

Spiritual Books of the Ortega Twins of La Union, Philippines



What does a Rainbow Symbolize?



Argel, Maria Nila Ortega, ocds

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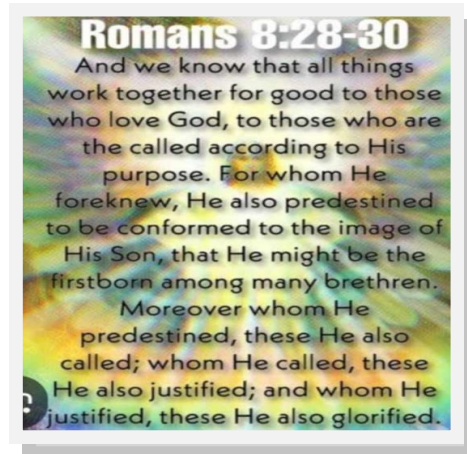
November 23, 2024

Feast of Pope Clement

Nihil Obstat:



Rev. Fr. Jose Tagupa, SVD
WAF La Union Spiritual Director
Parish Priest
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Burgos, La Union



Inside Front Cover:

Spiritual Books of the Ortega Twins of La Union Philippines

In our Marian 2002 pilgrimage at Fatima, Portugal, Luz was attracted to a beautiful multi-colored statuette of Our Lady of Fatima. Her mantle changes its color according to the weather conditions, from blue (sunny) to violet (cloudy) to light pink (rainy). The statuette is currently placed in the lobby of the Sea and Sky Hotel, San Fernando, La Union.

Writing our first spiritual book was done by twin Nila upon the encouragement of Abbot Santos Rabang. He was her professor when she studied Religious Education Enrichment Program of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia in consortium with St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur. Finishing four booklets _ God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and Mary, Luz ventured to co-author our succeeding books.

The Holy Gospel for November 20, 2024 speaks of the Lord who has giving each of us talents to work with for the sake of His Kingdom. Each one of us is given a special mission. For us twins we are driven to participate in the Church towards the beatification of Venerable Sr. Lucia during the Jubilee Year 2025.

Nila saw a rainbow on November 12 after our mass outside the Carmel of the Holy Family, Nun Monastery at Pindangan, San Fernando. It could be a message of hope that Venerable Lucia will be glorified after spending long time talking of Our Lady's message. Live the Ten Commandments. To this, Sr. Lucia added her 11th Commandment: 'Do whatever God tells you. That is what Our Lady wants.'

That is a message as relevant today as it was 90 years ago. Thus, offering our document, entitled, "Spiritual Books of the Ortega Twins of La Union, Philippines is a fitting gift to the Jubilee Year 2025, "Pilgrim of Hope".

Inside Back Cover:

Marian 2002 Pilgrimage

Dreams are an important part of the Bible, appearing in many stories and passages. In the Bible, dreams can: Provide divine revelation, Indicate what someone should do, Reveal what is going to happen, Explain current events, Show a symbol that is important for a believer's life, Warn a Christian about a future event, Convey a certain message. At 12 midnight on August 4, 2002, the feast day of God the Father, Luz had a dream. Waking up she had a strong desire to visit Sr. Lucia at Fatima, Portugal. When we departed for our Marian 2002 Pilgrimage, we Twins were not aware if Sister Lucia is still alive. Arriving at Carmel of Coimbra, it was a delight to learn from Mother Celine that Sr. Lucia is at her cell but one needs an approval to see her. The Basilica is a must to see. On the right side of the altar is the burial site of Francisco and on the left side of the altar is the burial site of Jacinta and Lucia. Luz poses beside the empty tomb for Sr. Lucia.

Fatima 100 Pilgrimage 2017

Sister Lucia died February 13, 2005. On our Fatima Pilgrimage in 2017, we twins failed to see her the resting place because notice were posted on the walls that the Basilica was closed in preparation for the anniversary activities. Reading the burial account of Sr. Lucia no wonder we did not see the remains of Sr. Lucia because her remains were still at the Coimbra Convent. On February 2, 2019, Lucia's remains were transferred to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, and deposited near the tomb of her cousin Jacinta.

It is said that the resting place of Sister Lucia may not be final because, there is a proposal to place the three seers in a mausoleum, yet to be built. The reason, they argue, is that it is not fitting that Mass at the Basilica be interrupted by pilgrims visiting their tombs at the Church.

Unaware that Lucia's remains were not yet at the Basilica, we were saddened when entrance to the Basilica was prohibited because preparations for the coming activities were ongoing. However, we Twins were consoled by Our Lady instantly. We twins were interested in going to the site of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Ortiga. Our Lady of Ortiga, also known as Ortega, is a Marian shrine located in Ortiga, Portugal. A couple brought us twins to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ortega. Before going home, we dropped by the Church where the shepherd children were baptized.

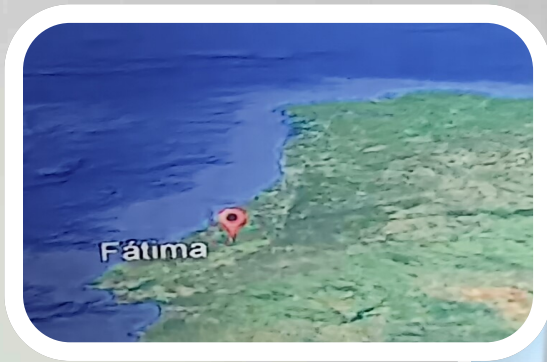
Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrimage

We had attended pilgrimages of Saints at the St. Peter's Square, Vatican City. On October 6, 2002 we attended the canonization of Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer. On May 16, 2004, we witnessed the canonization of Hannibal Mary Di Francia Joseph Manyanet i Vives, Nimatullah Kassab Al-Hardini, Paola Elisabetta Cerioli. Since we are celebrating Jubilee Year 2025, with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope, we hope and pray for the grace to be bestowed on Venerable Sr. Lucia of Fatima. It would be a dream come true for attending a Beatification and/or Canonization of Venerable Lucia at Fatima, Portugal. We recall that Venerable Lucia wanted a canonization of cousins Francisco and Jacinta at Fatima and indeed Francisco, 11, and Jacinta, 10, were the youngest non-martyrs canonized in the history of the Church on 13 May 2017 during the centennial of the first apparition at Fatima, Portugal.

The original stained glass panel at the chapel of Sea and Sky God the Father Tower were in the image of Venerable Lucia is between two saints_ St. Francisco and St. Jacinta commissioned by Maria Luz Bolong, OCDS is a fitting gift for a future saint.



Marian 2002 Pilgrimage



Fatima 100 Pilgrimage 2017



Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrimage

LETTER

← causalucia@lucia.pt

To: causalucia@luci... ▾

Mo. Celine

Today, 7:25 pm

We are the Ortega twins of La Union, Philippines. In 2002 we visited carmel coimbra and were fortunate to see mo. Celine at the parlor bringing with us 2 statuettes of God our Father. We plan to send a document that will serve as a Christian testimonies to the canonization of Sister Lucia of Fatima. We will be narrating personal

experiences and evidence how our faith of Fatima works, our love to propagate the devotion of God the Father. It speaks of our courage in FAITH... doing things ... the Little Way... the Carmelite way.

In our short visit Mo. Celir acknowledged us 'Like a Child on it's Father's Lap', the title of our booklet.

How is Mo. Celine? Looking forward for a third visit to Fatima this Jubilee 2025.

Can we hear from you. This will motivate us to finish our document and send ASAP.

PREFACE

I (Nila) am reproducing what the late Abbot Santos Rabang wrote to emphasize that each of us is to encourage each other. He encouraged me to write and the joy we Twins are feeling now is the result of his kind words.

We Twins took the support we have had and try to pay it forward by writing our testimonies so that we could help in the beatification/canonization of Venerable Sr. Lucia.

PILGRIM PEOPLE

Several years back, Ma. Nila O. Argel enrolled in my modular courses in Religious Education at St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur along St. Paul Avenue in Bayubay, San Vicente, Ilocos Sur, RP. As part of the requirement of finishing a modular course, each of my students writes a synthesis of the subject matter, in his/her own words, style, and creativity of presentation. I was always impressed how Nila presented her synthesis, done masterfully and creatively, with accompanying photos to stress points of the faith she studied in my course.

I had always encouraged Nila to write about the Catholic Faith and Tradition. Nila's initial reaction was an adamant "No." Although she is a mass communication graduate, she thought she was not competent enough as a thinker and a writer on matters of faith and morals. But once she successfully published her first short book, upon my persistent persuasion, she wrote other books, one after the other.

At this juncture, I remember a UP Conservatory of Music pre-war graduate who majored in voice and in piano. When I first heard her sing in Church during one of my masses, I told her, "You are a singing Nightingale! Why sing other composers' music? Why not compose your own?" Her reply was, "I had only one semester in composition. My major is voice and piano." But I retorted, "But music permeates your soul. Its melody flows through your veins. Let it be expressed through your compositions." I gave her a copy of my poem "Fireflies." She set it so beautifully into music. Then, one composition followed another, and on and on.

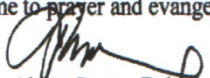
When I related this to Nila, she was mystified. Her first slim volume came. It was followed by several others. And now comes "Around the World: Teresa Forever." Read it. And you will travel around the Philippines and the world with the Ortega twins, Luz and Nila. Above all, you will journey with the great Mystic and Doctor of Prayer, St. Teresa of Jesus. It is a journey of faith. It is a pilgrimage to sacred places. It is not a tour for pleasure, sightseeing, lectures, and performances. Rather, it is a pilgrimage of faith, with St. Teresa of Jesus as the guide.

"*Lumen Gentium*" (Light of the Nations), Vatican II's dogmatic document on the Church, teaches that life is a pilgrimage. We are pilgrims. Our destination is the *Kingdom of God* in its final fulfillment when Christ will come again. In the course of the pilgrimage, we *reject* the classic idolatry of worshipping the status quo, a prime obstacle to a pure worship of God. We *keep on moving* in faith, in hope, and in love leading us to the final kingdom. We *separate* ourselves physically from worldly values and entanglements. We *flee* from contentment with and attachment to the *present*, insofar as it is linked to the familiar, comfortable, convenient, and pragmatic moment where people are tempted to imprison God and where God's plan dies for lack of clear vision, courageous mission, and single-minded-hearted commitment. We keep on moving to the *future* where we search for the Triune God. In this pilgrimage, the faith, hope, and love of people are tested, purified, disciplined, and perfected.

2017 is the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three children of Fatima. To go to Fatima for a pilgrimage is expensive. Only the moneyed people can make the pilgrimage to Fatima. For those who cannot make the pilgrimage, as well as for those who go, these are the questions we must answer:

1. Do we know what Fatima is all about?
2. How can we live out the message of Fatima?
3. Shall we be contented with simply remembering and celebrating Fatima with the whole world, together with Pope Francis, from May to October 2017?
4. What can we actually do about Fatima and its message?

Sr. Lucia, the last of the children to finish her pilgrimage on earth, was a daughter of St. Teresa of Jesus. She was a Carmelite nun. Together with her and St. Teresa of Jesus, let us join Luz and Nila in the pilgrimage of faith, hope, and love towards the Kingdom of God, whose concretization we strive to realize in the here and now, or in the words of Nila "to dedicate more time to prayer and evangelization."


Abbot Santos Rabang

INTRODUCTION

The three consecutive days are wonderful. We twins saw a rainbow on November 12. November 13 is the visit of Our Lady of Assumption of Maasin Leyte to the Diocese of San Fernando La Union. Doubly bless for dropping also at Sea and Sky College. November 14 is 'All Carmelite Saints' as if indicating that our Venerable Lucia will soon be a saint.

Thus, we are collating the titles of our previous spiritual books where Fatima is the topic. We could not remove on our minds. No wonder the time comes when we are now taking steps to show to the world our desire to continue what Venerable had done. We have other books that help you to know about us, like our family background so that it would give authenticity to our testimonies.

We twins recently became members of the World Apostolate of Fatima. Maria Luz is the WAF President and Maria Nila is Vice-President of San Fernando Chapter of the Diocese of La Union. Last year we attended the National Convention at Cebu and this December 10, 2024 we will participate to the National Fatima Convention on the five first Saturdays Devotion at the Mary Mother of Hope Chapel, Landmark Trinoma, Quezon City.

Jubilee Pilgrimage 2025 is something to look forward to. It has been eight years since we went to Fatima. A third visit would definitely be exciting. God will make a way if it is His will. In the meantime we do what inspire us.

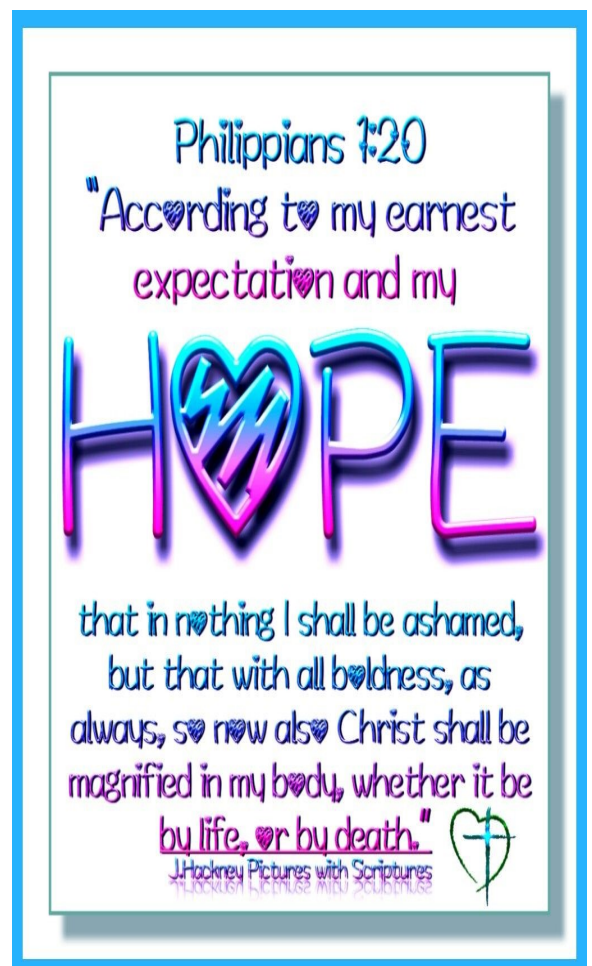
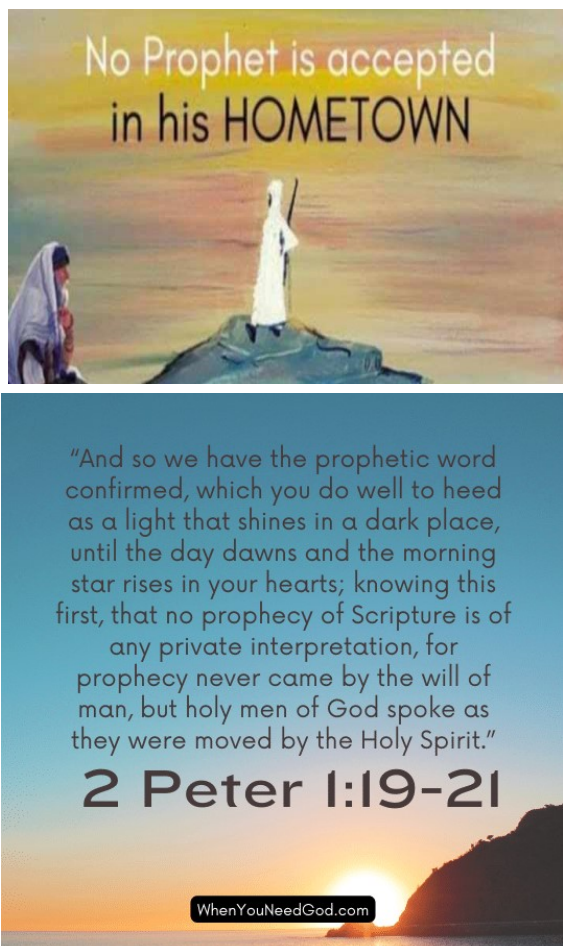


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