

SERVANT OF GOD

Ángel Riesco Carbajo

BISHOP
(1902-1972)



Founder of the Secular Institute:
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

An Angel guides me

By Carmen Sanmiguel
(Santiago de Compostela)

Having known Father Ángel through his Institute, his writings, his mark on each missionary he had contact with, makes me stop to think. It makes me wonder what the Lord wants from me. I see a Saint in Father Ángel, a man brimming with love towards God and the souls. I see shining in him the virtues with which the Lord blesses the souls He loves most.

His life leads me to a constant struggle for knowing and accepting God's will. It brings to me the closeness to God, caressing and pampering me even in difficult times. It is the answer to all the questions I come across on my way to the House of the Lord. He tells me words of comfort and peace when the Lord shares His Cross with me.

The life of Father Angel makes me grow stronger when I feel exhausted and disheartened. It is the reason that drives me to think that life is only worthwhile if we fill ourselves with the love of God through it, if we look at Christ with the aim of being part of Him.

Father Ángel is like a light, an angel that guides me, makes me stronger and brings me happiness when I am in sorrow, throwing me into the practice of virtue. It is the reflection where the Lord shows me the glory of virtue and the holy life.

He is like a good father who takes my hand and shows me the way I have to follow in my life. He is my partner, my friend, my adviser who makes me, with motherly affection, be closer to Christ's Heart.

Although I did not have the good fortune to meet him, I know through his writings and through the testimonies of those who did that his only presence led to God. He was elegant-looking and his human virtues were many.

His love for God was limitless, selfless, based on his sacrifice. It was the motive that moved him.

He took every opportunity to imitate the suffering Jesus, the one who was crucified. He entrusted and expected everything of God.

He was very generous to everyone, especially to children, and sick and rejected people. Like

the Blessed Virgin, he was sensible and he knew when he had to keep quiet and when he had to talk. His strength of spirit became visible in difficult moments where incomprehension, disease and difficulty arose.

His main pillars were Faith and Charity, and all his virtues fed from them.

He loved the Eucharist so much and he faithfully worshipped the Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph, Saint Teresa of Jesus, Saint Francis de Sales and the Guardian Angel.

His apostolic life was extensive: Spiritual guidance, teaching of the catechism, looking after sick people, carrying out activities with youngsters and adults, writings, letters, joy, charity of all types, accepting the sorrow... He sowed the seeds of the good wherever he was. Everyone who came up to him found themselves full of God. His life was a permanent preaching.

He was like a father to the missionaries and he treated them with motherly gentleness and affection.

He was a great psychologist, being aware of each missionary's faults and virtues. He made sure that the Institute was well-run, spiritually and materially, by devoting all his life to it.

All his efforts were aimed at the human and spiritual education of the missionaries. He arranged courses, retreats, exercises, etc. His gentleness, understanding and charity led him to care about the missionaries' health as well.

He was like a teacher to the sick missionaries, who he called 'our best ones', showing them how to supernaturalize and appreciate the pain, and to suffer with joy feeling the presence of Jesus on the Cross.

Before the ecclesiastical hierarchy he demonstrated a total submission based on faith, veneration and compliance of the rules without hesitation.

It is gratifying to feel close to him. I see he is helping me, comforting me, bringing me closer to the virtue and to God. It is difficult to explain. I feel enriched when I contemplate his life and commend to him, as it may happen to any soul who longs to know about him



Message from the Virgin

a feeling of vitality. Today more than ever before, Man is returning to Jesus through the Eucharist. The Gospel is becoming more familiar to us. The Church is adapting to the new days with determination.

A hundred years that could be called 'Mary's years'. She has been the Mother that has fed our spirit. Her presence and devotion have been the most active power used by the Lord to revitalize "His People".

It has been such a Marian century, marked by the glorious pillars of both initial and final mysteries of the Virgin – Immaculate Conception and Assumption. Never before had a period of a hundred years been favoured with two Marian dogmatic definitions!

Between these two pillars of our faith, there are two other pillars of our devotion: Lourdes and Fátima, gigantic reflectors that illuminate every corner in the globe making our path brighter.

We are living in a path of light! We are living during an exceptional presence of the Virgin Mary! A presence that is still becoming stronger, promising increasing benedictions for our sanctification and the salvation of the World!

At this peak of the action of our Lady in the world, we must throw ourselves into

Her arms so that we become Hers completely, being totally sanctified and making us helpful in the salvation of Her sons!

Those who wish to live fervently should devote themselves to the Virgin Mary.

Those who wish to become a Saint or speed up their sanctification should devote themselves to the Virgin Mary.

It is easy to become sanctified. Really easy!

You just have to love the Virgin and try to delight Her.

Teresita, the present-time girl who reached the peak of saintliness, followed instinctively this path – through a divine inspiration- and after taking naturally and easily two instant stages, she achieved an exquisite heroic saintliness.

Her ambition was to love the Virgin more and more, delighting Her every day.

This is such an easy plan! A plan within the reach of children! It should be even easier for adults, who seem to come across lots of problems every day!

Let's give it a try! We will end up being glad that we have found an easy way towards sanctification which will make our life happier.

Ángel Riesco
13th May, 1965

The history of the Church in the last hundred years has brought us grief and joy. The grief of social revolutions, anticlericalism, the outbreak of destructive beliefs, persecutions of the Church... This grief comes from the Church itself, where some members have become lethargic.

Since we have been brought a great joy, we cannot be pessimistic. The last hundred years have brought us an indescribable joy, the exceptional presence of the Virgin, showing a motherly tenderness in this confused world and reinvigorating Her Church.

The Church, that remains persecuted, breathes with

The Servant of God at the Second Vatican Council

By Isabel Casquero

Those who knew the life and career of Father Ángel do not hesitate to say that his participation in the Second Vatican Council was one of Father Ángel's greatest joys, not only for his distressing episcopacy period but also, as he used to say, for everything concerning the Holy Church directly and the ecclesiastical life. For Father Ángel, the love for the Church came before anything else, excepting the love for the Divine persons. During the days, weeks and months of the Council, Father Ángel lived the Church deeply, feeling as an active part of an extraordinary moment to revitalize it and *'harmonize the saintliness of the souls with the current life style in the 20th century'*, as he wrote.

On the other hand, the Institute 'Apostolic Missionaries of Charity' had to get enriched with the real Council updates. Father Ángel was loyal to every Church rule and he put into practice in the Institute every aspect recommended in the Council.

Our Founding Father not only happened to experience the Council, he also had to lead the Institute in the following years, keeping in all its members the thirst for a real and complete renewal and preparing us to meet the training required by the Council for the consecrated people in order to carry out the mission with which God had entrusted us and for which we had been founded. Father Ángel, who had opened the door of the Institute so that those 'poor educated' were able to become consecrated, was aware of the need of training for every member. For this reason he found really useful the Council doctrine and, based on it, he urged all the missionaries to get a complete education in every aspect, as women, Christian and consecrated. This was his proposal, and the work and planning

the Institute developed followed these educational lines. His insistence led him to ask the missionaries to read repeatedly section 11 of *Perfectæ Caritatis*, the Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life, which reads as follows: *'It may be taken for granted, however, that so great a task cannot be discharged unless the members be thoroughly trained in matters divine and human so that they are truly a leaven in the world for the strengthening and growth of the body of Christ.'*

When I remember the years after the Second Vatican Council, I can assure that what is engraved most on my mind is the Faith and Hope Father Ángel had in that troubled period of the History of the Catholic Church, trying to put into practice the updates proposed by the Council. He wanted us to live with the certain Hope that everything in the Council doctrine was for the best of the Church. He helped us overcome that difficult stage and, despite the fact that one was able to sense a certain confusion and it was known that some were giving up their religious vocation due to the misinterpretation of the reform, he urged us not to make negative comments, to pray and to be confident that those apparent troubles would lead to the purification of the Church until we were able to see the real face of Christ reflected in it. Thanks to his Faith, his view was clearly positive and hopeful.

He insisted in instilling faith, hope, self-confidence and faithfulness into us. That is why he always tried to emphasize the importance of a real renewal, sought by God and proposed by the Church, which was based on the loyalty to the origins, to the Word of the Lord and to the Magisterium of the Church.

It was relevant to appreciate the difference between this and the adaptation of the



Institute itself, which consisted, according to what some missionaries stated, on an updating in order to modernize the Institute and to finish with some customs and practices they considered maudlin. For instance, some missionaries suggested removing the hours of silence from the Apostolic Regulations since they did not match our secular Institute. In this particular case, Father Ángel asked me to look in the book *'Medicina de la personalidad'* for a specific chapter regarding the silence so that I could summarize its opinion in connection with the application to our Institute. The book talked at great length about how positive it is to have some periods of silence, even when we were working or carrying out activities, in order to help us have a healthier mind and achieve our meeting with the Lord.

The greatest effort Father Ángel had to make at the Institute was to keep the missionaries within the safety of the Church Doctrine. For this reason he always insisted that we looked for faithful Priests – 'self-confident and mature', as he used to say – for the good of our education and our spiritual attention. Priests who were faithful to the Magisterium of the Church and who were in communion with the Pope and the Bishops, when they were close to St. Peter's successor. He insisted: *'What the Pope says is a true doctrine'*.

Father Ángel preferred that we were not helped and that we went on a retreat by ourselves rather than being given doctrines that could arouse doubts in us or that could create distance from the saintliness we were destined to.

With the same purpose he

also urged us – as he used to say – to always walk behind the Church, not to be innovative with progressive theological research or follow theologians who were.

A document written by him and published in *'Apostólicas'* in 1969 details some advice for those years after the Second Vatican Council:

'I am writing you at the height of the summer, when moral carelessness becomes more accentuated and the freedom of opinion and doctrine goes beyond the bounds of the truth and justice.

The world you live in needs your good deeds and your evangelical testimony and you must not get involved in its deviations.

1. *Never get shocked. See and hear like the Angels of God that remain untainted and faithful.*

2. *Do not mention what people say or do unless it is good and edifying.*

3. *Pray so that moral values succeed and the truth and justice stand out.*

4. *Try to be always sensible and balanced towards ridiculous and adventurous actions. Ines and Cecilia were young but they even sacrificed their lives for their virginity. If the Virgin Mary lived today, she would never be tolerant with trivial and sensuous things and She would not allow doctrines against the Church.'*

"Pablo".

Favours

May Jesus and Mary embrace you. I couldn't reply before since we didn't have Internet access. I have successfully received the packet with the information on the Servant of God and I have almost finished the book about his life. It's undoubtedly something wonderful. We have planned to present holy cards and relics to the pious sick, so that the miracle takes place if that is God's will. United in prayer and love, God bless you.

Gustavo Franco (Maracaibo)

I am very grateful since I have considered many times the benefit of the intercession of Servant of God Ángel Riesco, to whom I commend myself frequently. I send to you a humble donation.

Felipe Fagúndez (Madrid)

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Felipe Fagúndez (Madrid)

I would like to thank Father Ángel for all he does for me. In every need I have, I commend myself to him. If I am looking for something and I can't find it, I talk to him with these words: 'Father, tell me where it is, since you know it'. I talk to him faithfully and I manage to remember where it is. I do this very often, and I commend myself to him in much more important things too. One day, I arranged to go to a lunch with work colleagues. When I got in the car it didn't start, it was like braking, but the brakes weren't applied. Since it was Saturday, I was not able to go to the garage. Once again, I commended myself to the Father. I was very sorry I could not attend the meeting. For me, it was a miracle the car started to move and I was able to go, not knowing the reason and without taking the car to the garage. Another day, I was on a curving road and there was a hole in the last curve. I couldn't avoid losing control, and the car turned over. Meanwhile, I only noticed I lost control but I didn't notice anything else until the car was overturned. The first thing I did was ask Father for help since I couldn't get out, and I commended myself to him. I felt terribly peaceful despite being trapped and disoriented. I did everything in my power

to take off the seat belt, and I saw my mobile, I called emergency services and my family. I don't know how I was able to dial, since I wasn't wearing my glasses and I was hardly able to see. Thank God I wasn't injured. I was very grateful to God and Father and I send a donation for his cause of beatification.

Josefa Souto (Arzúa – La Coruña)

1.- We had planned a trip to Bariloche with the students of Fifth Grade of Secondary Education (graduation trip). Since it was a small group we rejected the idea of renting cars due to the costs. We searched public transport, as small buses, but the costs were very high. I sent letters and asked for donations, but I didn't get anything.

On Monday 17th June, while going out of mass and while I was saying the rosary, I saw an advertisement on the street, in which the LAN airlines were offering flights from Buenos Aires much cheaper than buses, including the transfer from Rosario to the airport. The offer had a lot of restrictions regarding the dates and ended on 19th June. We met the requirements to enjoy the offer, but I couldn't buy the tickets for a big group (25 people, including teachers). I commended myself to Father and, after several attempts, we made it. We are going to Bariloche by plane. For the children this is an experience they might never have again since they all come from lower-class families and their parents made a lot of efforts so they were able to make the trip. The teachers that are travelling with them pay our costs since their families are very humble. How happy they and their families are!

2.- I was still thanking God, who intervened on behalf of Founding Father, when I got a call from Angelita, elder sister of Monsignor Luis Collazuol, asking me for a holy card with the relics of the Father since hers was very worn out and now in the hands of a woman who is terminally ill. She told me a lot of favours she has been given for the last 15 years and I asked her if she could write about it. She asked me to pray, especially for three people. The following day I managed to get the holy cards and I brought them to her house. It was very constructive to learn how the Father performed his deeds there. How much she trusts in him! She told me that the first favour she received was for her granddaughafter fifteen years ago. She suffered with her digestive system and she couldn't eat. They were frantic until a missionary brought them a holy card. They started praying every day and finally the baby got over it. I would like to share this happiness with you.

M^a Cecilia Comuzzi

Asturias:

OVEDO: Charo Calvete

Barcelona: Adoración Cavero.
M^a Ángeles Pérez.

Bilbao: Tomasa Morán. Justina Romero.

MARQUINA: familia Razquin Casquero.

Cáceres:

MADROÑERA: Juana Solís.

Ciudad Real:

SOCUÉLLAMOS: Rosa Gómez. Pilar López.

La Coruña: ARZUA: Josefa Souto.

EL PINO: Carmen Barcia.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA: Hermanas M^a Carmen y Mercedes

Freire. Carmen Castro. M^a José Pallares. Carmen Sanmiguel.

Fina Senín.

León: Mercedes Mejuto. M^a Azucena Pérez. M^a Piedad López. Maruja Callejo.

ASTORGA: Sole Fernández. Irene Prieto. Felisa Álvarez.

LA BAÑEZA: Devotos del SdD. Parroquia de Sta. María. Anónimo. M^a Luisa Pérez. Petra Villar.

Nieves Rúa. Mercedes Chao. Petra Pérez. Emilia Estévez.

Pura Paraíso. Aurora Pastor. Lola Rodríguez. Ursulina Callejo.

Tinina Cela. Carmen Bellón. Remedios Herrejón. Teresa Alonso.

Mercedes Moratinos. Nélida Pérez. M^a Rosimira Martínez.

Ramona Loureiro. Mary Martín. Tina Míguez. M^a Rosa Cordero.

Angelita Pérez. Isabel Casquero. Julia Panes. Lola Vidales.

PRIORO: Amparo Díez.

REQUEJO DE LA VEJA: Encarna y Francisco Losada.

RIVAS DE LA VALDUERNA: Elisa Martínez.

SAN FÉLIX DE LA VEJA: Áurea Cavero.

Want to thank favors and send donations

VILLARNERA: Familia Martínez Morán.

Logroño: Anónimo.

Lugo: SAN VICENTE: Dirce García. Socorro Carracedo.

Madrid: Familia de Lola Rodríguez. Familia Ranilla Uña.

Orense:

ASTARIZ: Valvanera López.

BARCO DE VALDEORRAS: Hermanos Gaspar y Generosa Prada. M^a Luisa Fernández. Milagros Arias. Mercedes Caboblanco.

LA RUA: Laura Blanco. Gloria González. Remedios López.

PRAYER

Our Father, Lord of life and God of infinite mercy, in your loving providence, you chose your servant Angel Riesco to faithfully serve your Church as Bishop and Founder of the Apostolic Missionaries of Charity. We beseech you to grant us the fidelity of your Son's disciples, the unity He asked for them, and the fortitude we need to be committed witnesses of your loving presence among men and women in the world. We ask you for the humility and simplicity Jesus taught us and the charity that brought Him to the Cross.

With humble confidence, we beseech you to glorify your servant Bishop Angel and to grant us through his intercession the special favour we ask of you. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory)

WITH ECCLESIASTIC APPROVAL OF THE BISHOP OF ASTORGA

LENTELLAIS: Asunción Fernández.

Angelines Fernández.

MEDA: Rosa González.

PUEBLA DE TRIVES: Anónimo. Luisa Núñez. Josefina Álvarez.

Camila Rodríguez. Fiel devota (P.A.)

SANTA CRUZ DE LAS ERMITAS: Milagros Rodríguez.

TUJE: Josefa Blanco.

VIANA DEL BOLLO: Estrella Couso.

Pontevedra:

VIGO: Serafina Vázquez. Rocío López.

Salamanca: Bernardina Pérez y familia. Águeda Martín. Familia Sánchez Díez.

BÉJAR: M^a Carmen Hernández. Luisa García. Águeda Gil. Hermanos Félix y Toñi Parra.

Segovia: Luzdivina Pérez.

Valencia: Devoto del Siervo de Dios.

REAL DE GANDÍA: Nieves Moure

Zamora:

BENAVENTE: Jacinta Delgado. Encarnita. Araceli. Célia Viejo.

BERCIANOS DE VIDRIALES: Eloina y Manuel Uña.

VILLAVEZA DEL AGUA: Ciri Gutiérrez

ARGENTINA

ROSARIO: M^a Cecilia Comuzzi. Mónica Marucco. Betty Rodríguez.

Julia López. Rosa Lescano. Marta Gómez.

VILLACONSTITUCIÓN: Nilda Roldán.

FRANCIA

PARÍS: Marina García.

MÉXICO

GUADALAJARA: Florentina Martínez.

We beg those who achieve some grace by the intercession of the Servant of God, to contact with: Cause of Canonisation of the Servant of God Rev. Angel Riesco.

“Ciudad Misioneras”. P.O. Box 57 – 24750 LA BAÑEZA, León, SPAIN.

Donations for the Cause may be sent by bank transfer

Navidad

... “Es un instante de contemplación.
De que te quedes mirándole al Niño...”
Y el Niño te mira a ti.... Ojos de Niño, pero ojos de Dios!...
Aprovecha este momento.
Mírale y acarícialo también tú.
Para ti ya no hay más que este Niño.
Como dice San Ignacio: Hazte una
esclavita y ponte ahí,
al servicio de la Virgen y de San José”.

Ángel Riesco

FUEGO DE AMOR

Estás, María,
llena de gracia,
cantas al Niño
gozosas nanas.
Fuego de amor
tu seno abrasa
y se hace música
en tu garganta.
El Niño duerme.
Tú al Padre alabas.
Su hermoso cuerpo
lleva la savia
del templo virgen
de tus entrañas.

Tu corazón,
alegre, danza;
tus tiernos pechos
la leche manan,
y está tu espíritu
en dulce calma.

Y tú, María,
llena de gracia,
guardas silencio
emocionada.
Estas noticias
extraordinarias
las atesoras
para el mañana.
Tu interior reza
¡Dios mío! ¡hosanna!

Emma Margarita



Las Misioneras Apostólicas de la Caridad y la Asociación “Amigos de D. Ángel”, compartimos la alegría del Nacimiento de Jesús con todos nuestros amigos y lectores del Boletín. Les deseamos que la celebración de esta Navidad, nos ayude a descubrir el Amor que Dios nos tiene en Jesús Niño, tan cercano a cada uno de nosotros. Sólo con El podemos ir superando todas las crisis.

La Madre de Jesús quiere ayudarnos a superar la peor de las crisis, la mayor pobreza: no conocer a Dios. Confiamos en María y con Ella deseamos a todos

¡Muy Feliz Navidad!

Causa de canonización del Siervo de Dios Ángel Riesco
“CIUDAD MISIONERAS”

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