

In the Footsteps of La Madre:

STA TERESA

DE AVILA

ORTEGA TWINS OFFERING FOR
THE 500th YEAR OF CHRISTIANITY
IN THE PHILIPPINES (1521-2021)

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the holy Roman Catholic Church's hierarchy – the pope, as the successor of the Apostle Peter; cardinals, the princes of the church; bishops, who serve the pope as successors to the original 12 apostles who followed Jesus; and the priests.

To the world's major religious orders, communities and congregations namely: Agustinians, Benedictines, Carmelites, Dominicans, Franciscans, Redemptorist, Missionaries of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), Jesuits, Salesians, Trappists, etc.

To all families, especially the Ortega, Bolong and Argel.

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LEAVING ON A JET PLANE—(adapted from Leaving on a Jet Plane by John Denver)
INTERMISSION VTR: Pater Noster Learning Center pupils

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1. Italy
2. Poland
3. Czech Republic
4. Ireland
5. Spain ..

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Avila | 10) Alba de Tormes |
| 2) Medina del Campo | 11) Toledo |
| 3) Valladolid | 12) Seville |
| 4) Segovia | 13) Granada |
| 5) Palencia | 14) Beas |
| 6) Burgos | 15) Caravaca |
| 7) Soria | 16) Malagon |
| 8) Pastrana | 17) Villanueva de la Jara |
| 9) Salamanca | Avila |

II. AFRICA

6. Egypt
7. South Africa

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1. Portugal
2. Denmark
3. Scotland
4. Russia
5. Greece
6. Turkey

II. AFRICA

7. Ghana
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III. NORTH AMERICA

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Christ of the Desert Monastery

Alangan, Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur
Philippines

FOREWORD

“Around the world I’ve searched for you... No more will I go all around the world, For I have found my world in you.” These are the first and last verses of Nat King Cole’s “Around the World in 80 Days,” upon which is based the theme song of “Footsteps (84 days around the world).” They are appropriately attributed to the twins, Maria Luz and Maria Nila.

“Around the World I’ve Searched for You”

The twins, Luz and Nila, have gone around the world from the Philippines to Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Oceania and Asia, in 84 days, in search for God in the wonders of His creation, sanctification, and redemption, reduced to sense phenomena which were part of their encounter with and experience of God.

This search for and encounter with God have become their evangelizing efforts in the obedience of faith to the command “Go to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” The pilgrim statue of St. Teresa of Avila which they left at the places they visited has been the concrete expression of their evangelizing efforts.

“In the Footsteps of La Madre,” understand “La Madre” as St. Teresa of Jesus (STJ), was the driving spirit of their search for God around the world and of their evangelization efforts.

“No More Will I Go All Around The World,

For I Have Found My World In You.”

At this juncture, I suggest, if I may, that you, Luz and Nila, come now to a still point and “in the footsteps of La Madre,” search for God in Christ, by way of the “Interior Castle” of St. Teresa of Jesus, at Mansions 7, described by her as arrival, encounter, full union, spiritual marriage, and apostolic yearning— all put together in one continuum.

This is the soul’s arrival at the center of the Castle. This is the soul’s encounter with the King dwelling there. This is the soul’s communion (intimate and full union) with the Holy Trinity dwelling there, alongside with the glorious humanity of Christ. This is the spiritual marriage of the soul and God in the Word. This is the apostolic yearning of the soul and craving to serve her Spouse in and for His Church.

All these—arrival, encounter, communion, spiritual marriage, apostolic yearning— are now experienced in peace and rootedness in God, growing more deeply in the soul each day. They constitute what Ruth Burrows called “Fire upon the Earth.”

May they all be all your experience as no more you go all around the world, for you have found your world— the Castle’s Mansions 7, of your souls!



Abbot Santos Rabang

Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia



September 21, 2010_ Abbot Santos Rabang writes his thoughts on the Interior Castle at the Sea and Sky

Ortega twins visit Abbot Rabang at Christ of the Desert Monastery.

PREFACE

This book is designed for two potential groups of users: (1) Church hierarchy for them to study the authenticity of two Secular Carmelites in their pursuit of doing God's Will and holiness of life and (2) any reader who gets hold of our book.

Unlike theological books, the book we have written "In the Footsteps of La Madre: Sta. Teresa de Avila is our faith-lived experiences. Teresa often used to say, "I am yours, Lord; I was born for You. What do you want from me?" Founding new Carmelite institutions look unseemly in St. Teresa, a cloistered nun. However, in St. Teresa of Avila's account, God gave her a locution that forced her to action: "One day after Communion, His Majesty earnestly commanded me to strive for this new monastery with all my powers.... He said it should be called St. Joseph" (Life 32.11).

Teresa wrote her spiritual biography and humorous anecdotes of her travels around Spain in an era of travel hardships as she walked the countryside. For that she is known as "la andariega," the walking woman.

We are all the daughters of the great Teresa. Teresa de Ahumada as a child must have heard of the Philippines as Mary Teresa Sideco Association of Monasteries of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in the Philippines, 1993 - Convents - 829 pages wrote in The Roots of Teresa's Nuns in the Philippines, Volume 1 page 1 in the Introduction. Born in 1521, she was six years old when our country was discovered in 1521.

During the 5th Centenary of St. Teresa of Avila celebration at Avila, Spain which we twins were fortunate to attend, we followed her footsteps by visiting the 17 Foundations put up by St. Teresa in 17 days. The movie, Avila 2015 pilgrimage beautifully capture our experiences. It is a faith journey with St. Teresa. Starting January 16, our 66th birthday, we showed that all our thoughts, words and deeds were on God. "For what is prayer? Prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God; to adore Him, to thank Him for His benefit, to ask His forgiveness, and to beg Him for all the graces we need whether for soul or body."

In preparing for the 500 YOC we as Christians are all invited to look at what our faith has brought us. In the Footsteps of La Madre Sta. Teresa de Avila" could very well serve as our autobiography. Thus, (2) Ordinary people are second group of users. We invite you "to journey with us as we have journeyed with St. Teresa. St. Teresa showed us that in the creation of her Foundations, God has always been present.

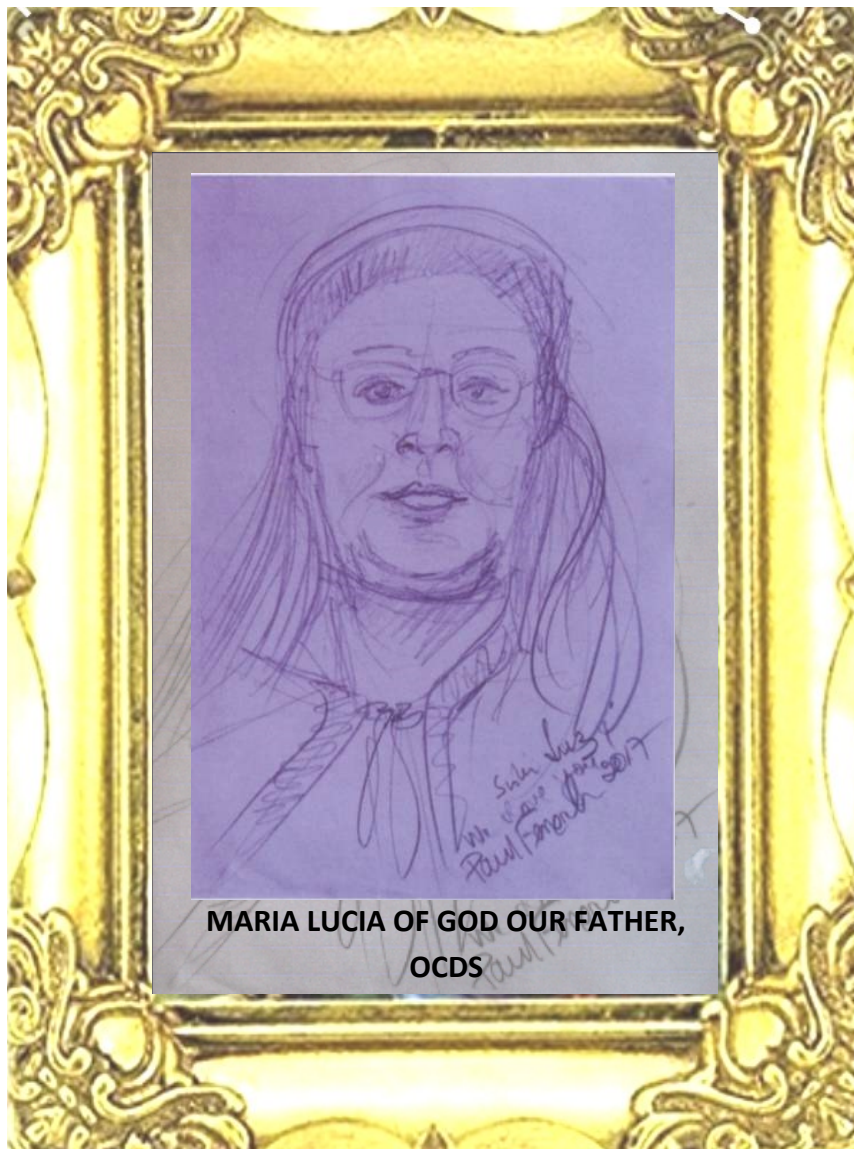
We had the courage to proceed with our plan to have an initial 50 copies printed per book, "In the Footsteps of La Madre"(1st, 2nd and 3rd editions). Some 150 copies have already been distributed around the world in 38 countries –in 7 continents. God, when He gives inspirations, makes it possible also paves the way for things to happen.

| <u>Continents</u> | <u>Countries</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
| Africa | South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Egypt | 5 |
| | North /Central America Nicaragua, United States , Mexico | 4 |
| South America | Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru | 5 |
| Asia | Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Israel, Malaysia | |
| | Singapore, Hongkong, Japan, Taiwan, Korea | 94 |
| Europa | Italy, Spain, Denmark, Scotland, Greece, France, | |
| | Ireland, Portugal, Czech Republic , Russia, | |
| | Slovakia, Poland, Budapest | 39 |
| Oceania | New Zealand, Australia | 2 |
| Antarctica | King George Island | 1 |
| | | 150 |

The fourth unpublished book on “In the Footsteps of La Madre: Sta. Teresa de Avila”, will be distributed in Cebu hopefully in 2021.

Fr. Paul Fenech, a Roman Catholic Priest is founder of the Disciples of Jesus Community (DJC), recognized by the church in Malta. The meeting with the Pope was to celebrate the Vatican’s definitive recognition of the International Organism at the Service of the Parish Cells of Evangelization (IOSPCE).

He sketched Luz face at the Greece airport and gave the portrait before they embark for Turkey.



Here is a suggestion for the second group of users. So you won’t be discouraged for the voluminous manuscript, chose the pieces that interest you by looking at the Table of Contents. Just take your time, to read from time to time when you are free.

We owe greatly to the Church hierarchy who have supported us in the early years of our persevering discipleship. And, we twins are satisfied with and amazed by the completion of this book in time for the 500 years anniversary celebration of Christianity in the Philippines through the Spanish missionaries.