

Servant of God

Ángel Riesco Carbajo

Bishop
(1902-1972)



Founder of the Secular Institute
MISIONERAS APOSTÓLICAS DE LA CARIDAD
(Apostolic Missionaries of Charity)

Sunday school

“He had to search the way of doing good because he couldn’t get pastoral work...” - an inhabitant from Tudela has related to us. And it is a fact that he searched for it cleverly. A woman from Tudela is more accurate when she says: “I am surprised to hear that he was here without anything to do. It’s true he was not commanded, but he had more than enough since he did a little bit of everything. He threw himself into the Sunday School, despite of being a task for laborers and servers.”

Father Ángel started to worry about these young women in La Bañeza because many of them had no culture, were far from their families, and were exposed to dangers and labor exploitation by their owners.

These young housemaids attended the Sunday School, where they learned general culture, and some of them even how to write and read, since they hadn’t had the chance in their hometowns or within their families. They also learned household tasks and they lived in a good environment.

With the goal of the girls having a place where they could have fun and keep amused in a healthy way on Sunday’s afternoons, he got heating for the school and gave a television as a gift. This way, the young girls spent more time at the school and a lot of problems were avoided. He gave another television to the elderly in the “Casa de la Misericordia” (House of Mercy). It is important to note that television, which was in its early stages in Spain, was a healthy way to amuse and teach people. If we were talking about modern television, Father Angel might have given it a second thought

Father Angel sent her housemaid, Quili, to this Sunday School and she remembers that with gratitude: “He asked me to attend the Sunday School in order to complete my education, since it was a place where we learned how to cook, sew... and a little bit of every task appropriate for women. We went there on Sunday afternoon. He also cared about providing me with good reads

and he also encouraged me to read.”

Another activity he took great part in was the feminine branch of the Industrial School and the Residence for Young Women. In pain for the lack of gratitude and the way in which a lot of people have forgotten him, a person states: “When the story of the Industrial School is recapitulated, no one mentions Father Angel, nor do they say that the initiative of this feminine branch has its origin in the Sunday School and that it was achieved by Father Angel’s means. He came with us to The Council of Navarre and persuaded them of how necessary it was that girls had access to those studies in the branch suitable for them, draftswoman. This branch was awarded to the Industrial School without requesting and, since then, girls were admitted and it became a mixed school.

STONES AND LETTERS

In his pursuit of new occupations, Father Angel came across the stones of Tudela’s Cathedral. Such a jewel of Romanesque architecture needed to be restored. The estimate was high, and Father Angel had no money himself, but as one of his friends states: “he got on well with people and he was good at raising money”. This time, Father Angel turned to the Provincial Council of Navarre in search of money, and there he found good people who helped him as much as they could.

Mr. Rodolfo Carnicero walked with him on one of his visits to the Provincial Council and relates his impressions: “A regional representative welcomed us. I was impressed by the respect, veneration, and affection with which he treated Father Angel. He began giving him everything he asked for; nothing for himself, obviously. All of it was in favor of Tudela. Amongst other things, he got a good subvention for the cathedral. He ended up praising Father Angel, which filled me with joy. He called him saint, generous, and selfless man and, above all, martyr. I have never met anyone with the great character of this man” - he told me.

Extract from Father Angel’s Biography: The Story of a Modest Man.

Parochial Charity

Father Lombardi has impressively stated: "In every Parish there should be two safes: one containing the 'Bread of Jesus' and another one with the 'Bread for Jesus'."

The Bread of Jesus, who does not know what the Holy Eucharist is? It is the true bread of the soul, which makes us saints and heirs to Heaven, communicating the happy immortality. The Bread for Jesus is the Charity, this is the love of neighbor by God, providing him, in behalf of that love, everything required in matter of clothes, food, comfort and medicines, so his body is relieved from the urgent needs of life.

Jesus ordered us to ask for our daily bread in 'the Lord's Prayer'. The double bread intended for body and soul.

The Catholic Action not only pays attention to training the soul with regard to its sanctification, but also to satisfying the body's needs so it serves the soul and, with it, God.

There has always been charity in the parish. By means of the priest, the Holy Church is always renewing the love of Jesus for the poor.

But we want that Charity to be organized as the Holy Church wants.

Organized charity is double charity. It's better for the poor and is much more pleasing to God.

We insistently beg the priests to support our wishes and demands already manifested in the letters sent.

This way they will act pleasing the Lord and benefiting the poor. At first, the organization may seem difficult and demand a lot of work, but all this is can be softened thinking about the Lord and the poor.

Ángel Riesco
Parochial Note

St. Teresa's devotion to St. Joseph

Mother Teresa of Jesus, whose 5th centenary we are now celebrating, was asked to write about her life. Chapter VI is called: "Of the great debt she owed to Our Lord for His mercy to her and how she takes St. Joseph for her Patron" and says as follows:

"And I took for my patron and lord the glorious St. Joseph, and commended myself earnestly to him. I saw clearly that both out of this my present trouble, and out of others of greater importance, relating to my honor and the loss of my soul, this father and lord delivered me, and rendered me greater services than I knew how to ask for. I cannot call to mind that I have ever asked him at any



time for anything which he has not granted; and I am filled with amazement when I consider the great favors which God hath given me through this blessed Saint; the dangers from which he hath delivered me, both of body and of soul. To other Saints, our Lord seems to have given grace to succor men in some special necessity; but to this glorious Saint, I know by experience, to help us in all: and our Lord would have us understand that as He was Himself subject to him upon earth, so now in heaven He performs all his petitions.

Would that I could persuade all men to be devout to this glorious Saint; for I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from God. I have never known anyone who was really devout to him, and who honored him by particular services, who did not visibly grow more and more in virtue; for he helps in a special way those souls who commend themselves to him. It is now some years since I have always on his feast asked him for something, and I always have it. If the petition be in any way amiss, he directs it aright for my greater good."

[Translation of David Lewis]

From the origin of my vocation to the shadow of Father Angel

Miguel Gutiérrez Manjón (La Bañeza) —

I was seven years old when my parents moved to La Bañeza. It was the forties, just after the end of Spanish Civil War. The first Sunday in the parish, St. María de la Bañeza, what first caught my eye was the control of a young priest over all the children. I came from a small village and had never seen so many kids together. He vividly held those kids' attention during his explanations. After that, attracted by his person and his friends (since he turned the people around him into apostles) I joined the Catholic Action. How well he prepared the older boys to be good catechists! He also prepared them to manage those study circles so instructive and educational, preparing our young souls to be honest Christians. We used to have a lot of fun in those meeting rooms of Catholic Action. He always tried to instill in us the passion for theatre making performances, being the younger kids the actors in some of them, and the older kids in others. And we all had a lot of fun.

It is important to mention the patience he showed with us. We were young, and sometimes we resembled Attila's hordes. We, altar boys, used to drink some communion wine, eat some hosts or take a few coins from the collection baskets... He never lost his friendly look and composure, as long as we didn't go too far. Next day he and we had forgotten it.

One day in May 1947, I went to his humble house, which he then shared with María and Aurora, to tell him I wanted to be a priest. I remember I had to wait in a small room used as a hall of his modest office because

he had a meeting with Mrs. Elisa González, who was later appointed the first Director of the Institute of the Apostolic Missionaries of Charity by him. When he finally received me and I explained him that I wanted to go to the seminary, he was surprised at first and then he smiled with satisfaction. He told me to come in and he presented me a life program, since, in order to be a seminarian, I had to study more and better. When I stated I wanted to go to the Seminary of Comillas he was even more pleased, no wonder it was his beloved seminary. What I didn't tell him then was that it had been his priestly example that had motivated me, that he was a model for me and that, being able to choose any other seminary, I had chosen Comillas because it was the Seminary in which he had studied.

My studies were ending and the day of my priesthood ordination was approaching, it was also the turn for my brother Eutimio and Mr. Arturo Cabo, both from La Bañeza. Father Angel himself wanted to give us the holy orders, and it could only be in the church of Santa Maria de La Bañeza. In his fervent homily he said referring to critical comments: "Some people used to ask me why I put so much effort on Catholic Action; here you are the fruits: three priests that came from Catholic Action".

I wish this gentleman of good bearing, priest from head to toe, kind and elegant man, who wasn't content with attracting people to him, but made them fall in love with Jesus and Saint Mary, continued to guide us with his example and intercession before God 'Father', towards Jesus Christ, His Mother and Saint Joseph, loving husband of Mary. All of this with the holy joy he always preached.

Favors

I always turn to Father Angel in search of help, and in this case I want to thank him in writing.

On 14th January I asked my Social Security for a complex medical procedure and I was told that probably it wouldn't be authorized for being out of coverage.

When I went out I started talking to Father Angel asking him this favor. Today, 29th January in the morning, I have received the news that the study was authorized.

Thank God for giving a father that help us and care about us from eternity.

After this, Mercedes notifies us another grace:

A new help Father Angel grants me; the Doppler echocardiography, which was out of benefits, was accepted. I am still begging for the microsurgery to be authorized.

Mercedes Armoa (Rosario-Argentina)

After the death of our mother and being my brother single, unemployed, and without the means for maintaining himself, I asked the servant of God Angel Riesco for help. After some months, everything went well and now he is receiving a small pension, thank to which he feels quieter since he doesn't depend on others for his sustenance.

Thank you, Father Angel, because you always look after those who confidently turn to you.

N.C – La Bañeza (León)

I continue to feel Father Angel very close in spite of being long since he left for the Father's House. I commend myself to him in every needy or difficult situation, either personal or from other people, as I did when he lived among us and I can always sense his intercession. I commend myself to him in a very hard situation and I already see the

grace of God is acting and I have faith that this situation will be solved. It's still true what he told us "I will always be your father, either on earth or Eternity". He keeps his promise.

Tinina Martínez (Guadalajara-México)

Please, receive my warmest greetings. I am writing to you from Lima, Peru. I want to inform about a favor I got from Monsignor Angel. A few days ago I prayed a novena to Monsignor Angel and I received a favor due to his intercession. My economic situation is not very good and I couldn't afford to enroll my son in school. For this reason I had to ask for a loan in the bank, which was difficult to be approved since I had a previous loan to be paid. One of the requests I did to Monsignor Angel was this loan to be granted. After a few days, when I thought I wouldn't be given the loan, I received a call from the bank informing me the loan had been granted. Next day, I signed the documents and I was able to collect the money. I was able to make some payments and to matriculate my son in school.

I am very grateful for this favor and I wanted to let you know. Thank you for your attention.

María de la Cruz Gutiérrez (Lima-Perú)

I feel a special devotion for the intercession of our Father Angel. I commend myself to him every moment since I am certain of his help. I have a lot of things in my heart he favored me with through other people. On the occasion of the works of the nursing home we are building, I am asking him for collaborator and generous people to help us economically, and he provided us with people that helped us much more than we could have imagined. We have recently received a contribution from the government which allowed us to finish the building works. The father has been the intercessor, since I asked him with all my faith.

Felisa Sánchez (Guadalajara-México)

Testimonies

I am really grateful to the books by Father Angel Riesco. How much they have helped me! I take the relic in my breviary and I feel how he intercedes for me from Heaven. I don't know why... but that's it, we have become friends!

I have the Book of Thoughts on my bedside table, next to my bed, and I read a little bit every day. I have enjoyed discovering how his joy vow was always linked to not to speak badly of those who harmed him, not to criticize, not to gossip and to that supernatural look saying "It's the Lord". I feel really impressed. For me, he is already a saint, but I wish the process went further and all the Church could benefit from him.

*Sor Belén María
Clarisse (Soria)*

(...) I wish we soon could see a Monsignor Angel Riesco proclaimed Blessed.

*+ Miguel Asurmendi
(Bishop of Vitoria)*

I would like to thank you for this newsletter, which is very interesting, God bless your work and I hope we soon see our Father Ángel in altars.

*Isabel Scaringi
(Valladolid)*

(...) Will the New Year bring us pleasant surprises? The beatification of Father Angel? Let's keep on working on it.

*+ Rafael Palmero (Emeritus
Bishop of Alicante)*

Receive my greetings and thank you for your attention. I want to wish all the community

the soon-to-be glorification of your founder, the servant of God, Father Angel Riesco.

Benjamín Picado, cmf. León

I want to send this small donation to contribute with Father Angel Riesco's cause for canonization. I encourage you to keep on working for this good cause.

Felipe Fagúndez (Madrid)

"I read the life of Father Angel very carefully, nearly meditating on it. I was amazed by his human and spiritual nobility. Undoubtedly, he is a saint and a martyr. I wish he was soon in the altars for the Church's sake. I am dazzled by the reading of this book."

*+ Mons. Eloy Tato Losada
Bishop Emeritus of Magangué (Colombia)*

I wish the Three Wise Men brought us the canonization of Father Angel as a present. I ask for it every day in my mass, although I know that "the mills of God grind slowly". Greetings and blessings.

José Luis de Santiago (priest)

We wish we saw the unforgettable Father Angel in altars next year. We send a small donation for this cause.

Pepe y Raquel (La Bañeza)

It's been ages since we last met, but I "follow" you via this newsletter. I hope we see father Angel soon proclaimed Blessed. He, from Heaven, will go on supporting your task of living the consecrated secularity.

Teodomiro Álvarez (León)

Alicante: Basilia Morán

Asturias:

OVIEDO: Charo Calvete.

Barcelona:

Adoración Cavero. M^a Ángeles Pérez

Bilbao:

Conchita Inyesto.

Cáceres:

MADROÑERA: Juana Solís.

Ciudad Real:

SOCUÉLLAMOS: Pilar López.

La Coruña:

FERROL: Ana García-Heras

PADRÓN: Manolita Cabero.

ARZUA: Josefa Souto

LOXO: Carmen Gómez.

Agripina Rial.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA:

M^a Carmen and Mercedes

Freire. M^a José Pallares.

Carmen Sanmiguel.

León:

Azucena Pérez. M^a Piedad López. Pablo Castrillo. Maruja Callejo. Encarna y Francisco Losada.

ASTORGA: Sole Fernández.

Irene Prieto. Elvira Palmeiro.

Felisa Álvarez.

BUSTILLO DEL PÁRAMO:

Cecilia Alegre.

CASTROCALBÓN: Manuela Alonso.

LA BAÑEZA: Devotees of the Servant of God. Parish Church of Sta. María. Emilia Estévez.

Pura Paraíso. M^a Rosa

Cordero. Elvira García. Aurora

Pastor. Lola Rodríguez

(r.i.p.). Antonia Martínez.

Mercedes Moratinos. Julia

Panes. Remedios Herrejón.

José Santos y Raquel. Teresa

Alonso. Mercedes Chao.

Nélida Pérez. Mary Juli y Nino

Cabo. Dña. Finá de Escudero

Want to thank favors and send donations

y Dosita. Julia Pérez. M^a Jesús Fidalgo. Gaspar Luengo y Angelines. Carmen Bellón. Ramona Loureiro. Angelita Pérez. Mary Martín. Ausencia Roales. José Luis Ramos y Aurora.

PRIORO: Amparo Díez.

SAN MARTÍN DE TOREES: Siblings

Bernardo Fernández and Emilia.

SANTA MARINA DEL REY: Rosa Mayo

Madrid:

Felipe Fagúndez. Orencio Bellón.

Navarra

TUDELA: Olga Alonso. Sara Laseras.

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

Every month at 'Ciudad Misioneras', a Mass is offered to those who collaborate with this cause.

Lugo:

MONFORTE DE LEMOS: M^a Jesús Afonso.

QUIROGA: Amable Estévez.

Orense:

BARCO DE VALDEORRAS:

Generosa y Gaspar Prada. M^a

Luisa Fernández. Milagros

Arias. Mercedes Caboblanco.

LA RUA: Laura Blanco.

LENTELLAIS: Asunción

Fernández. Angelines

Fernández.

MEDA: Rosa González.

PUEBLA DE TRIVES: Luisa

Núñez.

San Sebastián

José Luis Eraso.

Salamanca:

Bernardina Pérez and her family.

Segovia:

Luzdivina Pérez.

Valencia:

Rosa M^a Segrelles.

REAL DE GANDÍA: Nieves

Moure.

Zamora:

BENAVENTE: Jacinta

Delgado. Celia Viejo.

PRIORO: Ramona Blanco.

VILLAVEZA DEL AGUA: Ciri

Gutiérrez

ARGENTINA

FORMOSA: Vicky Martínez.

ROSARIO: M^a Cecilia

Comuzzi. Mónica Marucco.

Betritz Rodríguez. Julia

López. Graciela Molina.

Stella Meza. Marta Gómez.

Matilde Casanova. M^a Esther

Retamar. Rosa Lescano.

VILLA CONSTITUCIÓN: Nilda

Roldán.

VITORICA: Silvia Gracia

*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 to Caja España C/C 2096 0014 30 2077096800

Saint Joseph and the cause of the Servant of God

Vice Postulator

This month of March, nothing better than asking Saint Joseph in which stage is the beatification cause of Father Angel currently.

I don't know if this newsletter's readership knew that Father Angel, from time to time, thought that it was Saint Joseph who allowed that conditions not improve. He had such a confidence in Saint Joseph, and he looked himself at the life of this saint that he thinks that he wants him to follow the rough paths of collaboration in the conciliatory deed of Christ, as did the Mother of God and blessed Saint Joseph, and that he also wants him near in Heaven.

We can say that Father Angel somehow has already shared his life with Mary and Joseph on earth. He finds in them light, force, help and example to accept, with faith and love, every situation loving Providence of God takes him.

It seems that Saint Joseph has a lot to do with this wait all we find long regarding Father Angel's cause.

In first fortnight of March, we have met in Rome the Postulator, Dra. Sivia Corrale, the person in charge of preparing the Positio. It's very probable that when you received this newsletter, the work will have been delivered to Relator P. Zdzislaw J. Kijas. If this is the case, we should give Saint Joseph the power of nearly closing this long stage in his month

and maybe around the day of his festivity, 19th March.

So good is Saint Joseph that he leaves us an open path for hope, since it is soon the month of Mary and we have been seeing for years Saint Joseph's deference in leaving his blessed wife something even better to present us in May. A mother always gives the best things



to her children. We have to go on having confidence in the intercession of the servant of God and turning to him trustfully, praying so his beatification is approaching and communicating the favors we gain with his help.

Causa de canonización del Siervo de Dios Ángel Riesco
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