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SOG FRANCISCA DEL ESPIRITU SANTO DE FUENTES
*Fundadora del Beaterio de Sta.
Catalina Tercera de Sto. Domingo*

**NOVENA
ASKING THE INTERCESSION OF
THE SERVANT OF GOD
FRANCISCA DEL ESPIRITU
SANTO
DE FUENTES**

the sick, the needy and the young. In 1682, she received the habit of a Dominican tertiary. She was joined by a small group, and a family of religious founded in the Philippines had its beginning. Final approval came later, but the early years brought many difficulties. Francisca persevered. Her pioneering ideal of a religious community for Filipinas, in the spirit of St. Dominic, was based on a life of prayer, of mortification and service for others. She herself set an example of these, and continued to guide and inspire her companions. On August 24, 1711, Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes died at the age of 63, bringing to a happy end a life of deep fidelity, and leaving a legacy of service to the young, the sick and the poor.

**BIOGRAPHY OF THE SERVANT OF GOD
FRANCISCA DEL ESPIRITU SANTO
DE FUENTES**



Francisca de Fuentes was born in the City of Manila in 1647. Widowed and childless after a brief marriage, she dedicated herself to helping

**FIRST DAY
Theme:
Devotion to the Eucharist**



1. ACT OF CONTRITION

2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY

God, Father Almighty, in Your infinite Wisdom You have willed that Your servant Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes be the foundress of a Filipina religious congregation. She believed in You with her whole being, she hoped for the perfection of Your plan, and she loved You in imitation of Your incarnate Son. In trials and in penance she persevered, and was purified. An instrument of Your ineffable holiness, Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes touched so many lives and continues to

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Prayer

God our loving Father, life in this world is made whole by experiences of sadness and joy, hope and despair, faith and disbelief. You have given to us Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ as a model of one who is able to endure sufferings and offer them to You. Mother Francisca came very close to following Christ in this regard. I ask You Lord that in difficult moments, I too, may be able to accept my sufferings in Your name for my own good and for the good of others. Amen.

5. CLOSING PRAYER p.9

6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA p.11

Potenciana, they returned to the Beaterio to start all over again. The sufferings at Sta. Potenciana and the rigors of community life at the Beaterio intensified by her own penance, fasting and mortification resulted in a sickness which kept Mother Francisca in bed for many months. It was said that because of these, at the age of 64, she looked more than 70. But despite her weakness, she would still force herself to go down to the church to receive Holy Communion until such time when she could no longer rise from bed and therefore, Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo, would go to her room and celebrate Holy Mass and give her Holy Communion.

(Pause for Reflection)

edify Your Filipino people.

If it is in accord with Your plans, let the present ecclesial inquiry into the causes of her beatification and canonization lead to the triumph of Your grace. Let the recognition of her sanctity be a proof of Your guidance. Let her beatification and canonization be yet another outpouring of Your love to Your chosen people in the far east and an added blessing to the universal Church. In the power of Your Holy Spirit, who filled the heart of Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes, let the canonical proceedings be success-

fully carried out, so that at the end we all can sing: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Nihil Obstat:

Mgr. SABINO A. VENÓCO, J.

Imprimatur:

† LEONARDO Z. LEGASPI, O.P., D.D.

JULY 26, 2009

3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

Reading from the *Breve Relación* by Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo

“After the Beatas returned from Sta. Potenciana, Mother Francisca intensely desired to have the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel, and this she asked very humbly

1. ACT OF CONTRITION
2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY p.3
3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

Reading from the *Breve Relación* by Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo

“To the years she added the mortification of her body; although she was not yet 64 years old, externally she looked more than 70 years, because her penances, fastings, and mortifications and the resulting maladies consumed her” (Chapter XI, p. 93).

Reflection

After the *Beatas'* exile in Sta.

NINTH DAY

Theme: Mortification and Penance



...and with persistence”(Chapter XI, pp. 90, 91). “When she could no longer rise from her bed I went upstairs to say Holy Mass early morning and I gave her Holy Communion twice a week and received the Lord in supreme joy and benefit for her soul” (Chapter XI, p. 93).

Reflection

The *Beatas* frequently would go to St. Dominic’s Convent to receive the sacraments especially the Eucharist with humility and devotion. It was after their exile from Sta. Potenciana that Mother Francisca, intensely desired to

have the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel and this she humbly asked from Archbishop Camacho who unfortunately did not grant such request. Mother Francisca asked a second time from Archbishop Francisco de la Cuesta when he came for the first time from Spain, but was also denied permission. Realizing she could not succeed in getting permission she thought of having a passage to the Church of San Juan de Letran from the Beaterio but the Father Provincial did not agree with the plan. Don Juan de Escaño, their benefactor, did not agree either because he was

failures in obedience. Forgive me for neglecting my spiritual life and giving instead more time for things that do not count in your kingdom. Lord, assist me in my weaknesses. Lead me to the right path. Make me a responsible and dutiful member of my family/community so that I can be an instrument of your love, peace and justice just like Mother Francisca, your dutiful disciple. These I ask in your name and with the intercession of Mary, my Mother and Mother Francisca, my model. Amen.

5. CLOSING PRAYER p.9
6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA p11

evening. She was a lover of silence. Immersed in God just like St. Dominic and St. Catherine, She talked to God and about God. Fasting and self-imposed mortification helped her to discipline herself. Indeed she was not only a lover of regular observance but also its guardian as shown in governance as Prioress of the Beaterio.

(Pause for Reflection)

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P r a y e r

Lord, as Son of Mary and Joseph, You were subject to them. You obeyed them and grew in grace, wisdom and strength. Your life was an act of obedience to the Father until death.

I admit my weaknesses and

thinking of building a church for the sisters pending the permission from the King of Spain. It was the next Provincial, the Very Rev. Fr. Pedro de Mejorada, OP, who made this intense desire come to reality. He agreed with the request and through the Licentiate Asturias the license of the governor was obtained easily. After all the trials and ordeals of getting the permission, Mother Francisca's plan to have access to the Blessed Sacrament was realized on the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas when the Church was opened and the Mass was sung with great solemnity. (Pause for Reflection)

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P r a y e r

Lord God Almighty, I ask you through the intercession of Mother Francisca to desire intensely your loving presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Amen

5. CLOSING PRAYER

God, Our Father, You are glorified in Your Saints, for in their lives we see the crowning of Your gifts. We commend to You the life and example of the Servant of God Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes. She responded wonderfully to Your grace by a life

Their perseverance in prayer, their complete trust and confidence in God brought them to the fore and with deep gratitude and thanksgiving for all their victories, both small and big, their unceasing praises to God was tremendous.

Their Religious Observance consists of practices which help each Beata to follow Christ more closely and make the apostolate more effective. Mother Francisca was an exemplar with regards to the religious observance. Aside from praying the Hours of the day, she frequented the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. She had mental prayer at daytime and at midnight and she prayed the rosary in the morning, afternoon and

all and end all. The Beatas anchored themselves in the Creator and compassionate God, Lord and lover of humankind by their faithfulness in their Religious observances and unreserved gratitude to God and to His delineate instruments of grace.

They were grateful to the Dominican Fathers of the Holy Rosary for being instruments in the realization of their vision — the Beaterio. Their eternal gratitude was also expressed to Don Juan de Escaño, their great benefactor who was instrumental for the economic stability of the community of the Beatas. His name is inscribed in the history of the Beaterio and until this time, he is still and will be prayed for.

of holiness. As a woman of the Philippines, she drew herself close to You in her service of the sick, the poor and the young. We ask by this prayer in her memory Your special help... (**mention favor requested**) ... May her holiness be recognized by the Church as an example of faithfulness for all the people of our land.

We ask this through the merits of Jesus our merciful Savior and the prayers of Mary, Queen of the Rosary, Amen. Our Father .. Hail Mary... Glory be ...

Nihil Obstat:


MSGR. JOSE C. ABRIOI, P.A.
Vicar General

Imprimatur


JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN
Archbishop of Manila

18 June 1994

6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA

FRANCISCA DE MANILA
1988

Lyrics: Msgr. Sabino Vengco, Jr.

Music: Fr. Eduardo Hontiveros, SJ

Chorus:

Francisca de Manila, Kapatid huwaran,
Diwa ng paglilingkod sa Panginoon'y
taglay;

Pagtatangi sa kapwa at sa kabataan,
Sa kababaihang ginising, buhay na
aral.

Noong panahon ang kababaiban ng
bayan

Tahimik na nagdurusa't walang

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what for many years she had desired and asked from God with persistence and tears.” (Chapter III, p. 48). As for Don Juan de Escaño. “His (Don Juan Escaño’s) body was buried among the religious in the major chapel of Santo Domingo convent; and the Beaterio, in gratitude, had him inscribed as the greatest and first of its benefactors, and on the day of his death anniversary... a memorial service is celebrated with solemnity” (Chapter IV, p. 56).

Reflection

The Beatas underwent numerous trials during the early years of the Beaterio. But despite all these, they did not lose sight of Jesus, their be

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1. ACT OF CONTRITION
2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY p.3
3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

Reading from the *Breve Relación* by Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo

“After this (profession of three vows, obedience, chastity and poverty), they started to live the Rule from the hour of Compline in their Oratory and this was followed and continued to be followed through the mercy of the Lord...” (Chapter III, p. 50)“...All of them were very much pleased; they did not cease to give thanks to God, particularly Mother Francisca for seeing realized

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kalayaan.
Hinangad ni Francisca lakas patutulongan,
Sa Diyos at pagsisikap, kanyang kabanalan

Di natanggap na kapuwa’y walang kakayahan
Tanging sa tahana’t tagabigay-lugod lamang,
Sa Iglesiya’y tagamasid at walang alam,
‘pagkat kay Francisca siya’y wangis ng Maykapal

Musmos at kabataang hanap ay pagmamahal
Murang puso’t isipang uhaw sa

kaligtasan

Naging anak niya at kanyang pana-
nagutan

Sa paarala'y hutok tatag ng sam-
bayan.

Mga taong hadlang at katunggali sa
buhay

Mga oras ng dilim at unos sa daan.

Kay Francisca'y bahagi ng kanyang
paglalakbay

Na sarili sa Panginoo'y lubos maialay.

Espiritu Santo naging lagi niya gabay

Sa kanyang daigdig na kabayanihan,

Alinsunod sa liwanag ng Biblia Sacra

Gaya ng Patronang si Catalina de

Sena.

EIGHTH DAY

**Theme: Religious Observance
and Gratitude**



This we ask through the merits of Jesus, our Savior and through the intercession of Mary, our mother and Mother Francisca, your humble servant. Amen.

5. CLOSING PRAYER p.9

6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA p.11



SECOND DAY

Theme: Obedience



1. ACT OF CONTRITION
2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY p.3
3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

Reading from the *Breve Relación* by Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo

“I gave her the Viaticum with all the solemnity given in the Dominican Order, the Mother asking pardon to all her daughters and to me. I told her: ‘Mother, you should also pardon those who offended you.’ She said: ‘Nobody offended me.’ I insisted that she should forgive and that she should say it in a

and compassion. With deep faith, she entrusted them to the Lord.

(Pause for Reflection)

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Prayer

Most Holy Trinity, our model of community, grant us the grace to love our family/community. Lead us all to be one in truth and one in charity. Give me the humility to accept that sometimes I am weak and can make mistakes. Give me the courage to live and stand up for the truth and when called for to lovingly correct my brothers and sisters as Mother Francisca did.

emanates from her deep encounter with the Lord. Such in the case of Mother Francisca who by her great love and zeal for the glory of God, she did not hesitate to admonish and even scold some Beatas who took advantage of their going to church to meet and chat with lay acquaintances and discussing things that are not spiritual. Mother Francisca took notice that these slowly caused some of the Beatas to abandon their spiritual obligations, lose fervor, feel exhaustion and regret their avowed state of life. Mother Francisca corrected the erring Beatas with prayers, love

loud voice. Which she did.” (Chapter XI, pp. 93-94)

Reflection

Mother Francisca was obedient. She was a covenantal leader who possessed a profound awareness of God's presence. She was sensitive and responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Her deep union with God and devotion to the Holy Spirit made her discern God's will.

Her strict and loving observance of her vows and constitutions and her very life show the value and virtue of Obedience. When she wanted things to happen for the good of

the Beaterio, as when she requested for the building of the passage from the Beaterio to the Chapel of San Juan de Letran so that they will have access to the Blessed Sacrament, she would give her side but she was submissive to her superior's decisions. Another test of her obedience was when she was nearing her final hour. Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo asked her to pardon those who offended her. She replied that nobody offended her but the priest insisted and told her to say it aloud. She obediently obliged.

(Pause for Reflection)

Father Provincial, Father Bartolome Marron to live in a community which was granted to them in 1686, with the confirmation of the Acts of the Province.

Women of exceptional differences gathered to live together as community is in itself a profound expression of God's love and an endearing challenge to respond to that Love. In all circumstance of community living, a much greater challenge is laid upon the Prioress whose actions and judgment are based not on mere personal perception and judgment but above all by love and wisdom that

Reflection

Mothers Francisca, Antonia Esguerra, Sebastina de Jesus and Maria de la Vega were considered pious by the people in Intramuros during the last decade of the seventeenth century. They became *Beatas* wearing the habit of the Third Order of St. Dominic de Guzman but were living in their respective homes. They led a life of intense prayer and gave witness of their compassion for the young, the sick and the needy.

It was for these reasons that they expressed their desire to the Prior, Father Juan de Santa Maria and the

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Prayer

Make me dear Lord, obedient to your slightest desire and will as did Mother Francisca. Amen.

5. CLOSING PRAYER p.9

6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA p.11



THIRD DAY

**Theme: Charity and
Compassion**



piritu Santo de Fuentes as Prioress to whom all of them pledged obedience... They started to observe the Rule from the hour of Compline in their Oratory; and this was followed and continues to be followed through the mercy of the Lord” (Chapter III, p.50). “But sometimes they (Beatas) gave in to chatting, taking advantage of their going to the Church... Because of these, the Prioress (Mother Francisca) admonished them; sometimes she scolded them and threatened them with the zeal for the glory of God and the good of their state of life” (Chapter VII, p. 70).

1. ACT OF CONTRITION
2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY p.3
3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

Reading from the *Breve Relación* by Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo

“The Beatas frequented the sacraments in our convent of St. Dominic, setting good example of humility and devotion. Some of them, I understand, wished to live together in a community” (Chapter 1, p. 34). . . . *“And in this manner they did it. After they had professed, I appointed Mother Francisca del Es-*

1. ACT OF CONTRITION
2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY p.3
3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

Reading from the *Breve Relación* by Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo

“She (Mother Francisca) was charitable to the poor, in such a way that having nothing over, she gave out what was necessary. Many days she used to go to San Juan de Dios bringing something to eat for the unfortunate sick, whom she served and distributed the food” (Chapter XII, p. 106).

Reflection

Mother Francisca had extremely great love for the poor and compassion for the unfortunate as evidenced by what she did to them in such a way that having nothing over, she gave out what was necessary. Many days she used to go to San Juan de Dios Hospital visiting the sick, bringing something to eat for the unfortunate and marginalized and distributed food to the waiting patients.

At another instance, her love and compassion to the poor and needy was shown when there was a scarcity of drinking water and

SEVENTH DAY

**Theme: Fraternal Correction
and Love of Community**



Your Son and Our Lord. Help us pray fervently with childlike simplicity as Mother Francisca did. Amen.

5. CLOSING PRAYER p.9

6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA p.11



she offered and allowed the poor people in the vicinity to fetch from the two big wells in the Beaterio.

(Pause for Reflection)

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Prayer

Lord Jesus, give me the grace to follow the footsteps of Mother Francisca in alleviating the suffering of the poor. Amen.

5. CLOSING PRAYER p.9

6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA p.11

FOURTH DAY

Theme: Trust in God, Resignation and Abandonment



honor the mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Each Beata would take a particular mystery for her own particular devotion, keeping the order of seniority in the choice. Mother Francisca's devotion to the Blessed Mother was greatly manifested in the praying of the Rosary. She ordered that the rosary be prayed by the community in the morning, early afternoon and evening. After the rosary at noon they had meditation until three o'clock afternoon.

(Pause for Reflection)

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Prayer

Lord God, help us that through our devotion to the Blessed Mother, we may be drawn close to follow Jesus

She spent many hours in prayer.

When she was widowed, she invited women to pray in her home. She was deeply spiritual and contemplative. She devoted herself to private and communal prayers. Amidst her work she communed with God. She loved to be in the chapel and spent long hours with the Lord. They prayed the “Little Office” and got up at midnight for a meditation and other prayers. She was greatly devoted to Our Lady. As a community they prayed the three parts of the Holy Rosary in the morning, early afternoon and evening. After the rosary at noon they had meditation until three o’clock afternoon.

The number of the Beatas were maintained to fifteen in number to



1. ACT OF CONTRITION
2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY p.9
3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

Reading from the *Breve Relación* by Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo

“In fact, I was very much op-
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posed to it (Beaterio) considering how much is needed to sustain a community, however small it is, and seeing further that the Beatas were scarce in personal goods, of which they had just enough.” (Chapter 1, p. 37). “Afterwards, she explained her sentiments to me, but I reasoned out to her approving what the Provincial had said, and the old woman was appeased and resigned herself to the will of God in everything” (Chapter IX, p. 80).

Reflection

Mother Francisca and the Beatas met many difficulties, trials, and

and spacious oratory was formed. Seeing the oratory, Mother Francisca ordered that the Rosary be prayed by the community in the morning, at one o'clock during the day and at night; and even at midnight they rose up for mental prayer, and the spiritual exercise lasted until almost 3:00 o'clock” (Chapter III, p. 46). “... and that the Beatas be fifteen, to honor the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary” (Chapter III, p. 48).

Reflection

Mother Francisca was a woman of prayer. She talked to God and about God. Even when she was not yet in the Beaterio, her home was like a chapel with many holy pictures and statues.

1. ACT OF CONTRITION
2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY p.3
3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

**Reading from the *Breve Relación*
by Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo**

“After becoming a widow, she (Mother Francisca) gave herself truly to the service of God, with much profit to her soul and much perseverance in mental and vocal prayers, so that her house seemed to be an oratory” (Chapter XIII, p. 106). She was joined by some pious women in the city of Manila and together they live in community... “The house (the first Beaterio) was renovated, walls were built around the yard, an altar was framed and neat

challenges: the construction of a *Beaterio*, the plan of Archbishop Camacho to place them under his authority, the conflict between the Archbishop and the Dominican Friars, excommunication, exile to Sta. Potenciana and many more.

When the Religious Orders in the Philippines were asked by Rome to comment on the establishment of the *Beaterio*, all were in favor except the Rev. Father Provincial of the Seraphic Order of our Holy Father St. Francis. In response to this situation, Mother Francisca said that God cannot be resisted and the *Beaterio* will fair very well.

As predicted by Mother Francisca, the Beaterio was established, however, only for a short term, The Beatas and the Beaterio caught between the disputes of ecclesiastical and government authorities were excommunicated and exiled in Santa Potenciana for more than two years. During their exile in Sta. Potenciana, the Beatas were beset by many trials. Not having a Beaterio of their own, and not allowed to wear the habit but still following the rigors of common life by regular observance of rules and regulations like prayers and other spiritual exercises, have caused some of the Beatas to be restless

SIXTH DAY

**Theme: Piety, Love of Prayer
and Devotion to the Blessed
Virgin Mary**



to do Your will. May we remain faithful and dependent in your love. We ask these through Jesus Your Son and the inspiration and intercession of Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes. Amen.

5. CLOSING PRAYER p.9

6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA p.11



and to waver in their vocation.

Mother Francisca, out of charity and her love for the *Beaterio*, tried her best to advise the *Beatas* to persevere in their vocation. However, some of the Dominican Fathers favored letting go of these *Beatas* since they were causing troubles. Father Provincial himself gave the following order: "Señora, the door is open for those who would like to go, do not wait to give any more troubles, but to those who will persevere, the Order will not fail them." The order saddened Mother Francisca so much and she relayed her feelings and sentiments to Fr. Santo Domingo. However, after

explaining his approval of the Father Provincial's order, Mother Francisca was appeased and resigned to the will of God in everything..

Despite these shadows, Mother Francisca and the *Beatas* remained close to Jesus. Their faith, tested like fire in the furnace made them cling to Christ and Our Lady of the Rosary, never giving up hope for they had complete trust in Divine Providence.

(Pause for Reflection)

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P r a y e r

God, our Father, in the agony in the garden, Jesus, Your Son, prayed:

the darkness of opposition and contradiction.

Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes and the *Beatas* were women of hope for they were women of vision and courage.

(Pause for Reflection)

4. PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P r a y e r

Lord God, our Father, we ask your gift of guidance in keeping us steadfast in our response to your call as we immerse ourselves in our daily activities, ever hopeful to be given grace in trying moments. Give us, dear Lord, strong determination

a courageous tone to Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo: “Father Prior, the *Beaterio* will be constructed and Your Reverence will see it.”

Hope for Mother Francisca and the Beatas was founded on God alone. Even when their efforts were seemingly futile, and the foundation of the *Beaterio*, hopeless, they went on hoping against hope; believing firmly in God’s inspiration. The Beatas, especially Mother Francisca set an example of hope — hope in God’s providence; hope that in God’s beautiful time, the *Beaterio* would be set up; hope geared towards the realization of a vision amidst

“Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done. (Luke 22:40) Sometimes, I resent and cannot accept some conditions and situations in my life. Lord, help me. Let me put my total trust in you . Send me Your Holy Spirit that I may be able to see what Your plans are for me. Help me to accept willingly Your will as did Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ and Your handmaid, Mother Francisca. Amen.

5. CLOSING PRAYER p.9

6. HYMN: FRANCISCA DE MANILA p.11

FIFTH DAY

**Theme: Determination,
Persistence, Decisiveness and
Hope**



tell the Prior that “*the Beaterio will be constructed and Your Reverence will see it.*”

Due to the determination and persistence of Mother Francisca and the *Beatas*, the Prior relented and the *Beaterio* became a reality on July 26, 1696.

Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes, the foundress of the *Beaterio* de Santa Catalina, was a woman of hope. To be a foundress of a Congregation at a time when there was so much opposition even from the Church hierarchy meant for Mother Francisca to hold on to a vision that set her to say in

then Father Provincial Fr. Bartolome Marron, that they be allowed to live together in a community. Their request was granted in 1686 with the confirmation of the Acts of the Province and the Master General of the Order approved it on January 11, 1688.

In 1690, the *Beatas* pressed the Prior, Fr. Juan de Sto. Domingo about the building of a Beaterio but the latter did not approve of the idea because of the difficulty of sustaining a community. The *Beatas*, especially Mother Francisca persistently brought up the topic to no avail. This led her to courageously

1. ACT OF CONTRITION
2. PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY p.3
3. READING AND REFLECTION FOR THE DAY

**Reading from the Breve
Relación by Fr. Juan de Sto.
Domingo**

“... The Beatas... started to press me about the Beaterio, an idea that was far from my thoughts. In fact, I was very much opposed to it considering how much is needed to sustain a community, however small it is, and seeing further that the Beatas were scarce in personal goods, of which they had just

enough.

Then the Beatas, especially Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo de Fuentes started to urge me about the Beaterio... But since I was of the contrary opinion, I told her no, as always. One day, after hearing her confession, she returned to press me again. Somewhat angry, I told her that she was impertinent and would not give weight to reasons. Then, with a courageous tone, Mother Francisca told me: 'Fr. Prior, the Beaterio will be constructed and your Reverence will see it'... But everything happened as she said it would, and I saw so much of it that

I actually did everything" (Chapter 1, p. 38).

"Mother Sebastiana told Mother Antonia de Jesus Maria: 'Mother Antonia, the Beaterio will be established near the convent but not in those houses; neither you nor I shall see it'" (Chapter 1, p. 37).

Reflection

Francisca de Fuentes, Antonia Fuentes, Sebastiana de Jesus, and Maria Ana dela Vega, were pious women who wore the habit of St. Dominic in the 1682s. They were known as "*Beatas*". They requested the Dominican Father through the