'll be back to work again.

My regards to the family (*community in Atotonilco*). How is Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*)? I hope she gets well and I bless Our Lord because Maria de Jesus (*Sister Mary of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia Torres*) is better.

Good-bye, daughter.

Maria

Letter 556

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, August of 1936

My beloved daughter, Teresita,

A chain of little events kept me from having the pleasure of writing to you. Now, I'm doing so with *gusto* (*with much pleasure, enthusiastically*), answering your kind letters. May God our Lord reward you.

I'm glad you're happy with Rosa Maria's (*Mother Rosa Maria of Mary Immaculate Hernandez Vazquez*) help. She's a very good girl and quite competent. She can really help you very much.

Let us bless our good God Who has granted you the grace of establishing that little shop (*school*), which is a consolation for me because it's very useful to us in every sense. I hope it will last. Lupe (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) is experiencing great difficulties over here. The workers (*aspirants*) [are able to] go one day and not another and those interruptions bring many calamities with them, but what can I tell you? We simply can't do anything about it.

Next Monday, Maria of St. Joseph (*Mother Maria of St. Joseph Espinoza*) will be leaving with her sisters on the 7:00 train for Santo Tomas, a little town located in Toluca. They're going over to work.

Please send Maria Antonia (*Sister M. Antonia of the Guardian Angels Ramirez Rizo, who returned to her baptismal name of*

Sister Angela or Sister Mary of the Angels Ramirez Rizo) so that she can join them and go help them.

How are you feeling? How is your heart doing? Take care of yourself. It's your duty. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) had problems with her arthritis, but she's feeling much better now.

I can't continue anymore. Mercedes Gonzalez just arrived.

Maria

Letter 557

Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman

August, 1936

For Cecilia.

My very dear daughter,

It was a great consolation for me to receive your little letter. Blessed be God that everything has been going well for you and that you're happy. Who wouldn't be happy observing obedience? Whenever the right thing is done, there is joy.

May you be better every day, trying to do whatever you have to do in the best possible way.

Pray for me.

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

Maria

Letter 558

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Jamay, September 2, 1936

Miss Manuela Rodriguez

My very dear daughter,

Here I'm at your service, even though I'll be remaining for a few more days in this little town. I came to see the girls (*sisters*). I had been worrying because I hadn't gone over to visit them yet. They're so new here and lack many things, but so far they're all right, more or less. Blessed be God!

The twenty pesos I sent to Elenita (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) should be used only for Maria de C.'s (*Mother Maria of Christ Castellanos*) medications because I don't want her to be deprived of them. After that, I won't be able to send you anything because we owe a lot of rent already. When Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) sends you something, save some of the money for Maria's medicines. For the love of God, see to it that she has her milk in the morning and in the night.

What can you tell me about the [sisters] who went to Santo Tomas (*St. Thomas*)? They wrote to me from Zitacuaro and I'm worried because I haven't heard any more from them. Find out from Mr. Campos and let me know right away, but send the letter to Ocotlan.

If I'm not there, they'll forward it to me. I'll either be here or in Guadalajara; make sure it's by return mail.

And how are all of you? How are you? As for me, it seems that the swelling of my legs increases every day. Only God knows where I'm going to end up if I don't die soon. **Let it happen whatever way God our Lord wishes, for we're in His hands and always remember that the most important thing for us is not to offend Him.**

Good-bye, daughter. My regards to my grandchildren (*sisters*). May God our Lord bless you.

(no signature)

Letter 559
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

September 6, 1936

My very dear daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

I fondly greet and congratulate you on your day of days, praying with all my heart the blessings from heaven for your sanctification. What a beautiful name you have, and it's a fact that our Blessed Mother is taking care of you. I hope that you'll correspond to the great proof Our Lord has given you of His love for you by permitting you to bear the sweet name of His Blessed Mother.

How have you all been? I'm sure you're very preoccupied about Esperanza's (*Sister Maria Esperanza of the Sacred Wounds Valladolid*) illness, and for the consequences that might follow. Let us bless our good God at all times and in everything because everything happens for our own good.

Three girls will be leaving on Thursday, the twelfth. Their entrance into that country is already arranged with the American Consul. They'll be arriving on Sunday so someone should go and pick them up. It would be good for you to ask Mr. Alatorre to help them in Nogales because it's the first time they travel.

Send as many Rituals as you can with Miss Padilla and with Ramon because we really need them.

As far as my health is concerned, I continue to be very swollen, but at least I'm walking some.

May your feastday be a very happy one and may you become a saint.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you and please give my regards to all the family (*religious community*).

Maria

P.S. Please remind Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) about the money for Mexico City, and I've just learned that the hoped-for machine arrived three days ago! Blessed be God! May He reward you for the great help

you give us.

Letter 560

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, September 12, 1936

Miss Margarita Maria Hernandez

My very dear daughter,

May the peace of God be in our souls!

Your last letter reached me today and I'm answering it immediately because I know you need the answer.

Above all, be at peace. You were right in the way you interpreted my feelings before such a hurricane struck your family. These are nothing but obstacles that present themselves and I don't know why. Maybe they're for our exercise of virtue and acquiring greater merit. May God be blessed! I certainly did not send any messenger to close those houses and I've not lost my mind nor attempted to impede our family (*community*) in such a way. To do that would be far from my way of thinking. If I addressed a letter to that person and not to you, it was because I learned that you were in the hospital and not very strong and I saw that she was in need of encouragement. She simply manifested to me that her personal inclination is for a life like one that we lead here in this country, but she doesn't criticize or complain about anything there. Really and truly she's good. What has happened, it seems to me, is that someone (*interference from the devil*) has "visited that house because of the good that the retreat did to those girls (*sisters*)." In her last letter "X" told me that she was edified with the T.B. girls in the wonderful way they behaved during the retreat. From what I just said, which is the truth, you'll realize that you shouldn't curtail your activities. Go forward. Your work is very important on behalf of all the family, and especially in these present times when we're trying to have Grandfather (*Archbishop Jose Garibi Rivera, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) and Papa Johnny (*Archbishop John. J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*) recognize us. This is why

that visitor is making such a commotion because it's to his advantage to do that right now. Let us take recourse in prayer. Be outspoken and frank with her, but in a prudent, tranquil way. Get together, discuss with her what has to be done and try to understand each other, working in unity. How deeply grateful I'm for Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*) and once more I affirm my own good opinion of him. How useful his hint will be to us regarding the establishment of the province (*California province*).

I didn't answer what you asked me about Mary (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) returning here because I wasn't at home. I was in Jamay where I visited Carmen (*Mother Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez*). On the tenth of the month, at night, I read your letter in Ocotlan. It was too late already. There was no time for me to do anything about it. Maria was already on her way home. God will provide. You remain there, representing me in that place and Mary will be transferred here to do good. God our Lord wants it that way. I wanted to send Angelina to you, knowing she would be of good use to you. I've learned by experience that it's better to leave God to do the choosing and not us. She went to St. Thomas with Maria of St. Joseph (*Sister Maria of St. Joseph Espinoza*), Ines (*Sister Ines of the Sorrowful Mother Rivas*), Maria Estela (*Sister Maria Estela of the Guardian Angels Carrillo*), Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Barbosa*), and Antonia (*Sister Antonia of the Guardian Angels Ramirez*).

Your mother, Conchita, did me the favor of bringing your letter today. She's well. We invited her for lunch. She's planning, with great enthusiasm, to take Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) to Tepatitlan to visit a relative who has invited them to spend a few days on the ranch of Mother Maria Angela.

Carmen's return is going to upset her family. Amalia (*a young girl who had entered the cloistered Carmelite nuns in San Francisco and then left*) tells me that Carmen is taking her arrival here harder than her leaving up there. (*Carmen joined the cloistered nuns in San Francisco, who were originally from Guadalajara and had left because of the religious persecution, but now she was returning to her home.*) It will be a terrible shock for Rafaelita.

Good-bye, daughter. Be at peace. Go ahead with your work as you've it planned and freely, according to your ideas. Take very good care of your health and tell me everything. I shall write to you again very soon, answering your other questions.

Good-bye, daughter. Sanctify yourself every day more and more.
Maria

Letter 561

Mother Ines of the Sorrowful Mother Rivas Magallon

Guadalajara, September 12, 1936

My very dear daughter, Inesita,

Ever since I had the pleasure of receiving your letter, I've been wanting to write to you, but it simply hasn't been possible. I was in Jamay and in Ocotlan, and for that reason I received the mail late and, in addition, the girls (*sisters*) didn't leave me in peace. I arrived here yesterday, and the first thing I wanted to do is to write to you.

I give thanks to God our Lord for the great benefits He bestowed upon you during your trip. Now, don't let yourself be carried away by the first impressions you receive, which in this case, are very sad ones, and especially for you who haven't traveled much at all. Foundations are very difficult at the beginning; afterwards, they are very satisfying.

Gladness, and gladness and get to work! You'll get to meet several persons and they'll get to know you, and then you'll like and help each other. Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph didn't complain about the ugliness of Bethlehem's portal. There they were with the Divine Infant, and it was His will that they had no comforts, and this was enough for them to be happy, and that's the way they remained for almost seven years in exile, in the midst of idol worshipers in Egypt. Forward, my daughter, and be happy in that humble town. God our Lord will take of you all and will reward your works and abnegation. I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart for

all the difficulties you're going through.

Write to me frequently, all of you, and tell me about your experiences.

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

Maria Luisa

Letter 562
Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

Guadalajara, September 17, 1936

Miss Maria de Lourdes Jimenez

My beloved daughter,

Right now, at this very moment, I've just finished reading your letter. Come to an agreement with Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) so that you may be able to answer Father. Don't mention that there is no longer a province there, but that everything is the same, and that Mother (*Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) has returned to Mexico. (*Following Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez's death, Archbishop Jose Garibi Rivera became the new Archbishop of Guadalajara. He believed that it wasn't the time for such a young Congregation to have a province in another country, and so he abolished the province in the United States. Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist had been the Provincial Superior in the United States and was recalled to Mexico at this time because she had been elected the Fourth General Councilor*)

On another occasion I will write you a longer letter. Right now I just wanted to tell you that important business. My regards to all the family (*community*).

How is Margarita feeling?

Maria

Letter 563

Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso

Guadalajara, September 18, 1936

Miss Luisa Reynoso
Tapalpa

My beloved daughter,

I greet you with much affection, wishing you before anything else, God's peace.

You have my permission to spend another month there. I'm hoping that Maria Magdalena will also get better, but I fear that you'll be inconveniencing them if you stay too long. You, who are an eyewitness of the circumstances over there, tell me if it's so, and I'll send for you right away, or rather, send you the money for your return.

Enclosed you'll find the letters from your sisters. I'm glad Our Lord gives you that joy.

Don't be stumbling around, even if you don't resemble papa.

Help in any way you can in the preparations for the upcoming feast, and in whatever other way you can help out while you're in that house.

I'll be sending you soon the material for the scapulars that Isabelita wants. Give her my regards, and Father also.

The daughter of Refugito, your relative, must be looking at you from heaven. She went very happily because she wanted to go so much. Her mother is very resigned to God's will. How beautiful is the death of the just!

I'm pleased you're enjoying the beauty of the fields. Lift your praises to God our Lord.

May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

P.S. My regards to Mr. Flores.

Letter 564

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, September 22, 1936

My dear daughter, Margie,

I'm writing these few lines hurriedly. A longer letter will be on its way very soon. I'm enclosing a letter for Mr. Callahan (*Father Leroy Callahan*) because I don't know his address. Please deliver it to him.

I bless Our Lord because the hurricane is already over, as I learned in your welcomed letter. It's impossible for Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) to return up there. If because of this, the gentleman doesn't want us there anymore, well, let it all be for the love of God. I'll expect you here.

As to the lady and the other girls willing to join in the work, if we find it convenient in accordance to the information you send, they could remain up there six months (*the admission of postulants in Los Angeles*). In the meantime, let's hope that everything that is said will be favorable.

You can tell the gentleman who is going to visit you from Tucson that we hope to have the matter of the province properly settled, that difficulties have presented themselves, and that we hope he'll help us to overcome them.

I've no time to write more.

Maria

Letter 565

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

September 23, 1936

My daughter, Teresita,

I greet you affectionately. It's my heartfelt wish that the peace of God be with you.

You're free to either leave in or take out your molar. It seems to me that there is no other remedy in these cases. If you think that you would be less afraid in Ocotlan, go and have it extracted over there.

I'm glad that Maria de Jesus (*Sister Mary of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia Torres*) is better. I hope she can work, and by observing her, Elisa Javier (*Sister Elisa Xavier of Christ Hernandez Fonseca*) and Tarcisa (*Sister Tarcisa of the Eucharist Orozco*) could learn.

Daughter, how good our God is! He did grant me the grace of seeing you and spending a few hours together with you! Those hours were so pleasant! That day we spent at the edge of the pond, I was delighted and overjoyed, and it seemed to me that I was able to forget all about worries and pending things. Blessed be God!

Take care of your health as much as you can. Don't worry about anything. We are in the hands of God, and He will watch over His daughters.

Good-bye. May God our Lord bless you. My regards to all that family (*community*) whom I love so much.

Maria

Letter 566

Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

Guadalajara, September 25, 1936

Miss Maria de Lourdes Jimenez

My beloved daughter,

With great pleasure, I'm answering your little letter, greeting you with my desire for you to receive the gift of peace.

You do well in trusting me. That's the way it should be because I really do see you as a real daughter. Tell me everything with frankness and without being embarrassed about anything. Just be patient with me and wait for my answer.

Daughter, I want you full of courage, going about your position with entire freedom and not backing off through cowardice at anything. Do whatever you think is best in your house, so that order, unity and charity will reign. In that way Our Lord will be very happy and will bless all those who live there. But for this to happen, you'll need much prayer and when you pray, ask with perseverance, every day, for divine help.

You're experiencing a very strong fear right now in your relationship with Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). **When you go to talk to her, prepare yourself first with prayer and then talk to her naturally. The two of you should come to an agreement, even though everything still has to come here, but it's necessary to agree so that harmony and solidarity will reign in both families (*communities*).**

I learned that next month Don Teofilo's family is coming. They're acquaintances of my sister, Lupe. Please ask her if they can be fully trusted, and if they can, Francisca Teresa (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) could travel with them. If she [Lupe] answers in the affirmative, send her [Sister Francisca Teresa], even if you send her [all the way] to Mexico City. Just let me know what day she'll be arriving in the Capitol, and where she'll be waiting, so that someone can be there to pick her up.

My regards to all the family (*community*) and tell them that I want to write to them, and that eventually I will.

Good-bye.

Pray for me.

Maria

Letter 567

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, September 26, 1936

Miss Manuela Rodriguez

My dear daughter,

I greet you with much affection wishing you all good things in Our Lord.

I understand that it's necessary to send you some employees (*sisters*). I'll do it as soon as possible.

Please find out from Mr. Campos if it would be possible to travel to Santo Tomas through Mexico City by car without traveling at any time on horseback. Also, find out how much the trip would cost, how long it would take to get there, and then let me know.

Cover yourself as much as you can because the climate in Mexico City is very cold and could be detrimental to your health, especially during winter. As you can see, the weather there is quite different from that of Atotonilco.

You may ask Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) for the book you need. She will know which one is the right one for you--the same one that was recommended to her.

Make sure that Trinita (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) and her family (*community*) are happy with you. Try to forget the past. When we offend Our Lord He forgives us and continues to bestow His kindness upon us. That's the way we should also be.

Give my regards to everyone of the girls (*sisters*). Let them know

that I carry them all deep within my heart, and that I'll be writing to them very soon.

Good-bye. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 568

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, October 6, 1936

My beloved daughter, Manuelita,

I already wrote to the pastor of Santo Tomas (*Saint Thomas*), informing him that the children (*sisters*) will stay and that he can build the house. Now you may tell Mr. Campos that he can let me know the location of the hospital and under what conditions everything can be arranged. One of these days one of our family (*congregation*) will receive her certification as a nurse, and she could go there. How have you been feeling lately? Did you receive the letter in which I asked you for information about a trip to Santo Tomas? Let me know and tell me Mr. Campos's answer regarding the hospital, also.

As for myself, I'm becoming more swollen with each passing day, but it's already time. What everyone should do at this point is to just pray very much for me because the responsibility I have is not a small one.

My regards to the family (*community*) and "*los senores*" (*the gentlemen*). I don't have time for more.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you all.

Maria

P.S. I'm sending instructions as to what you should do with Cuca and Margarita.

Letter 569

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, October 7, 1936

My very dear daughter, Margie,

I received your last letter yesterday. I was anxiously expecting it because it has been quite a long time since I've heard from you. Maybe it wasn't as long as I think, but just my great desire to have news from you all. God reward you, daughter.

I've discussed Mr. Moore's (*a benefactor*) proposal with the family. We agreed that you should accept and then use it as a novitiate or boarding house for girls, making sure at the same time that it's close to some school so it can be self-supporting. If it is well-furnished and located in a good place (*in a good neighborhood*), then enough suitable students will be received to cover the expenses through their tuition. We should avoid closing the house in Los Angeles. Study this matter carefully and obtain advice. Try to gain the good will of the gentleman from Tucson (*Father Pedro Heris, O.C.D. was on his way to Rome*) and to obtain the approval through papa Alberto. (*Most Reverend Father Albert was the Father General of the Carmelite Order at this time.*) In this way, it will be possible to open the novitiate up there. In the meantime, those who enter there will be able to come here to spend a year with us. The booklet contains the information that you should obtain.

Poor Mary Rose (*Sister Mary Rose of St. Therese Gutierrez Holman*)! Give her my regards and tell her I feel so sorry for her. Be sure to recommend to the girls (*sisters*) not to lift heavy things.

Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) felt quite sick in the beginning, but after a few days she was all right. Her mother came and she felt better and she could go up and down the stairs and walk for a few blocks without any strain or becoming sick. She's now on her way to Atotonilco with her mother.

Regarding Chole (*Sister Soledad of St. Teresa Valle*), it's fine for her to return so that she can help you, but being of such a disposition, I'm afraid it would only be a cause of worry. Well, she's

back now. Therefore, let's look ahead! She wrote to me, saying she wanted to return and sent me your letter. One can see her intentions are good. We'll see what can be done in the future.

I hope that papa Juanito (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*) will accept us definitely (*that the community will be canonically established in the United States*). May God permit that when papa goes to visit you, he'll receive a good impression of that house and the results for which we are all hoping will be achieved. Let's place all in the Hands of God and He'll do everything and very well.

How is your health? How is the hurricane? Still blowing? Unite yourself very well to the Heart of Jesus so that nothing will ever happen to you.

Give my greetings to all of the family (*community*) and on another day I'll answer those who have written me. Ask them not to forget me before Our Lord.

Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*), your brother, and your sister are well. Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) works every day with an electric sewing machine. She gets less tired and earns more money which pleases her.

May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 570

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, October 14, 1936

My very dear daughter, Margie,

May God our Lord speed up my humble, but heartfelt greeting to reach you on your day of days! Yes, my daughter, I greet you with all my affection, wishing you a shower of graces upon your soul. This is what I persistently ask of the Sacred Heart through the intercession of your patron saint whose name you bear. I hope

you'll spend the day happily. From here, we'll all be accompanying you and no matter how little I can do, it will be for my daughter, Margie, on the seventeenth.

I hope you received my last letter regarding Mr. Moore's (*a benefactor*) proposal. I received your letter yesterday and was very happy to learn that a good impression was left on the visitors (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles, was the visitor*). Thank God. You'll see how papa (*Archbishop Jose Garibi Rivera*) will also be pleased.

Those who possess God lack nothing. God alone suffices! It might be that God hasn't given the gift of intelligence to the person you mention, but perhaps it's her good will that will make up for it, or Our Lord will assist her. God will provide. Don't you worry. He'll give you a double portion of His assistance. With your whole heart place yourself, as well as all of those under you, in God's hands.

Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) and Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) are both very happy with Lucita's new sewing job being more productive financially and with less effort. She has the morning free, thank God.

I'll write you a long letter soon, but for now I send my sincere congratulations to you.

Good-bye for now, my daughter. May God bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 571

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, October 17, 1936

May Jesus be in the soul of my daughter, Mary of the Divine Eucharist.

With great affection I greet you and answer your note. I'm happy that you've arrived at your new destination and have gotten over your first impression. May God our Lord help you in

everything. (I'm continuing in pencil because I'm at Conchita's house, and there is no more ink in the pen.)

We'll soon be moving from this house because we're afraid of the lady that you met. We know that there are informers in other houses, and we want to take precautions. In due time, we'll give you the new address.

When you come, bring Mariana (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) as a companion. As she says, she wants to shop for materials for the sewing. Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) will come to stay, and in case she gets better, we'll see if she can take care of the fourth grade. It's necessary for Socorrillo (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) to remain in her house.

What did you experience in the little house of so many memories (*Mother Maria was the superior in the Motherhouse in Atotonilco*)? To my way of thinking, the spirit with which we began, the ones living there first, is still there. The house lends itself for that, unless there have been changes in our customs, which I hope is not so.

Loving regards to all the family (*community*) and to Tomas and Benito.

Good-bye, daughter. May our good God bless you.

Maria

**Letter 572
Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba**

Guadalajara, October 20, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Maria de Lourdes,

I received your letter and I can see that you're upset. No, my daughter, don't be a coward. **God our Lord will help you if you place everything in His hands and pray much.**

I'll let you know who is going to substitute for Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was later changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and of St. Martin de Porres*). In the meantime, let her continue the work she's been doing.

You'll have to exercise much prudence and do whatever you can on your part to maintain peace and union with the other house (*local community*). Come to an agreement with Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). To be united is of great help. In all your difficulties, go to her.

I just now read your last letter and I understand that you're reasonably worried because both things happened and couldn't be helped. Let it be for God! What happened with the children from outside (*the other local community*) has already passed and there is nothing you can do about it now. Regarding the ones [sisters] in the house, you'll have to remedy the situation.

God deliver me from a repetition of insubordination! Who were they? In the future before giving an order or a correction, first of all think about it very carefully before God. Than that will be the best thing for you to do. Then you can give the order or correction when you're calm and able to see clearly the pros and cons, asking for divine help. Decide what you think should be done and then stand firm on that decision, giving an explanation to Margarita for what happened. With simplicity tell her your reasons for insisting that they [the sisters] should come--that you had only wanted to go over to congratulate her.

Then, to the children (*sisters*), with very much tact, make them see they did wrong, and that you expect better [behavior] from them, considering the good manners they've been taught, and that you hope that there will be no repetition of such lack of obedience. We're in times of insubordination, which is a manifestation of the reign of the devil. How sad!

May God our Lord help and bless you. Regards to all that family (*community*).

Maria

Letter 573

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, October 21, 1936

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls my dear daughter, Manuelita.

I greet you with all my affection. How are you doing? I know you're very worried. Don't be foolish. Don't pay attention to anything. Than that poor *he*. ("*hermana*" or *sister*) is sick. Try not to contradict her in anything. Let her do whatever she wants so that she won't get any worse, and see to it that everyone agrees not to contradict her. No matter what she asks, tell her yes.

By the last letter of Maria de S.J., (*Sister Maria of Saint Joseph Espinoza*) I can see that she's doing much better. She tells me that she is in her own environment giving classes under the trees and that the people already love them. Blessed be God Who is making life easier for them! I wish you could go see them now since Mr. Duenas's visitors are going there. It's much better to travel in the company of other people. If you decide to go, let me know.

The groceries you mentioned haven't arrived yet. [The sisters] have been going over to claim them, but so far, nothing. Perhaps this afternoon they'll be here. We're waiting for them with excitement, and we're really going to enjoy them. May God reward you for the wonderful present you're giving us. We really need it.

I continue to be very swollen. Blessed be God! I've already lived too many years. As my departure draws nearer, pray to God for me.

The very good idea of preparing Trina's (*Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino*) children to receive their first Communion makes me very happy. Give my regards to all the family (*community*).

So, don't you be worrying about anything any longer, and give my regards to the gentleman and to Lolin.

Good-bye, daughter.
May you be well and happy. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 574

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

Guadalajara, October 28, 1936

My Teresita of the Child Jesus, whom I esteem so much,

With much pleasure I had consented to leave Guadalupe T. (*Sister Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Orozco G.*) there with you, and you were right in asking for her to stay, but I'm going to paint you a picture of how our situation is over here. Of all the employees (*sisters*) in the shop (*working in this apostolate*), I'm the only one left (among the older ones). Yet, it's essential that I leave in order to spend some days in Conchita's house. I also have to go to Mexticacan and there is absolutely no way anyone here could substitute for me in the house. If anything happened, no one would take care of it. If Guadalupe T. could take the place of Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*), then everything would be all right. And also we have to consider my illness. I fear that one of these days I'll be giving you a surprise, and then who is going to take care of everything here if the older ones are all out working? I find my legs and feet becoming more swollen every day, which is an indication that my illness is advancing.

This is what I've decided to do. If for some reason Guadalupe T. because of her illness would become unable to do the work here, then I'll send her back to you. Another possibility would be that in January, when the others have already graduated, then she'll go back as a substitute.

I'll be expecting you with great joy for Christmas vacation.

I don't have any more time to continue. Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 575
Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face Ramirez Guzman

October, 1936

For Cecilia.

The peace of God be in our souls, my beloved daughter.

I've had the pleasure of receiving your kind little letters. God reward you, daughter, for the joy you give me by writing to me.

It makes me very happy to learn that you're at peace. The fact is that peace of soul is life and without it, we can't say that we are really living. Preserve the purity of your soul at any cost, and you'll be happy in this life and in the life to come.

Give thanks to God our Lord for granting you the grace of working in His vineyard with those who are so dear to your heart. Work, my daughter, with true enthusiasm and be assured that the children will never forget what you're teaching them and, in time, the seed that you're planting in their little hearts will bear fruit. Pray with them for me because their prayers will surely be answered, for it's a fact that I'll be leaving this world very soon.

I wish I could go there and see you. May God our Lord grant me the grace, if it's His pleasure! re you recovering well? How are you feeling? May you keep in good health and may God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 576
Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, November 5, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Manuelita,

I'm enclosing the claim ticket for the machine (*to make altar bread*).

It's in very good condition. The only thing missing is the cable, but you can ask someone who knows about machines to put one in because we don't want anyone of us to ruin it. We need that machine, not to mention the fact that it's very expensive.

Take the orders I sent to you, and go ahead and take new orders as well. I repeat. Be careful not to break the machine. Carmela will know how to make them (*altar bread*).

I've no more time so I'll stop right here.

Good-bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 577

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, November 7, 1936

My never-forgotten and dear daughter, Margie,

After greeting you and profoundly asking God to bestow His peace on you, I give you thanks for your letters which I'm now answering.

Just imagine, daughter, how fond I'm of visiting. Now I am in Conchita's (*Mother Margarita's mother*) house. I came here yesterday afternoon and will remain for a few days. You can readily understand my happiness because I feel at home and without ceremony. Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) is making good money which she's never done before. Thanks be to God! Conchita, Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) are fine.

I was waiting for Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) to come. She is due here on the first Saturday of the month (*General Council meetings were held every two months*). I wanted to tell her about that matter you mentioned, but I'm afraid the opportunity might be lost. Since all your aunts (*the other members of the General Council*) agree regarding our indebtedness to Mr. and Mrs. Moore, take advantage of the way

they offer it and the way you think will be best for the house.

I'm very pleased to see the wisdom of the Church in not accepting any conditions. I'm going to report this to your aunts. Don't hesitate to tell me whatever you wish. Relate with me, as usual, with familiarity and simplicity. I like this very much. I wish all your sisters would do that.

Day after day I become more swollen. I may soon leave this valley of tears. Let us praise our good God in life as well as death. Pray for me very much that I may have a holy death. May God forgive me, but it's not time to pray for my health anymore. My life has been long enough. I must reach the end of it.

I can well imagine how you were on the day of Confirmation, with all the trouble you had. Than that mixture of sweetness and bitterness--bittersweet--which happens. Be sure, all things happen for the best if we receive them in serenity, and in the spirit of faith--very much serenity in all the events of life expecting every blessing and good thing to come from God, not relying on creatures, and remembering that if today one has their favor and admiration, tomorrow will come and it will bring the opposite. If you keep God pleased, that will be enough.

Everywhere I turn I see your kindnesses toward me. Even the fountain pen reminds me of you and it would take too long to enumerate all of your many kindnesses. May God our Lord reward you and I shall die blessing you!

Good-bye, my daughter. **May you strive every day to perfect your ordinary labors more and more.** My regards to the girls.
Maria

Letter 578

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, November 14, 1936

My beloved daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with all my affection. God's peace be with you.

How we rejoiced when the groceries that you [sisters] sent us arrived! They were very good! May God our Lord reward your good will in sending them. They were a big help to us.

We're on an outing (*moving to another location*), and I'm now with Conchita (*Mrs. Conchita Hernandez, the mother of Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*). You can send your letters here to Conchita G. Vda. de Hernandez because we no longer live on Hidalgo Street and the other house on Mezquitan is closed.

You should first try and see if you can obtain more orders [for altar bread] and if it's worth it, go ahead and install the machine and begin filling those orders. You can put the machine in the little room next to the living room. If you can't get the loan to pay for the installation, perhaps you can use the payment from the same altar bread to pay the twenty-five or thirty pesos that installing the machine will cost. If not, take the money out of what Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) sends.

We can't send you any money at all from here because we've had our own financial problems caused by our recent move from the Hidalgo Street house. During these past days we haven't made any altar bread because we don't even have a house for the equipment.

It will be just fine for one of the girls to go and teach you. However, to send someone over there we'll need some money. Maria Antonia (*Sister Maria Antonia of the Guardian Angels Rizo who returned to her baptismal name of Maria de los Angels*) knows, and it would be less expensive to send her from Santo Tomas (*Saint Thomas*) than to send her from here. I hope that Mr. Duenas could send her with some trustworthy lady. Write to him asking him for that favor.

I was very happy that you've had such beautiful celebrations these past days--to have the Lord (*in the Blessed Sacrament*) spend a day with you. Blessed be God!

Ask the doctor if Maria (*Mother Maria of Christ Castellanos*) could come over now that it's winter. Her Aunt Maria sent me word begging me to bring her. She thinks that leaving Mexico City for a little while will do her some good, but we would need the approval of her physician.

Hurry up and install the machine. My regards to everyone. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 579
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

Guadalajara, November 16, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Maria,

You might think it's strange that the girls didn't go as planned, but the reason why they didn't is that papacito decided they shouldn't leave because they might have to come right back.

Lupita (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) has been telling me about the young boy. I think that it's best to do whatever Mr. Velazquez (*Father Macario Velasquez, pastor in Atotonilco*) says. I've been trying to find a position for him in any establishment but haven't succeeded. Lately, I asked Juanita, Conchita's sister, to find something for him when she goes to Mexico City, but I doubt that she'll find anything. Nor has anything been found for Arnulfo, Consuelo's brother, and he finally ended up in a carpenter shop.

How are Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) and Luisa Maria (*Sister Luisa Maria Josefa of the Child Jesus Estrada Gonzalez*)?

As for ourselves, we spend our time going on field trips and rides. Pray for us. (*Because of the religious persecution the sisters are moving from location to location and there is no stability for them at this time.*)

Give my regards to the family (*community*) and may you keep well.

If you know of a trustworthy lady who is going over after the twenty-first, please ask her to come to see Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*). Perhaps she could be the companion for Guadalupe Teresa (*Mother Guadalupe Teresa of Jesus Oroczo G.*) so that you won't have to lose time from the sewing classes.

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

Maria

Letter 580
Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

Guadalajara, November 17, 1936

Miss Maria de L. Jimenez

My beloved daughter,

With all my affection I greet you, wishing you well.

I'm elated because the children (*sisters*) finished school! Blessed be God! Now, back to work but in the same house. I think it's a good idea if Ana Maria (*Sister Ana Maria of St. Teresa Rubio*) goes with Maria del Carmen (*Sister Maria del Carmen*) and Luz Maria (*Sister Luz Maria of St. Therese Guevera who left the Congregation*) and with whomever else you would like--perhaps with Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was later changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) when she comes over.

I hope that Esperanza (*Sister Maria Esperanza of St. Joseph Gomez*) recuperates from her illness. She can be a great help to you because she's a very hard worker and, hopefully, when you get the car your work will become a lot easier. God our Lord will help you. The fact that your work is growing makes me very happy. The increasing workload, together with the fact that the neighbors are also keeping you busy, is a proof to me that the employers (*priests at St. Patrick's Church in Los Angeles*) like your work and are happy with it. We have to try as much as we can to let the people learn

about what you do, so that they'll place orders. In that way, you'll be able to support that house, which is so important to keep standing because it places our family (*Congregation*) in that particular city (*Los Angeles*).

Don't let these things get you down. **Try to see the difficulties and contradictions in this life with serenity. Then you will be able to see the solution more clearly because if you get perturbed or angry, or worry too much, all of that can blind the person and errors can be made.**

I'm happy that Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and you are united; therefore, you'll be able to help each other and will give good example to the family (*sisters*).

Greet the girls (*sisters*) for me and try to win their hearts so that you will be able to help them grow spiritually.

Take good care that all of the customs are kept. Don't let go of any of them. Good-bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 581

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

Guadalajara, November 18, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Elenita,

I hope that the surprise you received when you saw Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) was a pleasant one and that you'll be happy with the help she can give you. She may continue in her position as V. (*vicar*).

It wasn't my intention for Concha to study in order to become a professional accountant, but just to find out the way to keep the books of this house (*to teach her the necessary skills to be the General Treasurer of the Congregation*) and I think I only did it because she suggested it. I entrusted her with the little job that I

indicated to her because I wanted her to stay here. Also, now that she's so sick, it seemed to me that's the work she can do very well and would be easier for her. It was entirely my idea. Only God knew if my sisters would accept it. Don't worry because I won't propose that she spend the year there. In that way, there will be no problems. As you can see, she's very sick, and that was mainly the reason for the transfer, and even though she tries very hard not to be down, she's in great need of attention, such as getting up late, retiring early, taking good nourishment. Take care of her, and see to it that something is prescribed for her.

Peace, it seems to me, is an indispensable factor if we are to have life in our souls. Try to allow it to come back to yours by whatever means you can, praying to Our Lord for that grace, and don't listen to yourself. Than that lack of peace is harmful to you.

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

Maria

P.S. We're still on our outing (*moving from house to house*). Blessed be God!

Letter 582

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, November 23, 1936

My very dear Margie, whom I greet with all affection,

Here I'm still with Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) because we've not yet found a house. Blessed be God! She's as good as ever, and also Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*). This has helped us to bear the desire of wanting our own house.

I remembered the girls very much on the twenty-first and asked our good Lord for them. I hope their party (*profession of vows ceremony*) came out beautifully. We accompanied them from here.

Look, my daughter, it seems necessary to me that Ana Maria (*Sister Ana Maria of St. Teresa Rubio*) and Luz Maria (*Mother Luz Maria of Saint Therese Guevera who later left the Congregation*) remain in Los Angeles since neither Maria (*probably Mother Maria de Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Aldaba*) nor Trini (*Mother Maria of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart*) speak English.

I think it would be fine to have Trini and Ana Maria doing the home visitations, as you suggested, and for Lucita (*Mother Luz Maria*) to take the place of Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and St. Martin de Porres*) and continue taking her piano lessons. And Carmelita can assist either one of them. We shouldn't act in a rush, but we should think about everything most carefully. Fortunately, experience has taught you that this is the best thing to do. You saw what happened concerning the business of Mr. Moore (*a benefactor*). If we had accepted his proposal immediately, only God knows what troubles would have befallen us later on. Let this be a lesson to us.

Greetings to the little girls (*postulants*) and you ask Our Lord to grant me a holy death. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 583
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

Guadalajara, November 28, 1936

Very esteemed Nena,

Your letter made me laugh. May God help you keep your good sense of humor.

We still don't have a house yet, and so here we're imposing on people. Only Josefa (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*) has a house, but it's so very small. In reality it's the place where she has the shop (*to make altar bread*). Last Saturday, *pobrecita*, her heart almost gave out on her. We didn't know she was sick, and I think she took some "*cafido*" (*medication*) and it almost killed her. She

wasn't even able to talk, but she's better now, although bedridden and not able to work. This week she'll probably have to have someone substitute for her, and then the following week we'll send the altar bread from here. Send the money to Conchita, Margarita's (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) mother, and God will reward that act of charity.

You'll understand our position after all those little things that have happened to us. No wonder "Josecito" (*Cardinal Jose Garibi Rivera, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) is so worried; but all things pass in this world, and as long as we don't suffer in the next, everything can be endured.

You'll see how one of these days we'll see each other whenever Josecito (*Archbishop Jose Garibi Rivera, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) would like. In the meantime, please give him my best regards and ask him not to forget us and to bless us.

My regards also to the girls (*sisters*) and see to it that they take every precaution to avoid contagion, as it has already happened to my "comadre" (*a name by which the godfather and godmother address the mother of their godson or goddaughter*) Maria. Only God knows if they will die. (*Mother Luisita is referring to the contagion of being discovered by the government.*) Let it be for God!

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

Maria

Letter 584

Mother Ines of the Sorrowful Mother Rivas Magallon

December 1, 1936

For Inesita.

My very dear little granddaughter,

You gave me much joy with your little letter. I enjoy myself when you write to me. At my age, to see all of you happy and working so

diligently and full of energy for more work-- these are my joys.

The little toys and holy cards they are asking you for will eventually arrive. I'll be very happy to send them to you and some little poems, too.

On the twelfth of next month, Maria Leticia (*Sister Maria Leticia of "Jesus Hostia"--Jesus in the Sacred Host Cisneros*) and Maria del Consuelo (*Sister Consuelo of Jesus Gonzalez*) are going to get married (*make profession of vows*). Pray for them, so that they will be good spouses.

What were you doing that the snake you trusted so much fell on your head? How funny! Blessed be God that nothing happened to you.

I read in the "Eucharistic Crusade" some excerpts from the life of Father Damian. It seems to me that it was in the July issue of this year. I hope you can get it so you will be able to read it. To see those great souls' charity and abnegation is really beautiful, i.e. to die to oneself and live only for God.

Pray very much for your children and for me.

Good-bye, daughter, become better every day and nourish in your children a great love for Our Blessed Mother.

Maria

**Letter 585
Sister Refugio of Jesus Espinosa Camparan**

December 3, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Refugio de J. (*of Jesus*),

I lovingly greet you. May God's peace be with you.

I deeply appreciate your letters. I like it when you write to me. I feel the same way about the little present you sent, even more so because I can see that you used up those little strips which

someone else might have discarded as trash, and you've utilized them so very beautifully! It's wonderful, my daughter, that you're so creative. This should be a great personal satisfaction for you, and an opportunity to offer it to Our Lord, thanking Him for giving you the talent to be able to work and to help toward the support of your sisters. **I do hope that you're very happy doing so because it's really and truly a great gift from God for anyone to be chosen to do good for others. May God deliver us from seeking only our own satisfaction only to end up saying "I got tired already."**

Never! It would be very sad if that expression would ever pass the lips of a person such as yourself. Take care never to say it because you would be exposing yourself to the danger that God will let go of your hand and use someone else in your place.

Prepare yourself in the best manner for your feast (*profession of vows*). Whatever you do will not be enough, but again, if you don't want it, feel free not to do it. Think about it now, very carefully, lest you change your mind later. Pray to God about it, seek advice and act according to your conscience.

I learned that the sisters don't have any more sewing orders. I'm so sorry!

Yesterday, the ninth, I received your last little letter, which I answer now even though it will be only a few lines. **You do well to have a "paschal" spirit toward your superiors. I think that the Good Spirit is guiding you. Pray to God to be meek and humble of heart and watch carefully over your own self.**

May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Letter 586

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

Guadalajara, December 10, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with all my affection. And now, I want to answer your little letter. I'm very sorry you don't have any sewing orders. Wasn't it during this winter season that you used to make more money? What's happening? Doesn't Don Simon order anything anymore? I know that you had to double the price in the hopes of making ends meet. Try to find some more sewing jobs because it's necessary to work to earn your keep.

So as not to disturb the peace among all of you, I'm sending you thirty pesos for Maria's and Juana's transportation up to Ocotlan, so they'll be able to spend some time there.

Try showing samples of the altar bread to those who need it (*priests*). They might like them and then buy some from you, but if not, then send the machine back. The transportation was five pesos, I think.

The dispensation from fasting would have to be obtained from over there, and the [sisters] from Santo Tomas will have to obtain their dispensation from their respective locality, also.

You have to do what you can with Refugio and Margarita. Send both of their reports with Juana when she comes so that I can present them to the Council and also include the reports of Maria Ignacia (*Sister Mary Ignatius of Jesus*) and Ana because I've found out that the mail is being opened at the post office.

Write Margarita Maria (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and ask her to please send you some financial help.

As for ourselves, we're still on an outing (*moving to a new location again*). Pray to Our Blessed Mother to help us find a little house. Let it be for God!

May you all have a very happy Christmas, but over and above all that, may you have a very holy one. Good-bye, daughter, and may God our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Get another group together, and next year we'll arrange for more personnel (*sisters*) to go. I already sent word to Maria de San Jose (*Sister Maria of St. Joseph Espinoza*) to send Antonia (*Sister Mary Antonia of the Guardian Angels Ramirez Rizo*) to teach you to make the altar bread, and also for her to see the doctor.

Letter 587

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

December 10, 1936

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

I sought advice about the matter of our sick girl, and I was told to treat her with charity and to accept her with whatever donation they can afford. At the same time I was cautioned not to allow the lady (her mother) to rule--so tell the mother that we'll look after her daughter and that another doctor could examine her just for the lady's peace of mind and at her expense. Than that's what was decided by Mr. Ramirez (*probably Father Thomas Ramirez, S.J.*) and regarding Mr. Navarro (*Monsignor Alejandro Navarro, Vicar General*), I'll tell you his opinion when you come.

Please send Carmen Ramirez (*one of the girls from the Orphanage, and the sister of Mother Cecilia of the Holy Face, who entered the Congregation on February 24, 1937*) at the first opportunity you have because I want her to live with the *novias* (*novices*). Perhaps we'll also need Teresa Garcia. In that way they could keep each other company.

How have you been? Give my regards to all the family (*community*) and tell them I wish them a beautiful and blessed Christmas and to please remember to pray for me.

Good-bye. May our good God bless you all.

Maria

Letter 588

Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Alba

Guadalajara, December 11, 1936

Miss Maria de Lourdes Jimenez.

My very beloved daughter,

Filled with gratitude I thank you and everyone in that family (*community*) so dear to my soul for the valuable gift you've sent to me. I say valuable because I appreciate very much the sacrifices you're making for me. God our Lord will reward you by bestowing on that family His blessings. This is what I most desire and pray for.

Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) surprised me with a suitcase and a dress that you sent me, as well as two dresses that Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) and Chayito (*Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) really needed. May God be blessed!

My daughter, really try, before anything else, to maintain harmony between you and Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) and her family [between the communities in Los Angeles and Duarte]-- much union, even if you have to sacrifice yourselves. Teach your family to love sacrifice. To sacrifice yourself for the sake of unity is beautiful and more so if it is done for the sake of the peace that should reign between the two families. I like your resolution to help the sisters of the other house. Yes, that's very good. I also like the fact that you bought little Christmas presents for the girls (*sisters*), so that they will be able to experience the greatness of the feast and become united with one another. Those little presents, I'm sure, are simple, useful, small, inexpensive items. Keep in mind that we are poor. Send *Papa Juanito* (*Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*) a spiritual bouquet as his gift from that house. On the twenty-fifth, have Margarita write the card and then you sign it and go with one of the girls (*sisters*) to personally invite him to come over to see that poor house [in Los Angeles], telling him about the little jobs you're doing and asking for his blessing.

Allow Luz Maria (*Sister Luz Maria of St. Therese Guevera who left*

the Congregation) to take organ lessons, but don't let her play [publicly] in the churches. If Maria Juana has enough musical ability to learn how to play the piano, then let her receive the classes, also; if not, don't let her because she'll just be wasting time.

Congratulate the girls (*sisters*), in my name, for the celebration they had on the twenty-first of last month and tell them that I'm praying to our good God for them, that they will be able to acquire a great sanctity in their new state. Greet them for me and I hope that they have a very happy and holy Christmas. Ask them to pray for me.

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

Maria

Letter 589

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, December 14, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Margie,

After greeting you I would like to have a heart-to-heart talk with you. I am referring to your last two letters. When you write to me, you do communicate everything to me, including those things which make you happy, and that's the way it should be.

So, you saw Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*). I'm certainly glad and also for the good advice he gave you. I admire his prudence more and more because of what he advised you. May God our Lord keep the life of such an excellent person!

No doubt the newlyweds (*newly-professed sisters*) could be of good service to you in that place, but weighing the needs of the two houses, as you would readily tell me, they are needed more in Los Angeles. We must keep that poor little house and the two girls knowing English can be the pillars of the house because they know the language. They have nice personalities, know the social graces, and have good friends.

What could one do with X and Z? In your house you've good

members such as Angela (*Sister Mary Angela of the Blessed Sacrament Huerta*) and Mary Magdalen (*Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart Ramirez*) and if you examine Maria de Lourdes (*Mother Lourdes of the Divine Savior Jimenez Aldaba*) you'll see that they've no one to take care of the American visitors. With the return of Luisa (*Mother Luisa Maria Josefa of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) and Francisca (*Sister Francisca Teresa whose name was changed to Sister Margarita of Christ and of St. Martin de Porres*) to Mexico, you can understand how the house has been left weak in personnel. In my opinion, this little house (*in Los Angeles*) is very important to us and we should further the work done in it to please our patrons (*our ecclesiastical superiors*), giving it a push. This is why we should encourage X, giving her good advice, and not paying attention to anything. As Mr. Ring (*Father Harold Ring, S.J.*) says, just endeavor to maintain the unity of the two houses, exercising self-denial, charity, and on your part, prudence, since you're the older in office.

It's a very good idea for them (*the sisters in Los Angeles*) to help you (*the sanatorium in Duarte*) with sewing and laundry (*and the sanatorium recompensed them financially for these services*). Later on, I'll send you someone else to help you in Duarte, but just have a little bit of patience.

We wanted to give your mother dentures, but she's afraid she wouldn't be able to tolerate them, after being without any for such a long time. She says she can eat everything without any trouble. I thought I would present her with the fifty pesos so she could buy whatever she pleases. She's been so good to us. Since we don't have this amount, I beg all of you to help us out, as it's a gift given in justice. May God permit that it will be our Christmas gift to her. She seems to be happy that I'm here in her house. She's well, as is Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*), Luis (*her brother*) and his wife. Lucita is like a little flower to me. The more I see her, the more I value her great qualities. Don't let your sister surpass you.

Ask God our Lord to help us find a house. It's a great need because neither we nor the little ones have a place to live. Be it for God!

Have you received the nightgowns for the little Godmother (a *benefactor*)? I sent them a long time ago to you. I've been worried that you may not have received them.

The \$20.00 (dollars) arrived. God reward you. Maria Nunez (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Gonzalez*) was here at the time and so I passed the money over to her, knowing that she was in need because of the frightful circumstances in the village where the workshop is not in operation (*the school in Atotonilco*). Blessed be God!

Good-bye, daughter. Take good care of yourself and watch out for the hurricanes (*disturbances caused by the devil*).

May God bless you.

Maria

Letter 590
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

Guadalajara, December 14, 1936

Very beloved daughter, Elenita,

As always, and with much affection and joy, I greet you and talk to you for a little while. How have you all been? Do you still look like "*jaguiques*" (*no translation could be found*) as you told me in your last letter? We're still without a house and almost without any hope of finding one. Let it be for God! Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) is earnestly looking for one, but without any success. This is the time of "*las posadas*" (*a time of seeking a place of lodging*) for us. Let's continue to ask for lodging in the hope that it will not be denied to us.

Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) is all excited about leaving Mexico City, and it might just be good for her health. Therefore, you'll be seeing her one of these days accompanied by Juana B. (*Juana Berkman who left the congregation*) to spend a few days with you because over here, we don't even have a house.

I don't have any room to lodge her, and the little town (*Atotonilco*) doesn't have room, either. As you know they're having their own difficulties there. The opinion of Maria de C.'s doctor is that she should only come to Jalisco during the winter because the summer heat is harmful to her. May God our Lord grant you the grace of being very charitable to her.

Daughter, we don't have any place to put Lupe, the girl who had formerly been with us, and now it's harming her to be outside. Could you keep her there? Perhaps you also have no room, but let me know if you can or can't.

Yes, it would make me very happy to see you over here in this part of the world, of course. I hope you do give me that surprise. I've been wanting to write to you, but I just don't know how to give myself time. At the same time, my aches and pains are increasing. For the past few days, I've been fearful because I suffered a sudden deafness. Fortunately, it passed and now I can hear as well as before, although still with some difficulty, but I'm able to understand what it's being said to me.

We have to have peace in our souls, and by the verses enclosed in your little letter, you're suffering very much. Let it be for God! It seems to me that this lack of peace in your soul is driving you away from me. Could it be that the devil wants it that way and that he is preparing a cake for you? May God our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

**Letter 591
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

December 15, 1936

My very dear daughter, Elenita,

Last night I received your letter, but there wasn't any time to mail what you wanted me to get for you. You'll be receiving it soon. It

would be good if you let us know a specific day and quantity, so that you will be able to receive them in plenty of time.

Mr. Zambrano (*Father Zambrano, S.J. took the place of Father Alberto Urdanivia S.J.*) answered that at the time we would like to have the "E" (*eight-day Ignatian Retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises*), they won't be able to come, and that it would be easier over here. You can do them yourselves, or wait until July like we did last year.

I wanted Maria to go soon to the little town (*Atotonilco*) so that she could open the shop (*school*) without delay because they didn't have anything to eat. However, she'll pass by there the next times she comes.

How have you all been? Are you still sick with a cold? It was good for you to take care of it right away. Blessed be God that you avoided becoming seriously ill. How good is our God!

Good-bye, daughter. May God our Lord bless you. My regards to the family and to "*papacito*" (*"little father"-- Father Severo Flores, pastor in Ocotlan*).

Maria

Letter 592

Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez

Guadalajara, December 17, 1936

My dearly beloved daughter, Margie,

May the peace of the Lord be in our souls!

I read your letter and am hurrying to answer. Referring to the building program you have in mind, I approve of the department you want to build, leaving the one already finished for the purposes you mention in your letter. Think it over. Ask for advice, and if you think it's beneficial for you, go ahead.

The troubles that you tell me about are found everywhere. They are

the flowers in this valley of tears that perhaps are part of the plan of Divine Providence and a means of practicing virtues which would not be exercised without them. You've been accustomed only to dealing with Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Gonzalez, who had been the Provincial Superior*) and were impressed with her. Naturally, you received everything well from her. So now you start fighting. You are already alone in the struggles of life where, almost always, you find individuals with opposite personalities, with different likes and dislikes; but in all this mixture, one can shape the most beautiful virtues which will adorn our heavenly crown. Prayer, my daughter, prayer to gain the strength to control ourselves and much generosity on your part!

They're suffering from lack of money in Mexico City, the money you used to send them every month. It seems they haven't had enough sewing to do because of the financial situation there. They've even contracted debts. Let's hope that life will be easier for them next year.

Conchita (*Mother Margarita's mother*) spent her feastday very well. Lucita (*Mother Margarita's sister*) gave her ice cream and cakes. Luis (*Mother Margarita's brother*) came to visit and everyone was very happy, thanks be to God.

Regards to my daughters, to whom I wish a Blessed Christmas. May they spend Christmas Eve in happiness and holiness. God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 593
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

Guadalajara, December 19, 1936

My very beloved daughter, Elenita,

You didn't tell me anything about the girls' (*sisters*) outing. Are they back, or are they still with papa (*Father Severo Flores, pastor in*

Ocotlan)? Your silence leads me to think that they are back. Am I right?

I was told that the doctor didn't allow Maria de C. (*Sister Mary of Christ Castellanos*) to leave so you won't be seeing her after all.

Today is December twenty-third, and I'm continuing this letter, spending my first day in this poor little house. It's cold and small, but it was the only one available after looking for so long. Blessed be God!

As Josefita (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*) is going in a different direction and we're in the process of moving, there is no one to go pick up the large hosts that were missing for D. Antonio to take with him. They're being mailed to you. I sent word to Josefa to send the other fifty hosts that you asked for in your note.

In case you've not been able to arrange the "E" (*the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, an Ignatian retreat of eight days*), it seems to me that it would be better to wait until July, and by then, you'll be more rested and can do them with more serenity.

I haven't been feeling very well. Perhaps the cold isn't agreeing with me.

The little message that I want you to give the Divine Infant is this--that He'll grant me a holy death. At the moment, I desire nothing else. May God reward you for the offering of the New Year's gift.

It will be more practical for you to make the order for fifty hosts than to pay for only twenty-five.

May the Divine Infant be born in your souls. A very happy Christmas, to all and may it be filled with joy and graces.

Good-bye. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Send the shawl that Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary*)

Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia) took. It belongs to Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*).

Letter 594

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(No date)

For Marianita.

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with great affection. May all be well with you.

Don't allow yourself to be carried away by discouragement and sadness which can harm both body and soul. Try to distract yourself with some chores around the house. Rid yourself of whatever thoughts are making you sad because they'll lead you nowhere and then render you unable to perform your responsibilities well. As a result, these kinds of thoughts could be detrimental to your sanctification.

We don't have a house yet. Blessed be God! I hope that we'll take the opportunity to have our vacation. Everything is good.

Remember the letter that you enclosed with mine. Who is supposed to receive it? And who is this Juanita who is supposed to come and pick it up? Let me know.

Give my regards to your sisters and try to remain well. Good bye, and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (During these difficult times of religious persecution, the sisters had to leave their religious house and leave in groups to live with various families. The sisters also would rent houses and frequently move to a new location for the same reason. Chronicle, p. 123 and following.)

Letter 595
Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

Josephine.

My beloved daughter,

Accept this loving greeting which I'm giving you, and my prayer for you to be what God wants you to be.

I thank you for your notes which make me laugh. May God our Lord reward you.

I'm still sick, and that's the reason why I'm writing so very little to you.

Good-bye, daughter. Please tell your sisters that I haven't forgotten them, and if God permits, I'll be writing to them even if it's only a very few lines. Your mother who loves you, blesses you.

Maria Luisa

Approximate date: 1936.

Letter 596
Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez

(no date)

My very dear daughter, Maria Amada,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls.

I appreciated the loving letter you sent to me. May God reward you, daughter, for the joy you give me by writing to me, and I can see you're happy. **You do well by being grateful to Our Lord for your vocation. Love Him with your whole soul and thank Him every day. He has taken you in a very special manner since your childhood. Now, you be faithful to Him until death.**

I want very much to come and see your beehive. **You know how much I like the little girls; keep your soul as pure as theirs,**

since you're working so closely with them.

May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Share with Celia Teresita (*Mother Celia Teresita of the Child Jesus Garcia*) whatever you know about teaching kindergarten. Tell her as much as you can about it.

Approximate date: 1936. (Mother Celia Teresita professed her vows on Sept. 21, 1936. Mother Luisita wanted her to prepare herself for working in the school in Jamay, Jalisco. Recorded in the Book of Admittances and Professions, p. 9.)

Letter 597

Mother Beatrice of Jesus Ochoa Lopez

(no date)

My beloved daughter, Beatrice,

May God's peace be in our souls.

I greet you with all my affection. Thank you for your letter, which gave me so much joy! May God reward you, daughter, and preserve your good feelings toward the one whom God has given to you as mother in the religious life.

You've good cause to praise God because you're with pupils for whom you can do so much good. May He be blessed! During these times especially, to be able to do something for God is a grace that we'll understand only in heaven.

May God our Lord be your special Teacher, preparing you for your nuptials (*perpetual profession of vows*). What a beautiful feast is now being prepared for you, and when your soul arrives before the throne of God, you'll be thankful for the immense grace He is granting to you by accepting you as His spouse. Prepare yourself, daughter, the best you can.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (In 1936 Mother Luisita wrote her last letters. Mother Beatrice made her perpetual profession in 1938. Mother Luisita is suggesting to her that she begin her "marriage preparations" for her perpetual profession of vows.)

Letter 598

Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino

(no date)

For Maria de la Trinidad (*Mary of the Trinity*).

My beloved daughter,

I'm very grateful for your loving letters and for your condolences. I've really felt the death of grandfather (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*), and it has left me very sad. **Let us bless God our Lord in all and for all!**

You do right to unburden yourself. It's very necessary. Whenever sorrow enters your life, lift up your soul to God, offering it up to Him.

You tell me that your blood is very thin. Try to eat and sleep well. When I was there, it seemed to me that you were sleeping very little. I feel that not sleeping will destroy you.

How fast time passes! Soon it's going to be a whole year since I was there, and I remember how well you looked after me, trying so hard to see to it that I wasn't lacking anything, and taking care of all my needs. May God reward you, daughter.

What is your family (*sisters in formation*) saying? Has it increased? Greet them for me and tell them that I want very much to see them, and even more now that they are "young ladies" (*are novices*).

Good-bye, daughter. Be a good spouse and mother.

Maria

Date: 1936. (The death of Archbishop Francisco Orozco y

Jimenez occurred on February 18, 1936. Chronicle, p.109)

Letter 599

Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos Gonzalez

For Bernardita.

My very dear daughter,

I thank you for your condolence letter. Yes, I've been mourning for *abuelito*, (*grandfather, i.e. Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) and it's only just that I mourn because I had always felt his great support. May God reward him for his goodness toward us.

How are you? Any better? Last year you appeared quite thin to me. Don't worry so much. I can see that you're very concerned about your brother. **Pray very much to God for your family and try to not worry. Worrying so much is not good at all. The devil uses our worries to harm us. Belong totally to God and place all of your relatives into His Divine Heart.**

I've been preparing myself for over a year now to go over to visit you. I was already foreseeing the joy I was going to have at seeing you and being with you again. Poor heart, that's the way it is!

I'm so very pleased that you've work to do because we can't live without it. God will give you the strength to do it.

Good-bye, daughter, and may you be [a very good religious].

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (Mother Luisita refers to the death of Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez who died in February, 1936)

Letter 600

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

M. Carmelita,

I greet you and all the family (*community*) with all my affection. God's peace!

I'm sending you in writing the report of the s. (*sisters*) so that Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*) will not have to go out. Time is passing by rapidly. As far as I'm concerned, they (*those being evaluated in the report*) are all approved but we still need, nonetheless, that you review the report and decide if they can be admitted (*to the novitiate or to profession*).

Mr. Plascencia (*Father Plascencia*) helped Jovita (*Jovita Ochoa entered the Congregation, but then left before her profession of vows*), and so it would be good if he were invited to [preside at] the ceremony, or, if you want, we could decide later which priest to invite. We'll think about it.

For the love of God, I'm asking M. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen herself*) not to allow anyone to go out. I've learned that Marianita (*Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez*) is going out, and this is not good at all. We should obey.

The *penas* (stepping-stones) will be made, but you'll have to let us know soon how many you need, what size, how long and how wide, dark color or light, with oil or dirt. If you don't give us this information, they can't be made.

Your Reverence may sign the document in my place.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (Book of Admittances and Professions, p. 10, #177. Jovita Ochoa entered the Congregation in September, 1935, but left before her profession of vows. It is possible that she was the Jovita mentioned in this letter.)

Letter 601
Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

J.M. + J.T.

My dear daughter, Carmelita,

After greeting you I want to give you my approval for not allowing Lupe to go out. Well done. It's better to turn red-faced once than to be continually turning pale! What else can we do? We have to fulfill our duty the best we can. God our Lord will help us.

Mr. Anaya (*Monsignor Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*) is of the opinion that the sisters shouldn't wear the white veils we decided upon. He's afraid that the people will become scandalized. Still, if the sisters are already using them and if no one has noticed, then it's all right. They look like little shawls, anyway.

I appreciate your sending me Lucita's little letters. I like to read them. Answer her, greet her for me, and tell her we'll be happy to send her a picture.

Josefa

Approximate date: 1936. In the beginning of this year, Mother Carmen of Jesus was the Vicar General of the Congregation. In a way, the times were harder than during the persecution itself.

Letter 602

Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez

(no date)

For Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament.

My beloved daughter,

With much affection I greet you, wishing you heavenly blessings on your [feast]day. From here, I'll be very happy to be with you in spirit, and I'll pray for you.

I've appreciated your little letters and gift. Everyone is always present to me within my mind and even though I haven't written to

you very often, you remain in my thoughts and I pray for you daily.

I suppose you're very happy, and even more so now that you've new little sisters.

Never separate yourself from Our Lord. He is always giving you proofs of His love for you. He loves you very much and, in return, we should love Him with all of our souls. I remind you that He is very jealous, and that inordinate love for any creature takes His place in our souls. We have to become very detached from everything else, so that He may be the One to fill our hearts.

Good-bye, daughter.

Pray for me. May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936.

Letter 603

Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez

(no date)

For Carmelita del Santisimo (*Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament*).

My very dear daughter,

May the peace of God be in your soul.

I want to answer you in order to take away the sorrow that you're telling me about in your letter. Don't be foolish. Than that poor sister is sick, and you shouldn't pay any attention to what she says.

Continue on as you've been doing, and just answer yes to everything she asks, without mentioning to her that you're going to ask for permission. You can ask the permission later, without her hearing you. Don't contradict her because she can become even sicker still. Say yes to her in everything. Don't let her mortify you. Just treat her with love, laugh with her, or pretend you did not hear her, according to her condition at that moment.

Encourage Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*), and help her so she won't have this additional worry. *Pobrecita!* She's already old and sickly. **Let it be for God! The little crosses start arriving, which He Himself puts on our shoulders for our own good. Let us bless Him always and for everything, and may we always remain happy and at peace, even in the midst of the thorns.**

I would be very pleased, and it would profit you greatly to seek the direction of one of the sons of Ignatius (*a Jesuit priest*) regarding this. You have my full permission.

Don't harbor sadness within you. Fortunately, you tell me that it already went away. It's really harmful. You should live in a saintly manner, and be happy.

Good-bye, daughter. **May you become better every day, but remember that we all have to keep working to attain it.** My regards to the girls (*sisters*) and tell them that I'll be writing to them very soon. May God bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (In 1936 Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament was assigned to Atotonilco for a short time and Mother Manuela was the superior.)

Letter 604

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

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

I'm still over here. It wasn't possible for me to leave now for Jamay, but I hope I can go soon.

How have you been feeling? Have you taken your medicines?

Please be very exact in taking them because you really need them. **Daughter, I want to take this opportunity to pass along to you something of my long experience in the delicate position in which God our Lord has now placed you, also. It will be of great help to you to treat everyone [the sisters] equally, in such a way that each of them will believe that you treat her better than the others. Don't let them see that you have any preferences for anyone, and don't let them get near your person. You'll find that in every community there is always one who because of her character, tries to get very close to the superior or to go into the superior's cell even at night to unburden herself, and that doesn't bring any good. They [the sisters] notice that, and then lack of peace begins, and even divisions. Some [sisters] side with the superior, and others are against her. Then rumors begin. The rumors are followed by unhappiness, and very soon thereafter one finds a nest of sin and discord in the community. For the love of God, don't let anyone get close to you like that. Treat everyone the same and, I repeat, don't let anyone touch you.**

How was the retreat? Are they [the sisters] happy? Do they look all right? Whenever you want my poor help, I'll be happy to go there. **We have to be always on the alert in order to avoid any noticeable disturbance. God our Lord will help you. Courage, and find refuge in prayer.**

M.L.

P.S. I wrote this to you since yesterday but I did not have anyone to send it with. May God our Lord bless you.

**Letter 605
Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia**

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be in our souls, my beloved daughter, Conchita,

Let us praise God our Lord in everything and for everything!

He determines everything for our own good.

At this time, Our Lord wants you to work with children again, and at the same time remaining aware of the current difficult circumstances. It's necessary that M. Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*), as Vicar, remain in this house taking my place so that I can hide this bundle [herself]. Your group will be taken care of by Maria del Rosario (*Mother Rosario of the Divine Heart Hernandez*) and you, daughter, will go back to Ocotlan. Because of your illness, it will be easier for you there than here. The secret police are around here and the soldiers are chasing the children, and you, suffering so much from your liver and bile, if you get scared it could be fatal for you, and not only that, but the *walks* that we will need to take to join the group are so long that they wouldn't be good for you, either. In Ocotlan things are peaceful now, and you'll be living closer to your workplace. Going there will provide an opportunity to care for your health. Luisa Gonzaga (*Mother Luisa Gonzaga of the Virgin of Carmel Reynoso Merino*) will be in charge of the brides (*novices*). Explain to her very carefully what has to be done. Tell her about the character of every one of them, and the little brakes you have to apply.

What a great joy I had spending those few days with you, even though I think there were too few of them, but we couldn't have known then about what was going to happen.

They (*the soldiers*) already know the address of the house where Jesus Teresa (*Mother Jesus Teresa of the Virgin of Carmel Gutierrez Ortega*) and her family were, and they had to get out and separate. This situation is just terrible. Blessed be God!

I haven't gone to see you because I don't want to put the lady or you in any danger. Greet them all for me and tell them I keep them in my heart. May God our Lord bless you. My regards to the good lady. Good-bye.

Maria

P.S.

Leave tomorrow morning at 7:00 am. Come here to sleep. I hope a lay person can bring you.

Approximate date: 1936. In 1936 Mother Socorro was elected as Vicar General during the General Chapter. (Chronicle, p. 121-122)

Letter 606

Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia

Alonzo

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

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

I've received your letters. May God our Lord reward you, and even though I wanted to answer you sooner, the demands of this life simply haven't allowed me to do it. Then again, maybe it's also because I don't know how to give myself time to fulfill my duties and satisfy my own pleasure. Pray for me.

Maria must have told you already that we're on an outing (*looking for a place to live*), and that we left the house on Hidalgo, and the one in Mezquitan is closed but we haven't turned it in yet. Presently, I'm with Conchita. **Let us bless our good Lord for all and in all. As long as we don't offend Him, everything else is all right.**

In the letter you wrote before your last one, I detected that you're suffering. No, daughter, don't be foolish. Don't think anymore about what you told me. Be entirely at peace. What we have to do, myself included, is to become saints, to perfect the ordinary deeds of daily life and live only for God.

Without time to write anything further, I beg of you to greet all the family (*community*) in my name. Ask them to pray for me.

Maria

P.S. Daughter, I beg you to seriously see to it that M. Concepcion (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) gets ready to take care of the books because I want her to be the

General Econome, God willing.

Approximate date: 1936. (Chronicles of the Congregation, p. 24 and following: In the House of Mezquitan no. 3 and Garibaldi 761.)

Letter 607

Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

For Conchita.

May the peace of God be in the soul of my very beloved daughter.

I want to let you know of my deep gratitude for inviting me to go over and spend Christmas in that house. Thank you, daughter, thank you with all my soul. May God our Lord bless you for the goodness you've always shown to me. Because of my illness and other circumstances in which we find ourselves, I'm not able to accept, but from here we'll be with you in spirit. I do hope that you all will be very happy celebrating such a beautiful feast, and may the Infant Jesus be born in your souls.

I'm glad you had a very nice feast day. I know that I don't fare very well with you because I didn't write to you, but believe me, it's not because of any lack of good will toward you, but because this season has been extraordinarily difficult for us. Blessed be God!

We finally got a house. It's very small and cold, but at least we've a roof over our heads. It's next door to Conchita's (*the mother of Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) home. Only God knows how I'm going to stand the cold. I don't feel well at all.

Pray for me. Good-bye, Conchita, and may God bless you.

Maria

Date: 1936. (The small, cold house, the same one in which Mother Luisita died, is located adjacent to the house of Mother

Margarita Maria's mother, Conchita.)

Letter 608
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

My unforgettable and beloved daughter, Elenita,

The peace of God be in our souls.

It had been quite a while since I had received a letter from you. Was it because you were very busy with the celebration of the Lord?

Now, don't you be expecting me to forget you, as you mention in your last letter. You've been very good to me and I'll never forget all the services you've done for me. God our Lord will repay you and my gratitude will be eternal.

I'm happy you enjoyed yourselves at the beautiful feast of the coronation.

Celia Teresita (*Sister Celia Teresita of the Child Jesus Garcia*) has been assigned to Jamay. Would you please send her over there with some lady companion. I'm hoping that Maria Bautista could do me the favor of taking her and Maria Amada (*Mother Maria Amada of Jesus Crucified Ruiz Velasco Martinez*) could give her some outlines to help her to work with kindergartners. Good-bye, daughter. May God bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. The house in Jamay, Jalisco, was founded in March, 1936.

Letter 609
Sister Elisa Xavier of Christ Hernandez Fonseca

(no date)

For Elisa Javier (*Xavier*).

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with much affection, wishing you well.

How are you? I'm told that you've gained a little weight, and, now, what about your soul? Are you a saint already? What have you learned? I've a great desire to see you and hear directly from you.

As for myself, my aches and pains continue as usual because I'm very old. Pray to God for me so He will grant me a happy death.

What are you currently reading? Don't forget to read the Practice of Perfection. Than that kind of reading will be very good for you.

I deeply appreciate the little letter you've written to me. Write again whenever you're able.

Good bye, daughter. May you be better each day and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

P.S. Try to study arithmetic, grammar, and whatever else you can with Teresa Margarita (*Sister Teresa Margarita of the Sacred Heart Padilla*) and practice your penmanship frequently.

Approximate date: 1936. (The foundation in Jamay, Jalisco, was established in March of 1936.)

Letter 610

**Sister Genevieve of the Child Jesus Ascencio Bautista
(who changed her name to Sister Maria Luisa)**

(no date)

For Genoveva (Genevieve).

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. From my heart, I wish you the peace of God.

Really and truly I'm longing to see you, and I hope that during vacation Our Lord will grant me that joy.

So, you want to die. Don't you think it would be much better if you would place yourself in the hands of God, without wanting anything but to accomplish His holy will with joy? Let your confessor know about those desires, so that he can examine you and find out the origin of those thoughts.

I congratulate you for the work you're doing, and for understanding your students so well. Blessed be God! I hope you're becoming a good educator, and that you're busy sowing good seed in those pure hearts. Keep in mind that they'll never forget what you're telling them. I can imagine how pleased God is with teachers such as yourself, who are doing so much to benefit these souls so dear to Him. Give Him thanks for giving you such a beautiful apostolate, and accomplish as much good as you can for these angels on earth.

Every time you've the opportunity to write to me, do it. **May you be a very good religious, daily perfecting your deeds.**

Maria
Approximate date: 1936. (Testimony of Sister Maria Luisa Ascencio (Sister Genevieve), who was working with "parvulos" or infants and small children in Atotonilco at the time.)

Letter 611
Sister Maria Antonia of the Guardian Angels Ramirez Rizo
(who returned to her Baptismal name of Sister Maria of the
Guardian Angels)

(no date)

For Maria Antonia.

My very dear daughter,

The peace of God be in your soul.

I lovingly greet you and answer your little letter, which I appreciated very much.

You must have had a very great desire to ride on a horse, and it was granted to you for a few hours, in such a manner that you were well satisfied. Now... to sanctify yourself, and for this, you need to be happy wherever God our Lord places you, accepting joyfully all the discomforts you might suffer. What do we deserve [from God]? Nothing! Great is the grace that God our Lord grants us by sustaining our life with the hope of being saved. What would we do if we were in hell? But sorrows which aren't eternal aren't sorrows--that's what our Mother Saint Teresa used to say.

I'll be very happy to receive your letters and whenever it's possible for me, I'll answer you.

Good-bye, daughter. I'll be very happy if upon receiving this, it will find you in very good health and in union with your family (*community*). May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (Foundation of Santo Tomas de los Platanos. Chronicle p. 119 and following)

Letter 612

Mother Ines of the Sorrowful Mother Rivas Magallon

(no date)

For Inesita.

My beloved daughter,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in your soul.

It makes me very happy to greet you and thank you for your little letters, which I received with great joy.

We have to be very generous with God our Lord. He will never allow us to outdo Him in generosity. Get rid of that sadness and those tears, for they don't belong in a great soul who has served our good God in such wonderful works. Forward! And be happy in the midst of those poor little Indians. I still have hope to go there and spend some time with them.

For lack of time I have to stop this now.

Good-bye, daughter. I have you very much in my heart and I wish for you to be holy.

Maria

Date: 1936. (Foundation of Santo Tomas de los Platanos, Mexico. Chronicle, p. 119 and following)

Letter 613

Mother Maria of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia

(no date)

For Mary of Jesus.

My very dear daughter,

With much affection I greet you. Congratulations! Now that they've found the cause of your illness, I think that you'll be getting well soon, God willing.

You're earning a lot of merit during your time of sickness, and when you're well Again you'll gain more by means of your work. Either way you can be rich in merit and be able to attain heaven, which is what really matters.

It seems to me that the swelling of my legs is increasing. Pray much to our good God for me to give me a holy death.

The girls (*sisters*) here are working enthusiastically in their shop (*school*), and I'm hoping that they'll have very good results.

Give my affectionate regards to the girls (*sisters*). I earnestly request their prayers for my intentions.

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

Maria

Approximate date: 1936

Letter 614

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

(no date)

For Manuelita,

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with all my affection. May God's peace be with you. Finally you have some helpers--Dolores (*Sister Dolores*) and Paz (*Sister Paz of the Flagellation Cortez who left the Congregation*). Now you should be feeling more rested, and the thought of that makes me very happy.

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) will tell you about the little girls (*postulants*) who entered on the sixth and, again, today. **Let us bless Our Lord for sending so many operators (*postulants*) to His vineyard. I'm told this is a blessing from the Lord and, indeed, it is! How necessary it is for us to train them properly, and this can only be achieved through prayer. Help me, all of you, to obtain from Our Lord the immense grace of discerning how to form these young ones in the right way--His way.**

Thanks be to God, I'm feeling a little better. Let's see how long it will last this time because that's the way I live--up and down, up and

down, and that's the way I will be until I die. You, with all your prayers, don't allow me to die.

I've learned that Maria, the mischievous one, was there and that she's very plump. You must have been very happy to see her again. Let's learn from Our Lord Who knows how to mix sorrows with joys. How good He is!

May God Our Lord sanctify you.

Conception

Date: 1936. (In 1936 that there was an increase in vocations: Book of Admittance and Professions, p. 10 and 11, #115 through #131.)

Letter 615

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

(no date)

Very esteemed daughter, Manuelita,

I greet you with all my affection, hoping that you're in good health.

Someone came by to let me know that one of Manuel Aceves's sons is gravely ill and that he would have to be taken to the hospital. As far as you're concerned, don't interfere. On the contrary, make it easy in every way possible and do the very best you can for him. Allow the family to bring food into the hospital for those family members who are remaining with the patient. Regarding the place, let the family obtain it from the doctor.

How are all of you? Thanks be to God, I've been a little better and am now over here with Socorro (*Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez*). Yesterday my father (*the local pastor*) wanted us to move immediately into a new house. I'll be letting you know our new address. In the meantime, please send any letters to Mrs. Soledad de Ascencio, Morelos 1066, but no more to the address on Reforma.

How is Piedad (*Sister Piedad of Jesus Arquieta*) doing? What can you tell me about Cuquita (*Sister Refugio*)? Is she all right now?

Note: This letter was finished by another sister.

[Mother says] that she sends you her blessing and that Ines (*Sister Ines*) and Carmen J. (*Mother Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) arrived safely yesterday.

(by) Elena
(*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*)

Approximate date: 1936. (Chronicle, p. 109: THE HOUSE ON REFORMA, etc.)

Letter 616
Sister Maria of the Sacred Heart Flores

(no date)
For Maria Flores.

My beloved daughter, to whom I wish God's peace,

I'm really thankful for your letters. May God our Lord reward you.

Mr. Urdanivia (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*), who had helped us so much, has already left, but Mr. Zambrano (*Father Zambrano, S.J.*) came in his place, and he shows the same good will. He seems to be a very holy man. Therefore, we don't have to worry.

Regarding your family, pray for them and expect everything from our good God, Who loves them more than you do. They are also His children, and He shed His precious blood for them.

I know that you have a lot of work. Blessed be God! It's very consoling for me to know that you're doing what is most pleasing to Our Lord. Let it be your concern to fulfill very well the beautiful mission which he has entrusted to you.

May you become more perfect every day in the ordinary labors of daily life.

Good-bye, daughter. May God's peace and blessing be upon you.
Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (According to The Spiritual Notes of Mother Luisita, Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J., left at the end of 1935 and was replaced by Father Zambrano, S.J., who gave the Spiritual Exercises to the General Chapter in 1936. Chronicle, p. 121.)

Letter 617
Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo

(no date)
My beloved daughter,

I greet you hoping that all is well with you.

This letter got mixed up with some other papers, and so it's not until today, the third, that I'm sending it. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) still has a little fever. I hope she'll be all right when we give her your drops.

Yesterday I received the money from Merceditas (*Mercedes Villaseñor*) and I already sent it on to its destination.

Tell Conchita (*Mother Conception of Mary Immaculate Rodriguez Valdivia*) not to worry so much about Alberto (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*). God will provide. His brother (*another Jesuit priest*), who came in his place is excellent, and I'm sure that when Conchita comes they'll understand each other very well.

Nena, I'm in need of two little purses like the ones that Carmela makes--even if you can only get two of them--but I need them soon. I hope you can send them right away. I would appreciate it very much.

Don't worry any more about what you told me. Your intention was good. And as for me, I'll pay more attention to my rulings

because I don't pretend to want anything other the good of the family (*community*).

My loving regards to the girls (*sisters*) and to the people I hold in esteem.

May you be good and may Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (In 1936 Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J. was transferred and Father Zambrano, S.J. came in his place.)

Letter 618
Sister Maria of the Holy Spirit Vargas Ruiz

(no date)

For Maria del Espiritu Santo.

My cherished daughter in Christ,

I truly experienced great joy upon receiving your little letter. May God reward you.

Believe me, I most certainly did accompany you in spirit on your trip, but I didn't expect you to arrive there so soon. I was really surprised that you made it in so few days. Blessed be God! I've the intention of going there to visit you, as I promised, just as soon as I'm able to travel in the car. May God our Lord grant me that great wish.

I hope that you're happy and that you'll have many pupils. How is your health? Are you eating well?

As for myself, I'm able to walk, even though I'm very swollen. Pray for me, that I may have a happy death.

Good-bye, daughter. May you become a saint.

Maria

Date: 1936. (Foundation of the house in Mexticacan, Jalisco. A Zaga de Su Huella, p.185 and 186.)

Letter 619
Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit Ruiz Vargas

(no date)

For Maria del Espiritu Santo.

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

As always, I was most happy to receive your letter. May God reward you. Write to me every time you've the opportunity.

I feel at peace and am happy with that little house (*Mexticacan*), and it's because I see all of you so joyful--as much as we can be happy on this earth. Blessed be God! As I'm very much in favor of your always remaining in your little house, and since it's easy for you to do, I feel all right about it.

I'm excited at the thought of going to see you. As soon as the roads are fixed, I'll go. Mr. Flores (*Father Manuel Flores, pastor of the parish in Mexticacan, Jalisco*) says that the condition of the road is not suitable for ladies. The people cross the river "*canchadas*" (*no translation available*). I do appreciate how much you're looking forward to having me go there.

I can imagine how many little jobs you have. Do you also have painting to do? May you work very much and may everything be for the glory and honor of God.

I beg of you to pray earnestly for me because my legs and feet are very swollen. I think I'm at the sunset of my life, and you, with your prayers have to help me to save my soul.

May Our Lord bless you. Good-bye.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (Date of the Foundation of Mexicacan, Jalisco.)

Letter 620

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

My dear daughter, Teresita,

I greet you with much affection. May God's peace be with you.

How did you spend your feastday? Did you have a party? I hope you spent it very happily.

I'm so glad that you had that molar extracted! But now you're suffering from rheumatism! It's obvious that Our Lord doesn't forget you, so that you will be able to make these constant illnesses into beautiful pearls which you're offering to Him. May He be blessed!

I wish you could imagine how happy you make me by telling me that all of you are very content with the work you are doing; it's really a great consolation for me. Over here, [the sisters] appear to be happy, also. Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) is working with the sixth grade. As you know, she never denies anything to Our Lord. She looks happy and seems to be in very good health.

Maria (*Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) is going there. I hope you'll welcome her with gladness and live very happily with her.

As always, I recommend for you to take care of your health. My regards to the children and may God our Lord bless you all.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (Mother Maria of the Divine Eucharist was elected the Fourth General Councilor in the General Chapter held in 1936 and was returning to Atotonilco as the local superior there.)

Letter 621
Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

(no date)

My beloved daughter, Mary,

Yesterday I received your little letter, and reading it has left me filled with gratitude toward your parents because they're helping the girls (*the community*) so much. May God our Lord repay them.

Regarding Malena (*Magdalena*) and Lucita, I leave you free to decide. I think that if my Uncle Maco (*Father Macario Velazquez Abarca, pastor in Atotonilco*) talks to them, they'll be happy to go anywhere.

Josefita (*Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra*) almost died last Saturday. She has heart trouble and neither she nor we knew it. She was feeling under the weather, took some medicine, and then she couldn't talk and you could see she was dying. Fortunately, she's better now.

Affectionate regards to all the family (*community*). Good-bye.
Maria

Approximate date: 1936. (*See the previous letter.*)

Letter 622
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(no date)

My beloved daughter, Refugito,

This afternoon M. Teresa is going to come by to pick you up, so you may accompany her to the Red Cross. You'll remain with her. Be ready at the time she arrives there.

About your coming over here, it will have to be at dusk, or rather

after it has already gotten dark, so that no one will notice. May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Possible date: 1932. (In 1932 M. Teresa went for training at the Red Cross.)

Letter 623

Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

My Teresita of the Child Jesus, whom I love so much in the Heart of Jesus.

Your letters give me great satisfaction because they don't bring me sophisticated words. You do well writing with simplicity whatever your heart dictates to you. Really, that's the way we should always talk to our own mother. Continue doing it that way.

It's a great consolation for me to receive that information about the shop (*school in Atotonilco*) and how happy all of you are working there. Blessed be God! That's beautiful and I hope the devil doesn't interfere as he knows how. Without any more time to continue, I now tell you good-bye wishing you well.

Maria

Approximate date: 1936.

Letter 624

Sister Ana of Guadalupe Garcia

(no date)

For Ana.

My beloved daughter,

May the grace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

How are you feeling? May God our Lord grant you good health if it's His pleasure, so you'll be able to take care of those poor little orphans and lead them to Him. In that way you'll please Him very much, but don't forget that your health is in a delicate condition. Don't do heavy housework, don't sweep, and don't remain standing for a long period of time.

Margarita (*Sister Ana's sister who was also in the Congregation*) is "in her glory" and very happy teaching the little girls. She prepares little parties for them, also. Blessed be God!

I've had a very bad cold and my face got very swollen, but I'm feeling better. I had lost my appetite, but now I'm able to eat.

What can you tell me about Catalina, your sister? Has she been able to arrange the business that your father so highly recommended regarding the money? Write to her as a little reminder, but do it with tact.

May your ordinary duties be done to perfection.

Maria

Letter 625

Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos Gonzalez

(no date)
Bernardita

My very dear daughter,

Your pleasant letter, which I just received today, was a cause of great joy for me, and I thank God Who is allowing me to answer you right away.

How are you and the other girls? Regarding myself, thanks be to God, I'm relatively well, in spite of the attacks of bile as well as the other worries I have. You and the children pray together that these problems will come to a satisfactory conclusion.

I'm very glad you're well. Take care of yourself. Give my regards to

the girls (*sisters*). May God bless you.

Maria Luisa

Letter 626

Sister Bernadette of the Mother of God Villalobos Gonzalez

Bernardita

My dear daughter,

When I received your letters they had already been opened. The flap was wrinkled on some of them, but at least they arrived and I thank you for them.

Be good, my daughter. Fix your gaze on heaven, not on earthly things which all pass away like a breath, leaving behind nothing but remorse and sadness like smoke which disappears with only reality remaining.

I'm longing to see you all, as well as the work you're doing. I hope that from heaven I'll see the fruit of your work, for then nothing will be hidden from me and I'll be enjoying myself, and as Saint Augustine says: "In heaven we'll see each other, we'll be united with each other, and we'll enjoy ourselves."

Good-bye, daughter. Write to me whenever you can, for you give me great joy when you write. Pray for me, and may God bless you.

Maria

Letter 627

Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez

(no date)

Carmela,

I greet you with much affection hoping that everything is all right.

Your letter was very funny! How it made me laugh to think that you want to make it your duty to lift up the little child or take care of the

little girl who has tuberculosis. What a girl! May God make you a saint.

Now, don't you be foolish. Get it out of your head that you're only in everybody's way. On the contrary, you're very useful because of the classes you're giving to Leonor (*Sister Margarita of Tepayac*). And don't keep worrying about the way you've been feeling. Talk to papa (*the pastor in Atotonilco*) about your wanting to go to Lupita's (*Mother Guadalupe of the Sacred Heart Vazquez*) house or you could come over here. We shall see what we can do so you won't suffer so much in this climate. Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) could get money for your transportation expenses, and whenever some trustworthy person is coming over you could come with her, and we'll be more than happy to have you with us.

So, please don't worry anymore, and in case you do come, you may go to Tona's (*Sister Antonia of the Guardian Angels Ramirez Rizo who returned to her baptismal name of Sister Mary of the Angels--Angela*) house because Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*) is there.

Good-bye, daughter. Give my regards to everyone.

Tomasa Carrillo

Letter 628
Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament Hernandez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Sister Maria del Carmen,

May the holy peace of God be in your soul.

You have to be very united with Our Lord so that your prayer may be continual and, at the same time, full of confidence in God.

It's time already for me to go and pray. I can't continue any more.

Good bye, daughter. **All for Jesus!**

Tear up all my little papers after you read them.

Maria Luisa

Note: Even though Mother Luisita had asked the sisters to tear up her letters after reading them, they were able to preserve them because of their love and respectful admiration for Mother Luisita. In this case, Sister Carmen of the Blessed Sacrament, by only tearing the corners, was able to preserve the contents of the original letters.

Letter 629

**Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia
Alonzo**

(no date)

Very appreciated Elenita,

It is not possible for you [sisters] to live without anything to eat. You might get seriously ill. Please ask Mercedes (*Mercedes Villasenor*) for money to buy the books and to buy food.

Good-bye. My regards to everyone

Maria

Letter 630

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

(no date)

My venerated and respected Father:

With a true filial affection and filled with joy, I greet Your Excellency upon your return to Los Angeles. I welcome you now in writing until I have the opportunity of seeing you here, personally, among your daughters, who love you so much and to whom you're so

indispensable.

How are you, most esteemed Father? Are you feeling any better? We learned that you've been sick. May God our Lord preserve your life because you're very dear to us, and more so to this family (*Congregation*) because you've been the support that Our Lord has given to us in the midst of so many difficulties.

Yesterday, I received the order of Your Excellency, and just now I airmailed the notice for Mother Manuela (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) to come. What a surprise it was for me to learn the manner in which you have received that information, as well as the way that it was done. I didn't even know any particular details, and Mother Maria (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) kept on commending Mother, but I was at peace.

I have the pleasure of enclosing information about this Community because I think it's our duty to do so since you are our Father, and I do hope that the contents will serve as a consolation even though it looks as though we've done very little this year.

My health has been very poor. Ordinarily I'm with one complication or another--some days good, others, very bad. I beg of you, my Father, to pray for this, your daughter. At the same time, I am grieving at the information you told me about us not being able to keep my mother's inheritance; I tried everything I possibly could, and the problem is now in the hands of Mr. Victor G. Luna (the lawyer).

Note: *This writing is taken from a rough draft preserved among the original letters.*

Letter 631

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

(no date)

Miss Guadalupe Botello

My dear daughter,

I've received your letters, and I've wanted to answer you, but it simply hasn't been possible. Our Lord wants you to practice patience with me.

So, you've a lot of work with many patients! Than that's very good, daughter. Thank God, for it's a proof of how much He loves you that He's keeping you busy with those who are most dear to His Heart. Give Him infinite thanks and appreciate the grace He bestows on you. Than that you're full of privations and very poor, that you lack perhaps even the mere necessities, this is happening precisely because that's what your soul needs. Oh, daughter, avail yourself of this time so abundant in graces for your soul and pray for me and ask your patients to also pray for this, your mother.

Naturally, I'm greatly desiring to see you. May God grant me the grace to go there. In fact, I had already sent for you, but then I was informed that Magdalenita (*Sister Magdalen of Mary Immaculate Castellanos*) is overwhelmed with work, and that you help her in the pharmacy and that made me keep you there.

How have you been feeling? Take care of yourself, eat meals well, and take care of the girls. Magdalenita must be busy with the patients and now she, herself, is sick. She tells me she can't get up early. May God bless you.

Josefa

P.S. Thank you for your congratulations on the occasion of my feastday.

Letter 632

Sister Guadalupe of the Child Jesus Botello Gonzalez

(no date)

Lupita,

I would like so very much to see you. What can you tell me about the pharmacy? Are you more adept now at filling those

prescriptions? Try to observe what needs to be done and find out ways in which you can help Magdalena (*Sister Magdalen of Mary Immaculate Castellanos*). Better still, you can try to find out how sick she is. She might even have to go to Guadalajara to take care of her health.

Pray to God our Lord, that if it's pleasing to Him, He would give me the grace of going to see you all, and also the financial means to go there because the trip is very expensive.

Don't waste any of the time that Our Lord is granting you to do good by taking care of the sick. I know you're pampered by Him and the more you work, the better for you.

You should see how many nurses are over here in the hospitals, all in white dresses. I'll send you one, so you will be able to see how they look. Perhaps you would like to use them, also. (*The nursing sisters were wearing a white pinafore-type apron or a white medical coat.*)

Good-bye, Lupita. Tell your sisters I'll be writing them soon.

Josefa

Letter 633

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

(no date)

Praised be Jesus Christ!

My beloved daughter, Sister Josephine,

I'm hoping and praying that you'll not deny God our Lord any of those little sacrifices He's asking of you. If you could only understand their value, you would be most happy to be able to offer them to Him.

Take care of your health. Persevere and become a saint since you're already on the road toward it.

Good-bye, daughter. **May it all be for God alone, and don't deny Him anything.**

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you.
Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.

Letter 634

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

+
Jesus
J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Very beloved daughter, Josephine,

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph be with you.

I'm answering your kind letter with great joy.

**Get rid of those tears and sadness and be happy in the Lord!
Serve Him with joy as a daughter to her father.**

I've learned that you're recuperating well. Let us bless God our Lord for this and continue eating well.

I wish that I could relate to you all that we've been doing over here (*in the United States*), but I'll have to leave it to another occasion. The sisters are really making beautiful things, thanks to the young lady who came over to teach them. We're astonished at what she can do! Blessed be God our Lord for having sent her to us. May He repay *Papa Panchito* (*our father Johnny who is Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles*) for all the good he has done for us.

May God bless you, daughter.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Letter 635

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

(no date)

For Josephine.

My little daughter,

I've been wanting to write to you but haven't given myself enough time to do it. Let it be for God!

How are you feeling? Please don't spend all of your time crying. It's harmful for you, and Our Lord wants you happy and content. Don't deny Him anything He asks of you. Be all His and you'll be very happy.

I wanted to write to you a very long letter, but I can't because a visitor just came and someone is waiting for me to finish to mail the letter.

Good-bye, my daughter. I'll write a longer letter later.

Josefa

P.S. My regards to your little sisters (*the community*) and to our Father Ott (*Father Francis Ott*). I'm longing so much to go and see you.

Letter 636

Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

(no date)

Daughter of mine, Josephine, whom I appreciate very much,

Your wonderful letters are always deeply appreciated. May God our Lord reward you for your kindness, as well as that of all your other sisters.

So, you're like St. Martha, cooking the meals. Than that's good!
You must be spending your days having a lot of fun, and "*Jesusito*
(*Our Lord*)," I'm quite sure, is very happy with you.

Are you growing in virtue by practicing self denial and presenting these efforts through obedience as various small flowers to little Emmanuel (*the Child Jesus*) as St. Therese did?

Victorita (*the first Director of the school in Atotonilco*) is fine and we are, too. Blessed be God! Good-bye, Josephine. **May you become a great saint.**

Your mother,
Maria Luisa

Letter 637
Sister Josephine of the Child Jesus Hernandez Becerra

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Reverend Sister Josephine of the Infant Jesus,

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

With much pleasure I greet you and congratulate you on your feastday, hoping for you to have a very happy day united with your God. Pray to our Father St. Joseph for me and all the community. Don't waste any time, daughter.

For lack of time, I'll finish this letter now. Regards to everyone.

I'll be bringing your present over to you.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Letter 638
Sister Juana Maria Berkmans Garcia

(no date)

For Juanita.

My very dear daughter,

Forgive the delay in writing to you, but it just wasn't possible. I've been, and still am, very busy.

About the money for Maria's ticket, use it to purchase the nourishment she needs, and I beg of you to see that she lacks nothing. Say the same thing to Consuelo to whom I'm also sending a letter.

(No signature)

Letter 639
Sister Dolores of Saint Teresa Barrera

(no date)

For Lola.

My very dear daughter,

I greet you with much affection hoping that your name day was a joyful one. We remembered you and you were present in my prayers.

Letting me know that you're at peace is a great consolation for me, and I hope that you'll always be that way, for it's a good sign.

At the first opportunity which presents itself, let them take you to Guadalajara so that you will be able to have your eyes examined and get your eyeglasses which you need so much.

I thank God our Lord for helping you to learn how to prepare the

injections. Do everything with great care because lives depend on it. Try to learn everything you can for the fulfillment of your duties.

Pray to God that He may grant me the grace of going to see you. I would be very happy to do it.

Good-bye, my daughter, and may you be a very good religious.
Maria

Letter 640

Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez

(no date)

R.M. Mary of the Divine Eucharist,

The grace of the Holy Spirit be in the soul of your reverence, my daughter.

I affectionately greet you and the rest of my daughters.

Yesterday, we received notice from Jesusita Huerta that the program for the children will be tomorrow, so you should wait for them.

Please tell Margarita (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) to type the letter I'm enclosing, changing the part about the spirit and adding the information that you're asking me for, and everything else she can think of, since she knows my style, and keep this to yourselves so Sister Elena (*Mother Elena of the Cross and the Holy Spirit Heredia Alonzo*) won't be worrying.

May God our Lord bless you all.
Maria Luisa Josefa del Santisimo Sacramento

Letter 641

Mother Maria Ana of the Holy Family Ramirez Gutierrez

(no date)

Marianita,

Before anything else I want to ask you, "How is your mother?" I'm very concerned and am thinking about you because I already know what that sorrow is like, and only God can help us to bear it and then go on living ourselves. Let us bless our good God in all and for all [things]!

I trust that Our Lord helped you to pass your exams. As for now, try to sleep and eat well, and to bathe frequently so that you will be able to regain your strength quickly. **We need to look for ways to be healthy and happy. Sadness and depression harm us very much. Sadness and depression are to the soul what a plague is to the plant. It withers the plant so that it doesn't bloom, and the gardener ultimately cuts it up and throws it into the trash. How sad that is. Isn't it true? We have to do the will of God and *adelante* (onward)!**

Give my regards to your sisters and continue writing to me because you give me great joy with your letters.

J. Navarro

**Letter 642
Unknown**

(no date)

My very dear daughter,

Through these present lines I just wanted to give you a mother's greeting because I can do no more than that. The albumin is very high and the doctor put me on a very strict diet. I think, all things considered, that it makes me feel very weak and unable to think. **Let us bless our good God for all and everything! He loves us very much and He disposes everything for our own good.** Just pray for me.

It would be a great joy to be able to see you before I die, but if this is not possible, God's will be done.

Your mother who blesses you.

Good-bye.

Maria Luisa

Letter 643

Mother Maria of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Garcia

(no date)

For Mary of Jesus.

My beloved daughter,

I've received your loving letters and am most thankful for them. They've made me laugh. So, you're now a poetess! I was surprised to read the verse you composed. Ah, little one, may God our Lord make you a saint!

Really and truly I'd like so very much to see you and your sisters. I'm hoping that you can come and spend your vacation here and I'll be able to enjoy your good humor.

For lack of time, I can't say anything else.

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

Maria

Letter 644

Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega

(no date)

Very dear daughter, Manuelita,

I take this opportunity to greet you with all my affection and then to ask you a question. How is everyone's health? And how is everyone? Over here, blessed be God, we're well. As for myself, I'm longing very much to see all of you and to spend a few days

with you [sisters], but I'm unable to do so. You well know that I'm with you in spirit always!

My regards to all the family (*community*).

Good-bye, daughter, and take care of yourself.

Maria

Letter 645
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Daughter of mine, Maria del Refugio,

It's my heartfelt desire that your soul be submerged in the grace of God. I greet you with much affection in Our Lord. I'm praying for you that you will become a saint and that God will defend you from dissipation. I'm also praying that you will be a very simple soul and a true daughter of our Blessed Mother.

Good-bye, I can't write longer. Please pray to our good God for me.

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

Letter 646
Sister Refugio of the Sacred Heart Navarro Gonzalez

(no date)

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

I greet you with great joy and inform you that the Sacred Heart of Jesus would like you and Lola to come this Friday to the hospital chapel to be with Him because He has many graces prepared for both of you, and He wants you to console Him.

You will begin the retreat tomorrow night by praying the litany of the saints and making a preparatory meditation, which you will find in the meditation book.

We have to try to profit by all these days of graces for us, strengthening ourselves by prayer in order to suffer with even more joy the sorrows that His Divine Majesty deigns to send us.

Good-bye.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless you all.

(no signature)

Letter 647
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

For Maria del Socorro.
My beloved daughter,

The information concerning your shop (*Mother Socorro was the Directress of Novices and her shop was the Novitiate*) hasn't arrived in the U.S. and they're asking me for it. Send me the information with the little girls (*sisters*) who are traveling, or send it by certified mail, or let Tona or Conchita entrust Mr. Uribe with it, but do it now and don't omit any details. Furthermore, Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez*) and Manuelita (*Mother Manuela of the Immaculate Conception Rodriguez Ortega*) will not be coming.

Teresa (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) will let you know why I wanted more operators (*postulants*). You'll be pleased. Please pray that this will become a reality.

Good-bye, daughter. Be good and may God bless you.

Maria

Please pray for my mother on the anniversary of her death.

Letter 648
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

For Socorro.

My very dear daughter,

Informing me about your move to another house was deeply appreciated. You did the right thing. You did your duty. Two other persons also told me. I know there are a lot of visitors even at night and entertainment with songs, as I'm told, and this is not right. You need to change your lives and stop going out so much. I don't approve of it, and all this had to have bad results. For the life of you, tell me everything that's going on--you don't have to let anybody know you're writing to me.

Take good care of your family (*community*). Raise it in a very discreet and recollected manner.

We were all happy with the news you gave us about Alberto's (*Father Alberto Urdanivia, S.J.*) arrival. May God really permit it because it would be very beneficial for us.

Our Lord really loves you very much in granting you such a friend for your soul, one who will seek your welfare and help you on your way through this valley, laden with so many dangers and tears. Give Him infinite thanks and be happy.

I'm concerned about you all. Write to me soon.

May God our Lord bless you.

Maria

Give my regards to my granddaughters (*postulants and novices*).

Letter 649
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

J.M. + J.T.

My very dear daughter,

I'm sending you material to make three mattresses and three pillows. Make them as soon as possible, and I'll send the interior filling for them at a later time because I'm very anxious for you to sleep the way God wants you to sleep.

How have you been? I saw Mr. Anaya (*Msgr. Abundio Anaya, Vicar of Religious in Guadalajara*), and told him that a family was living with you. He moved his head in disapproval. In addition, he wants us to have a meeting to look for a bigger house over here in the colonies. He also said it would be good to have the shelf built for the Blessed Sacrament. I think that when the gentleman goes to collect the rent, or if you go, tell him that you're going to draw up the documents to leave the property, and make sure you tell the family (*the sisters*) the wishes of the Superior for us to get together as soon as possible, and to be discreet about it.

Maria

Letter 650

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Miss Socorro Cholico

My esteemed daughter,

I'm writing this to you in a hurry because I've very little time at my disposal. It's right and just that Tere (*Mother Teresa of Jesus Navarro*) should come for a while to exchange ideas and rest a little. Meanwhile, you should help her with suggestions regarding how she can carry out her duty. Don't be afraid of carrying this little load. It will be only for a short time. I repeat--don't worry. God will help you, and you may ask me about anything. If there is no time to ask me about a problem, then you make the decision and let me know afterwards at the first opportunity.

Take good care of that family (*community*). Don't let them go out for any reason, lest something happen to them with all that traffic. As far as you're concerned, don't you be going out. Ask Conchita, Margarita's mother, (*Mother Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart Hernandez Gonzalez*) to run errands for you and ask her in writing.

I'm writing to Jose Maria right now telling him to install the shoe shop in the house, and you'll go there only in emergencies. Ask Conchita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) to go once in a while and let you know how the orchard is running. Obey me exactly in this matter.

I'm finally feeling better after being in bed for some time and I'll answer your letters.

Good-bye, daughter, and may your Eastertide be a very happy one.
Josefa

Letter 651

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Maria Socorrto, I greet you asking God to grant you His peace.

Would you please do me the favor of sending Sister Josefa (*Sister Josefa of Christ Anguiano*) with Julita to get the money for the flour. I think it will come to five pesos. If you've not received the monthly payment (*wages*) you may ask for \$50.00 (pesos); five for the flour and the rest for the expenses of that house.

I've a very bad cold and feel completely without strength because I've not been taking care of myself. How are all of you? Give my regards to the girls (*sisters*) and I hope all of them are well. May God bless you all.

Maria

Letter 652

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorro:

Give my regards to Carmen J. (*Sister Carmen Josefa of the Sacred Heart Vergara*) and please tell her that it's urgent for me to have the painting of the baby Jesus because we have to turn in the sewing by the first of the month. Fortunately, they're going to wait eight more days for it, but I should have it here by the sixth at the very latest. Tell her to please send it to me as soon as you receive this.

Josefa

Letter 653

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorro,

God's peace be with you.

Please send the forms (*hosts*) to the gentleman. Perhaps one of you could take them and he can teach her.

Install the heating system (*possibly the little oven to bake the altar bread*) where we decided to place the machine for the forms.

May Our Lord bless you.

Maria

Letter 654

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

Socorro,

I've received your notes. May God reward you for the joy they give me whenever I read them. Please continue writing to me, for I always look forward to your little letters with much pleasure.

I'm supposing you all had a happy feastday celebration on the sixth.
We joined you from here in spirit and prayed especially for the
brides (*sisters professing vows*).

I've not allowed myself any more time to continue writing because
I'd like this to go out in the next mailing.

Good-bye, my daughter. Behave.

Josefina

Letter 655

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

Daughter of mine, Socorrito,

I beg of you to take the money immediately to the Chancery Office,
and I hope you will get the rent.

Go to Atotonilco in my place to officially make the visit and you may
also consult with Father. You'll leave on Saturday morning and
come back on Monday at 6:00 a.m.

(no signature)

Letter 656

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

My very dear daughter,

Warm greetings to you and my other daughters. I carry all of you
within my soul, desiring for you everything good.

Continue praying for us. God our Lord has helped us thus far, and
we've been relatively well.

Write to me soon. Good-bye.

Maria Luisa
The shaking is so bad that it looks as if I've written with a straw.

Letter 657
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

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

With great joy I greet you, praying for you to be a little saint. I really mean it, my sister. Be very observant--overcome yourself. Die to yourself so that you may live all for God. How beautiful for all of us to belong only to God.

I don't have time for more. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless your postulants whom I greet.

Good-bye.

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

Letter 658
Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

(no date)

My beloved daughter, Socorrito,

I greet you and my other daughters with much affection.

They want the little rosaries a yellow color, but brighter than what you sent. And I'm sending you the beads.

Maria

Letter 659

Mother Socorro of the Holy Spirit Cholico Rodriguez

J.M. + J.T.

(no date)

May the Divine Infant be the sole Owner of your entire being, my dearest daughter, Maria del Socorro.

It isn't lack of good will on my part which prevents me from writing to you. It's only that I don't have enough time in the day, which could be the result of my own ineptitude in using my time wisely. Ask Our Lord to help me, and I'll write to you more often.

I praise God our Lord for the grace He has given you--peace of soul. It is to be understood that a religious should be at peace wherever, however, and with whomever she finds herself. To a soul who isn't seeking her own self, but God alone, everything is all right. The religious should be dead to self and to everything else that is not God, and I repeat--a religious should not be seeking her own self.

A visitor just came to see me, so I can't continue.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament

Letter 660

Mother Mary of the Trinity of the Eucharistic Heart Barbosa Patino

(no date)

For Trini.

My very dear goddaughter,

I've received your loving letters with much pleasure, and I hope that your many occupations will permit you to continue writing to me.

First and foremost, would you kindly do me the favor of visiting Carmelita Luna in my name and tell her that I accompany her in her sorrow. The separation of our relatives, in one way or another, is

always painful. I'm saying this because the death of a person like the pastor is not only a death, but in reality, a passing unto a better life. Give her my regards and the same for Lupe, her niece.

We were thinking that your feastday is fast-approaching. Accept my poor prayers as my gift for you, together with best wishes for you to have a very happy day.

Don't worry about that exam. I'm quite sure that you did your utmost to do the very best you could, and God our Lord is happy with you.

Good-bye, my little goddaughter, and may God our Lord bless you.
Tomasa

Letter 661
To a Sister in the United States

(no date)

Carmelita (*Mother Carmen of Jesus Chavez Martinez*) tells me that Rosita's family is from a good family and that it would be good for her to enter the boarding house (*novitiate*). We could receive her even without the dowry, but my father (*Archbishop Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara*) won't allow it. Therefore, it would be wonderful if Mr. Esparza (*Msgr. Fidencio Esparza, a good friend of the Community in the U.S.*) could obtain it for her, in which case there shouldn't be any difficulty. Just be sure to tell him our requirements, on the condition that the gentleman obtains the money.

I'm sending you "The Cross" (*a magazine*). I hope you receive it by January.

It makes me very happy to learn that the little house which I love so much is all fixed up now and that you're all well and happy.

Deliver the letter to Andrew. Either phone him or tell him to come and pick it up.

Eventually I'll write to Mariquita (*Mother Mary of the Divine Eucharist Nunez Hernandez*) and to Teresita (*Mother Teresita of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Chavez Martinez*). Greet them and the neighboring family (*the other local community nearby*) for me.
Josefa

Thoughts that Our Mother Luisita used to write on holy cards to different sisters or to family members.

J.M. + J.T.

Sister Dolores of Jesus

(A message to Mother Luisita written during the persecution)

(no date)

(A message from a Sister)

Nuestra Madre, (*Our Mother*)

Mother Maria wants to know if you're going to give the money to Don Jose for the flour or if she should give it to him from the money she has here, and also if you would like us to make the Day of Recollection today or tomorrow.

Your daughter, who loves you very much in the Sacred Heart,

Dolores de Jesus

(answer on the reverse side)

Give him the money from what you have, and make the retreat tomorrow, the eighth, and I hope you can get someone to give you a conference.

Maria

(No date and no name)

I'm sending \$40.00 pesos: \$15.00 for the monthly rent we owe and \$25.00 as a payment for the milk.

I'm asking all money that comes in (whatever the amount) be sent over to me.

Maria Luisa
January 19, 1931

For Sister Jesus Teresa

My daughter,

Anytime you have the great grace of receiving your good God, call on your Guardian Angel so that He may lead you to Him and pray for me.

Ma. Luisa Josefa of the Bl. Sac., C.D.T.

J.M. + J.T.

The Owner and Founder of this house is going to bestow upon the heart of His daughter, Teresita, a torrent of graces.

Ma. Luisa Josefa 5-30-25

J.M. + J.T.

A remembrance to my very beloved daughter, Carmen Celina, to whom I wish God's peace and great sanctity.

Ma. Luisa Guadalajara, June 22, 1936

(First Profession card of Sister Rosa of Carmel)

For my very beloved daughter, Carmen Josefa, with a greeting.

Maria

Madrecita (little mother),

May the chaste Spouse of pure souls fill yours with joy and keep you absorbed in His loving Heart, Sanctuary of divinity and uncharted Ocean of infinite perfections, adorning you with the supernatural virtues. I unite with His Divine Heart the spiritual bouquet that the least of His daughters offers for you.

Sor (*Sister*) Ma. Luisa of the Blessed Sacrament

J.M. + J.T.

To Sister Margarita Maria of the Sacred Heart,

Daughter of mine,

May you never stain the margarita (daisy) of your soul which you've given to your God.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacrament, C.D.T.,
April 24, 1931

J.M. + J.T.

Sister Margarita Maria, daughter of mine,

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be your love, guide and consolation.

Maria Luisa Josefa of the Blessed Sacramento, C.D.T.
Long Beach, Ca. 1929

J.M. + J.T.

January 12, 1931

For Sister Margarita of the Sacred Heart.

My daughter,

In all the trials of life, turn trustingly to your Angel who watches over you, and pray for me.

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

**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</i>)

	Abundio)
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 [Lionor 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]
Concepcion Hernandez	Mrs. Concepcion Hernandez, mother of Mother Margarita Maria who helped the sisters, especially during the religious persecution
Concepcion	Mother Concepcion 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] (Lola, Lolita, Lolin)
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 Jimenez	Archbishop Francisco Orozco y 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 Guadlajara, who became the first Cardinal of Guadalajara (<i>Jose, Josecito</i>)
Gema	Sister Gema of the Passion of Christ [Leonor 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 Tlalpujahu)
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 Alonso]
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 Blessed Sacrament [Michaela Hernandez] (<i>Carmen "Chiquita"</i>)
Maria de la Cruz	Sister Mary of the Cross [Petra Gutierrez] (<i>Crucita</i>)
Maria del Consuelo	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>)

María del Espíritu Santo	Sister María of the Holy Spirit Ruiz
María Francisca Javier	Sister María Francisca Xavier [María de Jesús Flores] (<i>Chuy</i>)
María de Jesús	Mrs. María de Jesús Chávez, the mother of Mother Carmen of Jesús and Mother Teresita of the Child Jesús
María de Jesús Sacramentado	Sister Mary of the Jesús in the Blessed Sacrament [Francisca García Torres]
María Jiménez	Miss María Jiménez
María de la Luz	Miss María de la Luz Jiménez Alba who entered and took the name of Sister Dolores of Jesús 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>Socorrito</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]
Maria de las Victorias	Sister Mary of the Victories of the Virgin of Carmel [Francisca Rodriguez]
Matilde del Buen Pastor	Sister Matilde of the Good Shepherd [Guadalupe Suarez]
Melania	Sister Melanie of the Mother of God Lopez
Mercedes Villasenor	One of the original ladies from Ocotlan who invited the sisters to establish a foundation in that city
Micaela	Sister Maria 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 (<i>Papa Cheve</i>)
Socorro	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

