

Our Centenarians in 2002

SISTER MARIA BLANCA FERNANDEZ

October 27, 1901 – May 29, 2004 - ESPAÑA

Maria Blanca was born in Torrelavega, on the 27th of October 1901. She was baptized on the 29th of the same month, was confirmed on the 20th of October, 1904. She entered the Congregation as a Postulant on the 2nd of August 1923, began the Novitiate on the 27 of February , 1924 and took her First Vows 5th of August, 1925. After herself being a pupil of our Sisters, Maria Blanca has taught all her life in our schools of Madrid, Courcelles, Torrelavega, Laval, El Escorial and Argomilla. At present she is member of the Community of Argomilla (in 2002).

Maria Blanca, what memories do you have of your initial call? Well, I do not recall a special call at a given moment of time. From a very early age I felt a strong wish to belong completely to the Lord. I was enchanted by the life of Saint Teresita and wanted to be just like her. My teachers at boarding school were all from Picpus, and for many years I was fortunate to have Mother Pauline Birle as the directress of borders. In both her religion classes and her manners she knew how to 'speak' to us about the Lord as a person abounding with the love and an ever faithful companion of those who followed Him. It was quite natural for us to feel inspired to commit ourselves to Him. Several of my classmates entered the Carmel. I felt more attraction for perpetual adoration, and made my decision for the SSCC at the age of 14. This was why I wanted to study for my teaching certificate, thinking that would serve me well in the future.

What have been the outstanding challenges in your life? The major challenge has always been that of union with the Lord. Adoration, during the day and at night; the precious moments for being with Him in order to do reparation, to pray for the Church and the world, to contemplate His love and to tell Him how much I love Him, to thank and adore Him. .. Working in schools has always been a great joy for me. As a professor of French and Spanish, I always enjoyed preparing my lessons, carrying out the assigned programs, and seeing the progress of my students. Community life has likewise been very important for me. Union with my Sisters, praying together, and participation on the part of all have always filled me with a great sense of cheerfulness, peace and joy.

Any experiences during your long years of SSCC service you would be willing to share with us? After so many years of experience I would like to tell everyone not to be afraid of what the lord may ask of us; He holds us tightly in His grasp but does not stifle us. When we Spaniards were preparing to return to our homeland at the end of the civil war, and after such tragic years, I received an obedience to hasten to Belgium to replace a Sister that had just passed away. And years later, under similar and quite difficult conditions I was sent to Laval to teach Spanish. Both cases cost me quite a personal effort, but I accepted them in full as the will of God, and He filled me with peace. I was very happy during the 16 years I served in France.

And now,? How are you living this stage of your life as a centenarian? As a centenarian I am most thankful to the SSCC for all I have received, and ask forgiveness for my shortcomings. I spent quite a bit of time together with the Lord in the Chapel. Since I am no longer able to work, I dedicate my time to asking for others, all others ...

Sister Maria Blanca died in Aregomilla, Spain, on May 29, 2004.