

## A MOTHER'S LOVE WRITTEN IN STONE Our Lady of the Rosary of Las Lajas

Our faith, hope and love can be strengthened by meditating on this amazing story of our Lady of the Rosary's loving answer to a simple woman's prayers for protection and healing.

One day in 1754 an Amerindian, Maria, left the village of San Pedro Mártir de Ipiales, Columbia where she worked, to visit family in the hamlet of Potosí<sup>1</sup> a few leagues away. As she descended the western slope of the Pastarán hill to cross the bridge over the Guáitara River, a terrible storm broke out. She took shelter in a great natural cave at halfway up the slope.

Fearful of the torrent, the desolate place and the rumored demon who guarded the bridge "to prey on the unfortunate person who traveled alone, Maria wept and prayed to the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary."<sup>2</sup> Maria had learned the Rosary from the Dominican fathers, who for two centuries had evangelized her people.

Suddenly, she felt someone touch her back.

Too frightened to want to know more about this supernatural power, the intuitive woman made a dash for the bridge and ran until she reached the safety of Potosí.

In spite of this scare, a few days later, Maria knew she must return to Ipiales. But this time she took with her Rosa her five-year-old daughter, deaf-mute by birth, whom she wore on



her back according to Andean custom. Arriving



at the same cave Maria stopped to rest. Rosa slipped smoothly from her mother and began to climb the rocks. Suddenly Maria heard her daughter speak: "Mamita, see this mestiza who has come out from the rock with a mestizito in her arms and two mestizos by her side."<sup>3</sup> Not stopping to realize that these were Rosa's first words nor looking to see the olive skinned woman, little boy or men of which she spoke Maria took Rosa and fled back to Ipiales.

When she arrived at the home of the Torresanos, her old employers, she told them what happened, but no one believed her. So, having completed her work in Ipiales, Maria left for Potosí. As she approached the cave, fear gripped her again and she stopped hesitantly at the entrance. But Rosa insisted: "Mamita, the mestiza calls me!" Again Maria filled with confusion and questions ran... what is really in that cave?

As soon as she arrived in Potosí, she told what had happened. All her neighbors gathered in Maria's house wanting to know every detail. Meanwhile, in the midst of the commotion, Rosa disappeared. Where would Rosita have gone? There was no other explanation; hadn't she felt an irresistible attraction to the Beautiful Lady? Arriving at the cave Maria was met with a wonderful spectacle: *"Upon reaching the cave she saw with, no surprise, her daughter kneeling at the feet of the Mestiza, playing familiarly with the blond Mesticito"*<sup>4</sup> who had come down from his mother's arms. Overwhelmed Maria told no one, and our Lady of Las Lajas would have remained her secret if a new and more impressive event had not made it public.



Time passed and Rosa fell seriously ill and died. This time the heartbroken mother ran toward Pastarán to lay her beloved daughter's lifeless body at the feet of the Mestiza. Maria reminded her of the flowers and candles that Rosa had lovingly brought to her. As a mother, with insistent prayers and grief-filled tears she pleaded with our Heavenly Mother to restore Rosa's life. In the face of a faith that did not waver, Our Lady obtained from her Divine Son the grace that restored life to little Rosa.

Overflowing with joy and gratitude, Maria went home where a crowd gathered and early next morning everyone went to Las Lajas. These people discovered a marvelous picture of Our Lady on the rock wall that Maria Muese de



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**MEET OUR NEW MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS**  
fr. Gerard Francisco Parco Timoner III, O.P.,



On July 13, 2019, the Order of Preachers welcomed the 87th successor of St. Dominic de Guzman, fr. Gerard Francisco Parco Timoner III, O.P., of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and the first Asian Master of the Order. The Elective General Chapter was held in Bien Hoa in Vietnam.

Br. Timoner, who hails from Camarines Norte, was the immediate past Socius of the Master for Asia-Pacific and prior to that was the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. His formal assignment in the Province is to the Priory of Saint Thomas Aquinas in the University of Santo Tomas, where he was once the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs and Rector of the Central (Interdiocesan) Seminary. In 2014, Br. Timoner was named by Pope Francis to the International Theological Commission.

**The Master of the Order is the successor of St Dominic and the principle of unity of the Order, to whom all the friars and nuns of the Order make profession of obedience.**

It was the desire of St Dominic that he should not be called "Abbot", but rather "Master": that is, "teacher" of his brothers. St. Dominic wanted all friars preachers, even himself, to be called 'frater' or 'brother' whether they be priest or lay brother. Nevertheless, in serving the Order the Master, like St. Dominic, is granted broad and direct authority over every brother, convent and province, and over every nun and monastery.

The Master is elected for a nine-year term and is assisted in his task by his socii or assistants, by vicars who represent him, by the officials of the General Curia of the Order and by the prayers of the Nuns.



In the Mass Of the Holy Spirit past Master, Br. Timothy Radcliffe prayed:

*“May the Lord give us a joyful Master.”*



In an interview a Friar asked:

**Br. Gerard what gives you joy?** I think Br. Timothy refers to a gift that all Dominicans must have: a capacity to preach *evangelii gaudium*, the joy of the Gospel.

**For the next 9 years what goal will inspire your mission as Master of the Order?**

Br. Bruno, previous Master, told me to remain who I am, “Br. Gerard,” but whose ministry is to be “Dominic”. To be “Dominic” means to lead the brothers in serving the mission of the Order - to help build the communion of the Church, the Body of Christ, as St. Francis and St. Dominic did when the Church was in dire need for a “new” evangelization in the 13th century.

**How do we help build the Church, the Body of Christ?**

The primary “builder” is the Triune God, the model and source of communion. We know that the simplest yet deepest theology of communion is the prayer of Jesus for unity, which reveals his will and mission: I pray... that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you... that the world may believe that you sent me (John 17). “The Order’s nature as a religious society derives from its mission and its fraternal communion” (LCO VI). Our mission and fraternal communion together constitute our nature, we are friars-preachers.

**‘We are preachers,’ said St. Dominic. It is not what we do. It is who we are.**



A daughter of our Monastery, Sr. Theresa Bui Tam, Prioress, Viet Nam gave the International Commission of the Nuns’ Report to the General Chapter.



Br. Gerard visited the Monastery of the Holy Spirit. On the way they passed the ‘Promised Land’, where the Nuns plan to build their permanent Monastery.



**WELCOMING OUR NEW  
Sr. Mary Beth Ley -2/2/2019 - S**

The Candidate is accompanied to the  
Extern Sisters, our Chaplain, Fr. Dav



Sr. Mary Peter, Prioress welcomes the Postu

*We welcome you and we pray to God, wh  
to our monastic community, that you ma  
guidance and generously follow in His w*

Sr. Mary Peter gives the **Dominican Cross** to th  
desire to experience our Dominican way of life

*“May Christ, who was fastened to the Cross for all, b*



A **Veil** is placed on the new  
Postulant by the Prioress, assisted by  
Sr. Mary Rani, the Novice.  
Directress. The Prioress prays:

*May the Lord Jesus Christ bless Sister as  
she begins a new way of life in His serv-  
ice. May He bless her family for the gift  
of their daughter to the Order and to the  
Church.*

*Through the intercession of Mary, the  
Mother of God, patroness of our Order,  
and of our Blessed Father, St. Dominic,  
may she be filled with joy and courage as  
she seeks to know and do the Will of  
God. We ask this through Christ our  
Lord. Amen*



The Community gathers in the Chapter Hall,  
where the Postulant is welcomed with the kiss  
of peace by each member of the Community.



The Prioress invites o  
to bestow his priestly

Deacon John Ley wa  
Sr. Mary Beth.



# OUR NEW POSTULANTS

- Sr. Maria Thacker 7/07/2019

the Chapel enclosure door by the David Santoro, and her Family.

Postulant into the enclosure saying:

*who has led you in your journey of life  
may put your trust in His never failing  
ways.*

to the aspiring Postulant as a symbol of her  
life quoting words from our Constitutions:

*l, be fast-knit to your heart". LCM 74 IV*



our Chaplain, Fr. David Santoro, O.P.,  
blessing on our new Postulant.

was also invited to bless his daughter



*"May Christ, who was fastened to the  
Cross for all, be fast-knit to your heart".*

Quinones had failed to see. The image was just as Rosa had said: the child Jesus was in Our Lady's arms with Saint Francis on one side and on the other is Saint Dominic.

The testimony of a living speaking child was powerful, the proof of the image in the cave was clear, there was nothing left but to tell the Bishop.

Don Juan Torresano led the whole group to the Dominican Bishop Fray Gabriel de Villafuerte. Despite the late hour, the bishop received them and after rigorously interrogating them he ordered the bells to peal with vigor and the news spread throughout the village: *"The Virgin of the Rosary has appeared on the rocks of the Pastarán! Maria Muses de Quiñones has seen her! It's beautiful and resplendent!"*

Even today we can experience the radiance of our Mother's love captured in the stone of Las Lajas. We too can see, believe and find joy.



NOTE: Acknowledgment for this article *La maravillosa historia de Nuestra Señora de las Lajas* written by Pablo Luis Fandiño for *El Peru Necesita de Fatima* - edited for our use. [www.fatima.org.pe/articulo-573-la-maravillosa-historia-de-nuestra-senora-de-las-lajas](http://www.fatima.org.pe/articulo-573-la-maravillosa-historia-de-nuestra-senora-de-las-lajas)

*Footnotes:*

1. Not to be confused with Villa of Potosí, in Upper Peru with, the largest silver mine in the world. The Dominican fathers contemplating the immense spiritual mines that awaited them in this hamlet, called it Potosí after the first one.
2. Father Justino C. Mejía y Mejía, *Traditions and Documents on Our Lady of Las Lajas*, Editora Fax, sixth edition, Bogotá, 1966, p. 67.
3. Id. *ibid.*, p. 68.
4. Id. *ibid.*, p. 69.

## MIRACULOUS IMAGE OF LAS LAJAS



The current Gothic Basilica was built between January 1, 1916, and August 20, 1949. This impressive church is connected to the opposite side of the canyon by a 160 ft. tall bridge and it rises up 330 ft. above the bottom of the canyon. The Church is built out from the cave containing the image of Our Lady of Las Lajas which forms the back wall of the Sanctuary.



German scientists bored core samples from several spots in the image. There is no paint, no dye, nor any other pigment on the surface of the rock. The stone itself contains no dye or pigment yet the colors of the Virgin Mary and Child are vivid and deeply inset into the rock, as much as four feet. In other words, the image is three dimensional.

To recreate this image today would require melting the rock down and somehow using a 3D printer to replicate it. According to one of the German scientists, Dr. Schroder Belgart, "Such a thing is impossible even with today's technology." At least 50 scientists from 12 countries have studied the rock and have concluded that there is no scientific way of explaining it. Only Heaven knows!

2019 ROSARY TRIDUUM ~ OCTOBER 4 ~ 6  
PREACHER ~ Father Jacob Restruck, OP



Fr. Jacob Restruck, O.P. is a Dominican friar of the Eastern Province of St. Joseph. He was spiritual advisor to the Dominican brothers in formation for the priesthood at the Dominican House of Studies until his recent election as the Prior of the community of friars at St. Dominic Parish in Washington DC.

Father Jacob has served in the Province of St. Joseph as an itinerant preacher, retreat preacher, prior, pastor, and as chaplain to the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne and to three monasteries of Dominican Nuns.

Inspired by his decade as chaplain to Dominican Nuns Father Jacob has authored a series of novels "Sister Mary Baruch" that follow the life of Becky Feinstein of New York City, who discerns a vocation to the contemplative life, becoming an interesting, often humorous Nun.

Intentions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Please check here if no acknowledgment needed*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES

It's Sweepstakes time again at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament! The proceeds of this annual event help us to maintain our Monastery and the grounds. They provide us with peace of mind in the event that unexpected needs arise. And most importantly they allows us to continue our life of intercessory prayer and praise before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

So, once again we turn to you, our faithful friends to support our 2019 "Sweepstakes" effort. Enclosed in this issue of *Echoes* you will find nine tickets, which we believe the Lord will use, with your help, to make this our the best Sweepstakes ever.

As in the past, the grand prize will be \$1,000.00. There will be two second prizes of \$500.00 and five \$100.00 prizes for the third place winners.

The drawing will take place on Thanksgiving Day after 7:15 AM Mass



*You need not be present or make a donation to be eligible to win,  
but we would really love to have you here.*

Please, REMEMBER to write, *on every ticket*, the *name, address* and *phone number* of the person entering the Sweepstakes. You can't be a winner if your information is not on the ticket drawn!

"We thank our God every time we remember you." Philippians 1:3

**WEB ADDRESS: [www.opnuns-fh.org](http://www.opnuns-fh.org)  
Donate on-line via PayPal or "Givng"  
Prayer Line: 248-626-8253**

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You may donate on-line via PayPal at [www.opnuns-fh.org](http://www.opnuns-fh.org) and please consider remembering us in your will.

## ROSARY TRIDUUM ~ OCTOBER 4, 5 AND 6

*Please join us for Three Days of prayer and petition.*

*Each of these days, we will:*

*PRAY THE ROSARY,  
RECITE THE TRIDUUM PRAYER, AND  
CELEBRATE THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS.*

**Friday & Saturday - October 4 & 5 we will begin at 7:00 PM.**

Followed by Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church

**Sunday - October 6 we will begin at 10:45 AM.**

*There will be no 7:15 AM Mass on any of these three days.*

*On Friday and Saturday: The Chapel will be open from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.*

*Our doors will reopen at 6:45 PM for the Rosary Triduum.*

*On Sunday, our Chapel will be open from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.*

Father of holiness, for the journey of your pilgrim Church on earth, you have provided the Virgin Mary as a sign and beacon. Through her intercession, hear our petitions, sustain our faith and enliven our hope, that no obstacle may divert us from the road which brings us salvation. Grant this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

\* Please be united with us spiritually by praying the rosary at home if you are unable to join us in our Chapel during our Rosary Triduum.