



**‘The history of your communions is the history of your life’ (P.Poveda)**  
**In Victoria Díez.**

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(“Before the Tabernacle I find strength /fortitude, light, the needed love to take care of those entrusted to me” Victoria Diez)

As the Church invites us to re-discover the gift of the Eucharist as Light and Strength for daily life in the world, we approach the person of Victoria Diez y Bustos de Molina, the valiant woman of spiritual strength; simple, joyful, delicate, artistic and with a deep faith, in short, “a saint for everyday life”. She was what D. Jose Antonio Infante Florido, Bishop of Cordoba asked John Paul II in the springtime of 1993, to serve as a reference point in our daily life.

**With our gaze focused on Christ**

(He knows full well that whether smiling or crying, I carry Him deep in my heart and that he occupies the first place”. Victoria Diez)

Christ, centre of the history of humanity; in Him, man finds his plenitude, contemplating his face through prayer, and making the Eucharist the centre of Christian life.

Victoria, who was a full blooded teacher, a person of a really heroic mettle as testified by those who knew her, aspired to be so in everything, especially as a woman of prayer. Facing the Tabernacle where she spent long hours, she affirms that it was there she found strength, fortitude, light, love....Everyday before going to School she visited the Tabernacle, as attested by her neighbors. People remember unfalteringly the place frequented by Victoria in the Parish and the benches she occupied near the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. It is impressive to note that currently in the two parish churches of *Cheles* and *Hornachuelos*, the same Tabernacles remain.

She knew full well, that by becoming incarnate, God had made himself a companion in our journey, and that in the Eucharist she found the impetus that made her strong and mature through time, in all ways and circumstances. And this experience of the love of God both, in *Cheles* and in *Hornachuelos*, helped her not to spare the slightest effort in her educational mission, in and out the school, in the very difficult times she was destined to live.



It was the time of world conflict. The Church suffered religious persecution in Mexico. In several Encyclicals, Pius XII writes about the economic crises, the lack of employment, the arms race, the education of youth and Christian matrimony. Especially with regard to Spain, He wrote *Dilectissima nobis* where he complained of the situation in Spain, the loss of freedom and the confiscation of ecclesiastical properties. Victoria lived during this period. She also experienced the first woman's suffrage in 1933, the strike of the agricultural workers, the revolution in Asturias and the burning of Churches, among them the one at *Hornachuelos* in 1934.

Victoria lived this period of intense difficulties and tensions and she helped others to live through it with joy that she received daily in the Eucharist, where Christ gave her Light and Fortitude. In this way, whether smiling or weeping, she carried Him deep in her heart and here He occupied the first place and thus, she was able to bring Him to the heart of every person she encountered.

### **With commitment in the mission**

The deep encounter with Christ in the Eucharist awakens the exigency of giving testimony with Christian coherence in society and within the culture, through attitudes of life and commitment, without fear of talking about God and through solidarity in all the circumstances that arise

. And Victoria talks:

- To her students and colleagues
- To the catechists and youth of Catholic Action
- To adults and friends

To them she passed on the challenge to build daily their professional life, their family life, their society and their future, with an enthusiasm that sprung from the joy of the heart, and with a commitment founded on love: "we reach other people's heart mainly and above all through love", she used to repeat to her friends, and they were able

to transmit this to the hearts of their sons and daughters as a beautiful and deep lesson of fraternal love.

She transformed into reality in her life, what her colleague Mr. Jesus Fernandez Montserrat wrote on May 3, 1975:

*She was an exceptional teacher, vastly different from what we were accustomed to see at that time. Her punctuality was proverbial in the whole town. She prepared her lessons with extraordinary thoroughness. She knew all her students, each and every one of them. She knew their personality, their families.... She was the teacher inside out and continued always to be a teacher. ...Extraordinary teacher dedicated completely to the formation to which she had dedicated herself day by day with an extraordinary devotion (illusion) ...* **But I would like to say that my testimony is centered on one thing: the motive power of Victoria's soul, the magnet that possessed Victoria, was the Eucharist. She belonged to the Tabernacle. The Eucharist was her centre, her motivating power, her magnet"**

Victoria, at 32 years was a witness of a vocation, a style of life that transmitted a fragrant freshness to our lives, coupled with a sense of commitment, that flowed from the enthusiasm of a young life, that accepted the challenge to build a fraternal, solidary and just world, from what was within her reach in the world that was around her.

### **At the service of the least among us**

We have to love all ...If anyone is to be special, this will have to be the poor, the down trodden the unloved". Victoria Diez

God manifests himself in the Eucharist as the supreme form of love. Jesus bends to wash the feet of the Apostles (Jn. 13, 1-20) by the mutual love and attention to that in need, we will be acknowledged as Christ disciples. (Jn. 13, 35)

Victoria is remembered in *Cheles* and *Hornachuelos* with the same enthusiasm as when she was still alive. All are memories of everything she did and gave to others.

In *Hornachuelos* where many of her students are still alive, her presence lives not only among her students but in their families, and her friends. The strength of the love that she showered on everyone, and her attention to every person in need, without distinctions continue to be remembered in the town where her figure lives.

Her service to others without exceptions made her:

- visit all
- give the yolk that her mother sent her every morning to the one who needed it.

- To buy cloth to make underwear for the girls who could not buy these
- To buy the ribbons for the school fiestas, because the mother could not afford them
- To buy footwear for the bare foot and to buy dusters for the girls without these.
- To present some girls for scholarship in the municipality, to enable them to continue studies at Cordoba.
- To defend a colleague who had to leave because the son was sick

Victoria however, is remembered in **Hornachuelos** with the wit and grace of Andalusia. She is likewise remembered this way:

*She had no free time. She answered this need or another, helped this person or the other, she was always on the go, she was “super busy”; a person you would call on when you needed to finish some urgent project. These are the ones who can finish eighty things at a time because aside from being intelligent they are the committed ones and can therefore bring to completion whatever they undertake because they are committed to the task.*

(Words recorded in the encounter of Victoria with the A.A., March 2005.Hornachuelos)

That is why, for Victoria, there would spring from the profound and continuous encounter with Christ in the Eucharist that evangelical exigency to give witness through a mode of being that was the Eucharist and by the testimony of her life to transmit this to society and in the culture of her country and her countrymen.

In the morning of July 20, 1936, the faithful who; were at Mass hear a deafening banging at the main door of the Parish of **Hornachuelos**. They decide to exit by the secondary door to consume the Sacred Forms in the vestibule of the house of the Parish priest. Victoria must have felt in the depth of her soul Pedro Poveda’s words: *The story of your Communion is the story of your life; your triumph, your fervor; your zeal is conditioned (shaped) by your Eucharistic life.*

The story of such a full and fruitful life like Victoria’s is the story of her Eucharistic life.



**Hornachuelos, June 2005**

Trinidad Moreno Rodriguez