



AMPARO PORTILLA CRESPO

PRAYER

(For private devotion)

God the Father, Creator of the Universe, You granted Your daughter Amparo the grace to excel in her love as a wife, mother, and merciful compassionate woman, sincerely giving of herself to others. Help me also to make of my daily life a path of love towards Heaven.

Deign to glorify your servant Amparo and through her intercession, and if it is your Will, grant me the favour I ask of you, with the hope that she will soon be included among the number of your saints... (here make your petition). Amen.

Our Father, Glory Be To The Father, Hail Holy Queen.

With Ecclesiastical Approval. According to the Decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare this prayer is not at all intended to decide the judgment of the Ecclesiastical Authority, and is for private use only.

Amparo Portilla Crespo is buried in the crypt of the Almudena Cathedral of Madrid, in Saint Ferdinand's Chapel.

The diocesan stage of the canonization trial began on 17th December 2001 and finished on 11th December 2004. The Roman phase was opened on 11th April 2005.

Amparo Portilla Crespo, the eldest of four children, was born in Valencia (Spain) on May 26 th 1925. The loss of her father, killed in the Spanish Civil War when she was just twelve years old, led her to mature at an early age and to come to terms with a more austere way of life.

She completed her secondary education at the School of the Sacred Heart in Godella (Valencia) where on May 25th 1943 she was awarded the medallion of the Daughters of Mary. The motto she chose for the occasion was “Keep, Mother, away from me that wick may keep me away from Thee” and she remained faithful to it all throughout her life. She never lost contact with the nuns from the School and always felt deep affection and gratitude towards them for the love and the goog education she had received at their hands. The month of May -the month of the Virgin Mary- was linked to certain significant events in her life: it was in this month that she was born, baptized, made her First Holy Communion, and celebrated her Saint’s Day; it was also in this month that she passed away.

Amparo studied Education and Child Care and worked with great fervour in the catechism of the Parish of the Holy Cross, a poor district in Valencia, devoting herself mostly to poverty-stricken children.

In 1950 she married Federico Romero and moved with him to Madrid. The marriage was a truly happy one and brought forth eleven children for whom Amparo was always a loving and devoted mother. Patient, forbearing, hard-working, consistently cheerful and generous, she set a constant example of what a good Christian life should be. She thanked the Lord daily for his blessings, of wick she felt unworthy, and offered up whatever adversity came her way for those who might find themselves in a worse situation.

She was always watchful not to miss an opportunity to help others, particularly, the homeless, the needy, the sick and those who had fallen away from God. She never failed to respect the latter as people and, although she never complied with sin, she invariably found a way to highlight their good qualities and play down their faults. Nor did she harbour animosity towards anyone, irrespecctive of whatever harm they might ever have done her. Instead, she was unfailingly forgiving and even found ways of showing them her affection.

In February 1994 Amparo accepted with Christian serenity a diagnosis of cancer of the lung, regarding her illness as a means of bringing both herself and those around her closer to the Lord. She faced up to her condition with courage and felt that it generated an explosion of love in those closest to her. Her concern for the problems of others as well and for political and social issues at large never faded.

She endured long periods of medical treatment with great fortitude, with never a word of complaint, offering up her pain to God with joy and giving support and love to those who took care of her. She finally passed away at her home in Madrid in the early hours of the morning on 10th May 1996. During the last days of her life she frequently gazed at an image of Our Blessed Mother: “Our Lady of the Forsaken”, the Patron Saint of Valencia and left in all those who had known her a deep impression of her profound and genuine Christian life.

Those who may be deemed to have obtained some favour through her intercession are asked to notify the “Association for the Canonization of Amparo Portilla Crespo”.

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