

R
V
M

ArchivesBULLETIN

Official Publication of the RVM Archives

2nd QUARTER ISSUE April to June 2026

FROM MEMORY TO MISSION—



*Relaunching the cause
for the beatification of
Mother Ignacia,
journeying together
toward holiness*

Editorial

From the Desk of the Superior General

Whispers of Memories

Feature Articles

- ❁ Update on the Cause for the Beatification of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo
- 🌿 Mother Ignacia – A Saint Next Door
- ♥ Reflections on Mother Foundress/Words of Encouragement
- ✠ Homily-His Eminence Pablo Virgilio Cardinal David



Annunciation and Pentecost: Moments of Renewal in the Tricentennial Celebration

S. Maria Teresita T. Francia, RVM

Among the many blessings that marked the Tricentennial Celebration of the 1726 Rules and Constitutions, two events stand out as enduring milestones in the history of the Religious of the Virgin Mary. Beyond the solemn launching and joyful culmination of this historic celebration, the **Relaunching of the Cause of Venerable Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo** and the **Unveiling of her New Portrait** became moments of profound grace and renewed hope for the entire RVM family.

Providentially, these two events coincided with two of the Church's most significant feasts: the **Annunciation** and **Pentecost**.

The **Relaunching of the Cause of Venerable Mother Ignacia**, held on **March 25**, the Feast of the Annunciation, echoes the joyful "yes" of Mary to God's saving plan. At the Annunciation, the Archangel Gabriel proclaimed the Good News to Mary that the Savior is coming into the world through her faithful response. That same spirit of hope and expectation was rekindled as the RVM Congregation renewed its commitment to promote the Cause of its Foundress. It was more than the revival of a process; it was the rekindling of a dream—that one day the Church may officially recognize Mother Ignacia among those whose holiness shines before the faithful. This renewed commitment calls every RVM Sister, Mother Ignacia Movement member, alumnus, alumna, and friend of the Congregation to become active witnesses to her life of prayer, humility, discernment, and loving service.

Equally meaningful was the Unveiling of the New Portrait of Mother Ignacia on Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, who transformed fearful disciples into courageous missionaries of the Gospel. In a similar way, the new portrait invites us to encounter Mother Ignacia with fresh eyes. Her open, attentive, and welcoming gaze portrays a woman deeply rooted in God yet keenly aware of the realities of her world. It reflects a contemplative whose prayer led to
(continued on p. 5)

From the Desk of the Superior General

M. Maria Rosabella R. Gallo, RDM



MESSAGE

Dear Sisters,

Praised be Jesus and Mary! Greetings on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

On this sacred day, we unite in gratitude for the infinite love and mercy of Jesus, which stands at the very center of today's celebration. In his encyclical *Dillexit Nos* (On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ), Pope Francis emphasized the importance of the heart. He encouraged us to cultivate a deep "heart knowledge", an intentional interiority through which God's love and mercy are truly understood. This beautifully echoes the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola, who reminded us that true spiritual progress does not come from merely knowing about God, but from "feeling and savoring things internally." Ultimately, as Pope Francis affirmed, "it is in the heart that the paradoxical connection between self-worth and openness to others, between the deeply personal encounter with oneself and the gift of self to others, is born" (*Dillexit Nos*, 18).

This profound integration of interior love and outward self-giving is mirrored in the exemplary life of our venerable foundress, Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo. Her deep devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was clearly manifested in her 1726 Constitutions and Rules. Imbued with the attributes of Christ's heart, Mother Ignacia's life was defined by the love of God and neighbor, emphasizing charity in both thought and word. She explicitly reminded her companions to "keep your hearts pure, separating from all that could hinder it" (Art. 2) and mandated that "ordinary conversation should be of God, our Lord, with Jesus our Redeemer and his precious Blessed Mother and the angels in heaven" (Art. 5)

Mother Ignacia understood what the Gospels of Matthew (12:34) and Luke (6:45) make clear: "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Following her example, we are called to fill our hearts with pure thoughts, authentic gratitude, and a deep appreciation for God's marvels within us and in one another. A deep interiority, nurtured in prayer and steady communion with God, naturally bears the fruits of goodness, kindness, and a charity that comes straight from the heart.

In the context of today's fragmented, and fast-moving world, we need to learn to resist the superficial distractions of modern society and instead live a life of deep inner rootedness in the Heart of Jesus. Today, this means transforming our interior prayer life into a visible, meaningful expression of love, compassion, and mercy within our communities and our various ministries. May our words build up rather than divide, and our presence be a sanctuary of Christ's peace for a hurting world.

May the blessings of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Hearts of Mary be poured abundantly upon us and inspire us to continually nurture kindness and love in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Affectionately in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

M. Ma. Rosabella R. Gallo, RVM

M. Maria Rosabella R. Gallo, RVM





(Continued from p. 2)

compassionate action, a woman who listened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and responded with courage to the needs of her time. The portrait reveals not merely the features of a historical figure but the enduring spirit that animated her life and continues to inspire the RVM mission today.

These two events remind us that the Tricentennial Celebration was not simply a commemoration of a treasured past. It was a summons to renewal. Like Mary at the Annunciation, we are invited to respond generously to God's call. Like the disciples at Pentecost, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to bear witness with courage and joy.

May the relaunching of the Cause and the unveiling of the new portrait awaken in us a deeper love for Venerable Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo. May they inspire every member of the RVM family to embody her vision, cherish her charism, and continue her mission with renewed zeal, so that her light may continue to illumine the Church and the world for generations to come.

As the Tricentennial Celebration comes to a close, these two grace-filled events remind us that while three hundred years of history have been celebrated, the mission of Mother Ignacia is far from complete. Her story continues wherever hearts, like hers, remain open to God and generous in the service of His people. ❧

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT—S. Maria Teresita...

(continued from p. 15)

May this relaunch awaken in us a deeper commitment—not only to the Cause of Mother Foundress, but to our own call to holiness. Like her, may we strive to be instruments of God's love wherever we are.

May the seed she planted in faith, take root in our hearts, grow through our lives and be a source of living hope for generations to come.

Together, let us move forward with hope, unity, and trust, believing that God will bring this good work to fulfillment.

Thank you, and may God bless us all. ❧

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER IGNACIA DEL ESPRIITU SANTO



S. Maria Anicia Co, RVM



Our update on the cause for the beatification of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo starts from 2007, about nineteen (19) years ago, when we received the *Decretum super Virtutibus*. On July 6, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI approved the promulgation of the Decree on Virtues of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, the Servant of God. This was for us a momentous occasion which gave us some hope for the fulfillment of our dream for Mother Ignacia's beatification. The Decree on Virtues was promulgated on February 1, 2008. The Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales presided over the official promulgation and proclamation at the Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz in Binondo.

Our Superior General at that time was M. Maria Evelyn Aguilar, RVM, who received the *Decretum* and with M. Maria Clarita Balleque unveiled the picture of Mother Ignacia with the decree. This image is here in our chapel of Our Lady of the Assumption.

February 1, 2008 – Promulgation of the *Decretum super virtutibus* of Mother Ignacia in Binondo Church



DECRETUM SUPER VIRTUTIBUS

"Servant of God, Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, foundress of the Congregation of the Religious of the Virgin Mary, is found to possess to a heroic degree the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity toward God and neighbor, as well as the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude."



We were hoping that after this promulgation we will continue with the beatification of Mother Ignacia as Fr. Francesco Ricci, OP, our postulator, said. Unfortunately, the miracle that was accepted so that we could proceed to this moment of the decree on virtues, was deemed inconclusive by the medical panel in Rome.

This meant that we need to have another miracle to continue the process of the beatification. The report of the medical panel concludes that "the Medical Consultation is not allowed to make a solid judgment on the unexplainability of the cure of lesion which occurred in 1991 for lack of clinical documentations contemporary to the event." (Dr. Ennio Ensoli and Pro. Patrizio Pollisca, 2000).

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION

On June 13, 2008, Fr. Francesco Ricci, was officially nominated as postulator of the cause. In her Circular #27, s. 2008, M. Maria Evelyn shared Fr. Ricci's reminder to the Sisters "of their concrete and authentic response as 'legacy bearers' of their Foundress in today's Church, deeply in love with Jesus Christ and embracing the world with His love."

In 2009, M. Maria Evelyn reminded us in her Circular #32 of the need to submit new cases of healing. She invited Fr. Ricci and Fr. Enrico Emmanuel Ayo to the Generalate. They gave us instructions on the process of documentation and encouraged us to pray more and do sacrifices for the cause of Mother Ignacia's beatification. They also informed us of the benefits attached to the Servant of God whose cause has been decreed to be published. This was communicated to us in Mother General's Circular #34, s. 2009:

The Sisters can invoke Venerable Ignacia in their prayers with an appropriate response of "PRAY FOR US," instead of "INTERCEDE FOR US."

Venerable Ignacia's picture or statue can now be placed at the side altar of any chapel directly under the jurisdiction of the Religious of the Virgin Mary.

They can now light candles before Venerable Ignacia's picture or statue during her feastdays and triduum or novena prayers.

Fr. Ricci also advised us to have a reconstitution of the Archdiocesan Panel for the cause of Mother Ignacia's beatification. This was done in March 2010. M. Maria Evelyn also formed an *ad hoc* committee on documentation consisting of S. Maria Consuelo Alvino, RVM, S. Maria Reinalda Sison, RVM and S. Maria Magdalena Leocadio, RVM. In April 2010, M. Maria Evelyn and S. Maria Consuelo Alvino met with Msgr. Geronimo Reyes, the presiding judge of the Archdiocesan Panel.

In May 2010 M. Ma. Evelyn with S. Ma. Carmen met with Fr. Ricci in Rome to update him on the cause for the beatification and the five documented cases of healing. The Medical Panel evaluated the merits of the cases; none passed the requirements. Other cases of documented healing in 2011 were submitted, but these did not pass the criteria for miraculous healing. Recognizing the need for more prayers, M. Ma. Evelyn and the General Council declared 2012 as a Year of Prayer for Healing. Praying the rosary and the 30-minute vigil before the Blessed Sacrament were scheduled every 12th day of the month at 12:00 to ask God's grace



for his miraculous work of healing to further the Cause of Mother Ignacia's beatification.

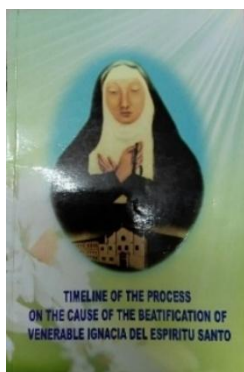
On the 4th anniversary of the promulgation of the Decree on Virtues of Mother Ignacia, on February 1, 2012, the Mother Ignacia Memorial was blessed and the statue of Mother Ignacia was unveiled.

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION ...

A meeting of RVM Sisters with Lay Collaborators and the Mother Ignacia Movement on February 4, 2013 identified activities to intensify the promotion of the cause for the beatification of Mother Ignacia. Among these are: 1) ongoing intensive prayer, fasting and acts of charity, 2) rosary and vigil before the Blessed Sacrament in all RVM communities every 13th of the month at 1:00 p.m. or at any preferred time agreed upon by the community, 3) extensive and close follow-up of documentation on any form of healing through Mother Ignacia's intercession, 4) jurisdictional compilation of written personal experiences on Mother Ignacia (letters, prayers, colloquy, insights, poems, favors received, answered prayers, and healing cases), 5) promote updated information on the Cause of her beatification, 6) seek suggestions to help further the Cause from the Vatican, and 7) request for prayers from ecclesiastical authorities, religious congregations and lay movements.

The year 2013 was a Year of Prayer for Deeper Faith and Renewed Evangelization. On May 31, the Congregation published the Timeline of the Process of the Cause for the Beatification of Venerable Ignacia del Espiritu Santo.

M. Maria Evelyn expressed our hope for the beatification of Mother Ignacia.



Confronted with the various challenges entailed in proceeding with the work, the RVMs remain steadfast in their faith, holding on to a joyful hope that, in God's own time, their revered Foundress, Venerable Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, may be extolled on the altars for veneration as BLESSED IGNACIA DEL ESPIRITU SANTO. Through the leadership of M. Maria Evelyn Aguilar, RVM and Council, the entire Congregation has to continue the work, imploring God's compassionate love and mercy—with humility, constancy, and persistence, May God favor their earnest desire for Venerable Ignacia del Espiritu Santo's beatification for the good of the Church in the Philippines and all over the world!

Also in 2013, M. Maria Evelyn also paid courtesy visits and had meetings with Rev. Fr. Francesco Ricci, OP, Ambassador Mercedes Tuazon, and His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Amato, SDB in Rome. A common prayer intention for healing was given to the whole membership. During the Philippine Conference on New Evangelization (PCNE) on October 16-18, 2013, M. Maria Evelyn gave a workshop conference on the topic "The Beata." The book of S. Maria Rita Ferraris, *Con el Sudor de su Rostro*, was published in December of the same year.

In preparation for the 500 years of Christianization in the Philippines in 2021, some 25 Sisters and Lay Collaborators, both men and women, were encouraged to write an article on the relevance of Mother Ignacia's life.

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION ...

The response of Fr. Ricci to M. Maria Evelyn's letter, dated December 14, 2013, regarding two cases of healing through the intercession of Mother Ignacia, was translated from Italian by Fr. Louie Coronel, OP and sent to M. Maria Evelyn on February 1, 2014. In this letter, Fr. Ricci gave some advice on what to do before the diocesan inquiry regarding the two cases of healing:

- 1. Gather a written report of the miracle*
- 2. Gather a complete medical record*
- 3. Documentation to be studied by a university professor who specializes in the medical field in the Philippines*
- 4. If opinion is favorable, send all documents to Rome for a medical opinion of an expert from the medical board of the Congregation of the Causes of Saints.*

If all the documentation is favorable, the postulator in Rome

- a) prepares the interrogators*
- b) prepares the Supplex Libellus through a competent bishop*
- c) when a cause is [already] at the Congregation of Causes of Saints, the Roman phasing is considered, a legitimately appointed postulator must reside in Rome*
- d) nominate a Vice-Postulator who resides in the Diocese where the alleged miracle case happened.*

The Congregation devoted the year 2014 to Deeper Hope and Renewed Evangelization, holding an hour of prayer every 14th of the month at the 14th hour of the day (2 o'clock p.m.) or at a time agreed upon by the community.

On January 25, 2014, CBCP gave a favorable endorsement on Mother Ignacia's beatification in response to the appeal made by M. Maria Evelyn Aguilar, RVM to the CBCP Plenary Assembly. With her was S. Maria Anicia Co, RVM whom she requested to make the presentation to the CBCP about Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo.

On March 25, 2014 was the launching of the website dedicated to Mother Ignacia de Espiritu Santo (www.motherignacia.info). The website was hosted and managed by the University of the Immaculate Conception, Information Technology Resource Center, Davao City, courtesy of S. Maria Marissa Viri, RVM, the UIC President.

Boletin Ecclesiastico de Filipino published "The Timeline of the Process on the Cause of the Beatification of Venerable Ignacia del Espiritu Santo (1663-1748)" in its Vol XC, No. 903, March-April 2014 issue.

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION ...

Other significant events that happened in 2014 were the following:

- May 31: Blessing and Opening of the MOTHER IGNACIA EXHIBIT in Lights and Sounds Museum, Intramuros. It marked the 330 years of existence of the RVM Congregation starting from the *Beaterio de la Compañía de Jesus*
- July 1: Letter of M. Ma. Evelyn to Fr. Ricci regarding the RVM presentation to the CBCP
- August 3: Reply of Fr. Ricci to M. Ma. Evelyn (translated by Fr. Enrico Emmanuel Ayo, August 13, 2014). Fr. Ricci acknowledged the information given by M. Ma. Evelyn on the RVM presentation to the CBCP. "It was a beautiful and timely idea. Many desire to see her among the Blessed soon." Fr. Ricci also acknowledged the three files on alleged miracles and gave his evaluation: there was limited documentation, lack a scientific report of a university medical professor who is to express opinion on Diagnosis, prognosis, therapy, mode of healing. Fr. Ricci also sent three documentations for our guide.
- August 25: At the request of M. Ma. Evelyn, Dr. A. Bengzon, TMC president and CEO convened a medical panel to evaluate the three (3) cases of healing. The panel ruled that the healing and recovery of all the patients were fully explainable scientifically.
- September 22: Letter from Rev. Angelo Becciu, substitute for the Secretariat of State in Vatican City, on behalf of the Holy See, acknowledging receipt of two books on Mother Ignacia and documents on three healing cases sent to the Holy See on June 27, 2014.
- October 16: Rev. Angelo Cardinal Amato, SDB, sent a letter informing the RVM Superior General that the Congregation's letter to Pope Francis on the Cause of Mother Ignacia's beatification has been "transmitted for competence to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Vatican City". The letter includes a reference to Fr. Ricci who can assist so that the "diocesan inquiries into the alleged healing cases can be instructed in an effective manner to provide the relative details necessary for the study on the part of this Dicastery".

In 2015 the Congregation focused on God's Mercy and Compassion. An hour of prayer was undertaken every 15th of the month at 15th hour (3:00 p.m.) of the day as an act of offering for the cause of the beatification of Mother Ignacia.

The year 2016 was the Great Jubilee Year of Mercy. An hour of prayer from January to May was held every 16th day of the month at the 16th hour of the day (4:00 p.m.) or at any time agreed upon by the community for the cause of Mother Ignacia's beatification.

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION ...

Also in 2016, the RVM Sisters, members of the Mother Ignacia Movement (MIM) and Lay Associates, Christian Living Teachers and Friends of the Congregation, through the initiative of the Jurisdictional Superiors and the Members of the Mother Foundress Commission (MFC) compiled the documented personal experiences on and with Mother Ignacia through any of the following means: dreams, etc., letters, prayers, colloquy, insights, poems, songs, drawings, favors received, answered prayers, healing cases (spiritual, emotional, physical). The compiled documents were submitted to the office of the Chairperson of the Mother Foundress Commission.

From 2016-2022, the process has stalled for the main reason that there is no miracle that can be attributed through the intercession of Mother Ignacia. The Superior General, M. Maria Corazon Agda, RVM, continued the hour of prayer for the cause of the beatification of Mother Ignacia every 16th day of the month to every 22nd day. On August 28, 2019 M. Maria Corazon with S. Maria Gilda Peñafiel, S. Maria Rosabella Gallo, S. Maria Carmen Yu, S. Maria Rosa Montejo, met with Fr. Ricci, OP in Rome. Fr. Ricci explained that a "miracle can be years ago... with no medical intervention" can be appealed to. He emphasized that any healing needs to be well-documented.

Three cases were received in 2018 and submitted in 2019 to Msgr. Geronimo Reyes, in charge of the Causes of Saints and Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Manila. The finding is "non-extraordinary healing cases, hence, cannot be considered for further inquiry by the Medical Panel of the Archdiocese."

2020 December 12 Initial publication of Archives Bulletin, quarterly publication of the RVM Archives



2020 Video of RVM Congregation for the 500 years of Christianity featured in the 500yoc website



In 2020, the RVM celebrated fifty (50) years of the RVM Archives as a distinct office from the Secretariat. The Archives produced its first quarterly publication.

Also in 2020, the RVM Congregation responded to the CBCP request to have a video on the role of the RVM within the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. This was entitled "The Religious of the Virgin Mary: Blessed to Share in the Journey of Faith."

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION ...

On May 15, 2022 S. Maria Teresita Francia, the chair of the Mother Foundress Commission received a report of a healing of a resident in Bacolod sent by Ignacio Pecore. A follow-up on the healing case and the MIM in Bacolod was done by S. Maria Teresita with S. Maria Eloisa Marie Inocentes. Other Sisters involved in this follow-up are the jurisdictional superior of the RVM Visayas region, S. Maria Erlinda Bolasoc, and S. Maria Alice Elloran.

In 2022, M. Maria Rosabella Gallo, RVM was elected Superior General. She assigned S. Maria Anicia Co, RVM to be consultor for Overseas Mission. In 2023, when S. Maria Anicia went to Rome with S. Maria Teresita Francia, they asked S. Marie Tessamy Quisquerin to help them get an appointment with Fr. Ricci. The meeting happened on July 11. Before going to the airport, S. Maria Anicia dropped by the Collegio Filippino to see and talk with Cardinal Chito Tagle on the cause for the beatification of Mother Ignacia. She was accompanied by S. Maria Teresita, S. Marie Tessamy and S. Maria Carmen Yu.

2023 July Meeting with Fr. Francesco Ricci, OP in Rome
S. Maria Teresita Francia, S. Maria Anicia Co, S. Marie Tessamy Quisquerin, S. Maria Carmen Yu, and RVM Sisters from the District of Italy-Sweden

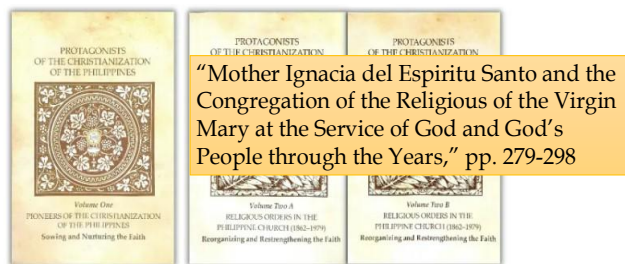


2023 July Meeting with H.E. Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle in Collegio Filippino of S. Maria Anicia Co, S. Maria Teresita Francia, S. Marie Tessamy Quisquerin, S. Maria Carmen Yu.



On March 25, 2025 the three-volume book entitled *Protagonists of the Christianization of the Philippines*, published in 2024, was launched. The project was initiated by Fr. Salvador Putzu, SDB in 2021. Fr. Putzu invited the religious congregations and societies of apostolic life in the Philippines to contribute articles on the history and significance of their congregations. M. Maria Corazon Agda, asked S. Maria Anicia to contribute to this volume. The article on the history and

significance of the RVM Congregation was included in Volume 1 of this publication.



UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION ...

S. Maria Anicia, who was no longer in the General Council in 2014, was not aware of the letter of Fr. Ricci to M. Maria Evelyn and his advices. She was still interested in the cause of Mother Ignacia and shared with S. Maria Teresita on the cases they brought to Msgr. Reyes. Something happened in 2025. S. Maria Teresita informed



and invited S. Maria Anicia to attend the Conference Saints Next Door on November 9, 2025, at Blessed Ivan Merz Reliquarium, Marikina Heights, Marikina City. This was postponed to November 16. S. Maria Teresita attended with S. Maria Anicia and S. Maria Meriam Bauzon. The main speaker in this conference was Dr. Dave Ceasar F. Dela Cruz, OP, the vice-postulator for the cause of the beatification and canonization of Blessed Ivan Merz. Both S. Maria Teresita and S. Maria Anicia thought of speaking to Dr. Dave after the conference to clarify how to move

forward with the process of reporting miracles considering the hurdles we experienced in our attempts to submit reports of healing cases. Dr. Dave expressed affinity with our cause considering that he is giving the Ignacian Formation Program at St. Mary's College. He agreed to meet with us.

The meeting happened only on January 26, 2026. The meeting with Dr. Dave enlightened and encouraged S. Maria Teresita and S. Maria Anicia. The group drafted proposals and recommendations for approval of the Superior General and Council. They called their group the Working Committee for the Beatification of Mother Ignacia (WCB). Later, it became the Working Group Committee (WGC). "The group expressed the need to revive and strengthen the promotion of the Cause. The primary goal identified was to prayerfully seek and properly document a probable miracle that could advance the Cause."

It was by Providence that S. Maria Anicia, S. Maria Teresita and S. Maria Meriam met Dr. Dave because he knew the process. S. Maria Anicia presented the proposals and recommendations of the group to the Superior General and Council in the meeting of January 31, 2026. She was also given the opportunity to present the same matter to the extended General Council Meeting on February 4. One of the main points brought up by Dr. Dave was the image of Mother Ignacia. This was communicated to the Superior General and Council and the extended council and the steps to be undertaken to come up with a new image of Mother Ignacia were proposed. The WGC also proposed the relaunching of the promotion of the

UPDATE ON THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION ...

cause of Mother Ignacia's beatification. The WGC held several meetings that discussed the new image of Mother Ignacia and the preparation for the relaunching. The title they chose for the relaunch was IGNITE: THE IGNACIAN MISSION FOR SAINTHOOD.

And the committee agreed to name themselves the Ignacian Mission for Sainthood, under the Mother Foundress Commission. The chair of this committee is the chairperson of the Mother Foundress Commission, S. Maria Teresita Francia, RVM. The vice-postulators of the cause are Dr. Dave Ceasar Dela Cruz, OP for external affairs and S. Eloisa Marie Inocentes, RVM for internal affairs. The other members of the Committee are S. Maria Meriam Bauzon, S. Maria Teresita Aspril, and S. Maria Anicia Co.

On the Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord, March 25, 2026, the promotion for the cause for the beatification of Mother Ignacia was relaunched, the vice-postulators and the members of the Ignacian Mission for Sainthood, a committee under the Mother Foundress Commission were installed.

Why is Ignacian Mission for Sainthood significant? First, the purpose is that the Church may recognize and proclaim the sanctity of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo. More than this, Ignacian Mission for Sainthood means that we who belong to this Congregation, who are part of this committee and all who are inspired by Mother Ignacia would also contribute to other people's call to holiness. Thus, the second point is that we who love Mother Ignacia and follow her virtues and example may help one another in becoming holy and living as authentic missionary disciples of Jesus our Lord in the spirit of Mary and our Mother Foundress. The challenge of our work for Mother Ignacia's beatification is also living a holy life.

Today with all the problems in our world, we are being called back to our basic vocation, that is, to live a life of holiness in union with our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are called not to be solitary saints but saints who help others respond to God's call to holiness. We are called to be disciples making disciples for the Lord Jesus. In the same way, we are called to be saints making saints, helping others find the way to holiness in union with Jesus our Lord, in the company of our Blessed Mother Mary and Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo. So our work for the beatification and canonization of Mother Ignacia should be combined with our efforts to really be close to God our Father, to Jesus our Savior, our leader and Master, and to the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

All praise and honor to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

IGNITE: THE IGNACIAN MISSION FOR SAINTHOOD



SOLEMNITY OF THE
ANNUNCIATION OF
OUR LORD
MARCH 25, 2026



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

— S. Maria Teresita Francia, RVM

Today is a meaningful and grace-filled moment for all of us as we relaunch the promotion for the Cause of our beloved Mother Foundress. This gathering is more than a simple occasion—it is a renewal of our faith, our hope, and our shared mission.

Mother Foundress lived a life rooted in deep faith, humility, and love. She did not seek greatness in the eyes of the world, yet through her quiet sacrifices and unwavering trust in God, she became a powerful witness to His presence. Her life reminds us that true holiness is found not in extraordinary acts, but in doing ordinary things with extraordinary love.

The Jesuit historian, Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde, testified that in the sixty (60) years of their living in community, they had not given any occasion for gossip in community.

As we pray for her beatification, we are also reminded of our role in this journey. This cause is not only about honoring her life—it is about continuing what she started. Each of us is called to keep her spirit alive by living out the values she embodied: compassion, service, patience, and faith.

Let us not grow weary of our prayers. Let us continue to pray with confidence, trusting in God's perfect will and timing. But beyond prayer, let us also become witnesses—sharing her story, inspiring others, and allowing her example to guide our daily lives. *(continued on p. 5)*

.....WHISPERS OF MEMORIES *(Continued from p. 22)*

Her response was not born of social activism alone but of contemplative love—a love that saw Christ in every person.

Her new image, therefore, speaks powerfully to our own age. It portrays a woman whose eyes are attentive to the signs of the times, whose heart listens to the cries of humanity, and whose face reflects the tenderness of God's mercy. It invites us to become people who pray deeply yet remain fully engaged with the world around us.

In many ways, this image echoes the call of the Church today: to be a listening, discerning, and missionary community. Like Mother Ignacia, we are called to keep our eyes fixed on God while remaining open to the realities that challenge human dignity, especially the plight of the poor, the forgotten, and the marginalized.

The welcoming expression of the new portrait also reminds us of the hospitality that characterized Mother Ignacia's life. Those who approached her found not judgment but acceptance, not indifference but compassion, not distance but accompaniment. Her smile reflects the gentle face of a mother who continues to embrace all who seek hope and meaning.

As we contemplate this new image, may we look beyond the colors, the features, and the artistic details. May we see in those open eyes an enduring invitation: to contemplate without escaping reality, to serve without losing our spirit of prayer, and to look upon the world with the compassionate gaze of Christ.

Perhaps that is the deepest message of this portrait. Mother Ignacia still looks upon us today—not merely to be admired, but to awaken us. Her eyes invite our own to open: to God's presence, to the needs of our brothers and sisters, and to the mission entrusted to us.

For when eyes are opened by faith, hearts are moved to love and burns with the desire to be in the service of the Divine Majesty, and lives are transformed into instruments of hope.

I especially like the symbolism of "eyes open" because it resonates with the spirituality of Mother Ignacia herself. She was not a contemplative who withdrew from the world; she was a contemplative who transformed the world around her. Her gaze was always directed toward God, but it never overlooked the suffering of her people.

"The new image of Mother Ignacia does not simply show us how she looked. It reminds us how she saw—with eyes enlightened by faith, a heart moved by compassion, and hands always ready to do God's mission. May we, her daughters and companions in mission, learn to see the world through her eyes."

MOTHER IGNACIA: A SAINT NEXT DOOR

Dr. Dave Ceasar F. Dela Cruz, OP, LPT



Do you know a saint?
Who is your favorite saint?
Why do we have saints?
Why are saints important to us?

These questions are special for us as Catholics because God has given us the saints as our inspiration, companions, and friends—men and women who followed Jesus faithfully and now guide us on our journey to holiness.

Saints are human like us. They were sinners who struggled but strove to avoid sin. They were weak, yet they clung to Jesus in the Holy Mass and in Confession for strength. They were ordinary people—students, children, workers—who loved their parents, obeyed their teachers, followed rules, and fulfilled daily duties. Yet what made them extraordinary was their love: they did everything out of love, even when it was difficult or uninteresting.

In the past, many saints were known for extraordinary miracles. Some levitated in prayer, like Saint Joseph of Cupertino. Others bore the wounds of Christ, called the stigmata, like Saint Francis of Assisi and Padre Pio. Some were gifted with bilocation, like Saint Martin de Porres. Others healed the sick, raised the dead, and cast out demons. But these were not their own powers—these were God's works through them.

Today, saints still exist—but most of them are not known for spectacular miracles. Instead, their greatness is seen in ordinary life lived with extraordinary love. Think of Mother Teresa, who loved the poorest of the poor; Saint Carlo Acutis, who used technology to spread devotion to the Eucharist; Blessed Ivan Merz, who dedicated his life to forming the youth; and Saint Maria Goretti, who chose purity and forgiveness.

Closer to home, we have our Filipino saints: Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, a husband and martyr, and Saint Pedro Calungsod, a young catechist. Their lives remind us that holiness is possible for Filipinos—for all of us. To become a saint, we do not need superpowers. We simply need to love God and love others as Jesus taught us.

And we do not even need to look far.

Within our own community, within our own school, we have a saint in the making. We call her our foundress, but truly, she is our mother—Ignacia Juco, now known as Venerable Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo.

Let us see how well you remember her. Answer these questions and you might win a prize:

1. What year was Mother Ignacia born?
2. What are the names of her parents?

MOTHER IGNACIA: A SAINT NEXT DOOR...

3. When was she baptized?
4. When did she die?
5. What were the two items she brought when she followed Jesus?

You see—you know her! And yet, for some, she may seem like a distant historical figure, someone who exists only in books. But the truth is: Mother Ignacia is alive today. She is truly a “saint next door.”

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Gaudete et Exsultate*: “The saints now in God’s presence preserve their bonds of love and communion with us.”¹

Mother Ignacia has never left us. She has never left the Beaterio—now the Religious of the Virgin Mary. She has never left our schools or our communities. She remains with us through the bond of love and communion that continues to burn in our hearts.

We may not have her physical relics today—but look around you. Look at one another. Look at the Sisters. In a real sense, we are the living relics of Mother Ignacia. We are the Ignacians of today.

Pope Francis also beautifully says: “I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God’s people... Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours.”¹

This is the holiness of Mother Ignacia—a holiness lived in daily life.

Today, we ignite our mission for her sainthood—not only by promoting her cause, but by living her life. She teaches us her five pillars of spirituality:

1. Simplicity,
2. Loving and Humble Service,
3. Diligence in Prayer and Work/Study,
4. Integrity, and
5. Daily Martyrdom/Sacrifice

If we live even one of these, Mother Ignacia lives in us. And when she lives in us, people will encounter Jesus through us—because saints always reflect Christ.

Through our words, actions, and sacrifices, we allow others to see, hear, and feel Jesus. And Mother Ignacia becomes our model and teacher in following Him.

“Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church.”¹

If we live what Mother Ignacia lived, then she truly lives today—and we, too, begin to walk the path of holiness. We become saints in the making.

Every time we share her story, distribute her prayer cards, promote her on social media, or offer our prayers and service for her cause, we take part in her journey toward sainthood. And yes, her miracles are already here—because we are her miracles: people transformed by her spirituality, continuing her mission from the Beaterio of Intramuros to the Beaterio of the world.

MOTHER IGNACIA: A SAINT NEXT DOOR...

Let me echo once more the words of Pope Francis: “Do not be afraid of holiness... Do not be afraid to set your sights higher... Holiness does not make you less human.”¹

As León Bloy once said: “The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint.”

Brothers and sisters, let us work together as one Ignacian-Marian family—in prayer and in service—that Venerable Mother Ignacia may soon be declared a saint.

Our country is blessed—the Kingdom of Mary, the land of the Rosary.¹ We have shown the world that Filipinos are capable of holiness. We have given the Church Saint Lorenzo Ruiz and Saint Pedro Calungsod. We have many candidates for sainthood.

And among them, our “Saint Next Door” is VENERABLE MOTHER IGNACIA—who has journeyed with us from the beginning and continues to guide us through her powerful intercession.

Truly, the Filipino—like Mother Ignacia—is both hero and saint: Bayani at Banal.✠

A RENEWED YES.... *(continued from p. 23)*

Yield to God's Will

In the end, we let God lead. We do our part with love and faithfulness, but we do not carry the burden of making things happen. God knows the right time. Our role is simply to remain faithful, and to trust.

So perhaps, as we relaunch this effort to promote the cause of beatification of Mother Ignacia, the question is not “What more do I have to do?” Perhaps it is something gentler, but deeper: How can I let Mother Ignacia live through me today, that I and others may be closer to God?

Because when we pray, when we reflect her life, when we share her with others, and when we trust God, something begins to move—not just in documents or processes, but in hearts, in communities, in everyday life.

And perhaps that is where it truly begins. Let us walk forward together—simply, faithfully, and with hope—carrying her spirit in the way we live, the way we relate with one another, and the way we humbly trust God each day.

Lord, that you may be glorified through Mother Ignacia: help us PRAY—persevere in prayer, reflect her life, advocate her cause, and yield to Your will. Amen.✠

AWA NG DIYOS

Homily for Thursday of the 5th Week of Lent
Feast of the Annunciation, 25 March 2026, Lk 1:26–38



Dear Sisters and Brothers, Good Morning! Thank you dear Mother General, and dear RVM Sisters for inviting me to preside at this Eucharistic celebration in the company of your friends and associates.

I entitled this homily AWA NG DIYOS. In English, BY GOD’S GRACE. I wonder if you know that even Muslim Arabs also have a equivalent of this expression. They have a very peculiar way of answering when they are asked whether or not things will push through, as planned. For example, if you ask them, “Will you be coming to our next class reunion? Are you expecting a good harvest this summer? Is your son graduating next year?”, instead of answering with a YES or NO, they would point to heaven and say, “INSHALLAH!” It’s the Arabic equivalent of “God willing” or our Tagalog “Awa ng Diyos.”

In many ways, this also captures the spirit of your Foundress, Venerable Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, who began not with a detailed plan, but with a simple trust in God’s mercy.

For young people it may sound fatalistic; but for people who are a bit more experienced, it is just being realistic. When you are young, healthy, talented and very capable, you tend to plan everything well, down to the last detail. You might even come up with a matrix, specifying your desired output, your time frame, agents involved, budget, etc. But when you get older and hopefully, a bit wiser, even if you plan things, you always make room for the possibility that things will not happen exactly as you have planned them, because of things that are beyond your control. Imagine, for example the many plans that have had to be adjusted, or postponed, or canceled because of the energy crisis caused by the current war in the Middle East?

And when things don’t happen as you planned them, you don’t need to act as if the world has crumbled or as though everything had come to an end. As a believer, you make room for an act of faith that God might have other plans, or even better plans. In many instances, it is faith and spirituality that prevents people from falling apart and breaking into pieces when things seem to go wrong in their lives.

Like Mother Ignacia, who began as a lay Filipina with no guarantees, yet trusted that God’s quiet grace would be enough. Imagine Mary and Joseph, as described in the Gospel—all set up with their marriage plans, and things do not happen as they have planned them? I am honestly not very fond of our tendency to romanticize the story of the annunciation. From all looks of it, what the angel is announcing is actually a disaster. In a less pious language, or in plain human language, perhaps he should have said, “Hail Mary, be ready to be disgraced. You may feel that the Lord has abandoned you. You will become pregnant out of wedlock, and the man you are about to marry you will try to

divorce you. You will feel most unfortunate among all women, and you will be wondering why the Lord has allowed all these things to happen to you. You will be the subject of many gossips and rumors in Nazareth and people will judge you as a loose woman, and their children will bully the fruit of your womb, Jesus.”

In our first reading today, the King of Judah is being offered a sign from heaven by the prophet Isaiah. The King’s reply seems pious and very considerate. He says, “I will not ask for a sign. I will not tempt the Lord.” But actually, what he means is, “Oh, tell the Lord not to bother. I’ve had all things planned out anyway as I want them to happen.” That is why the prophet is reacting angrily; he says, “Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God?” He is hinting at the king’s hidden agenda, which is to rely on the protection and patronage of the Assyrian Empire, the way modern-day Israel is relying on the patronage of imperial America.

The second reading makes you understand the bad attitude that people developed in the course of time about making holocaust sacrifices and burnt offerings in the temple. They thought that their prayers were answered depending on the number and the frequency of their sacrifices. It’s as if the rich who could afford to offer an ox or a lamb have greater chances of gaining favors from God than the poor who offer only a pair of pigeons or turtledoves. It’s as if God could be blackmailed or manipulated to bend to our will.

Like I said earlier, sometimes, things will not happen as you planned them, not because God does not care. But it takes a while before you realize that maybe he has better plans. You might even complain and say to the Lord, “Lord, you’re just asking too much of me, or I cannot do what you’re asking of me. Or, you’re asking me to do the impossible.”

To paraphrase what the angel said to Mary, I imagine the angel saying, “The Holy Spirit will take care of that Mary... I know it all seems impossible for you, but not for God. He can empower you to do even that which you think you cannot do. All he asks of you is your yes, your readiness to listen, to obey, to cooperate.” This is also what we now await in the cause of Mother Ignacia—not so much new documents, but a clear and credible sign of God’s action through her intercession. As you mark 300 years of her Rules and Constitutions, you are not only remembering a text; you are celebrating a “fiat,” a yes that continues to live on in your communities and ministries.

The ending of this story is the so-called MARY’S FIAT, which is often described as Mary’s act of “surrender to God’s will.” Again, I am sorry, but I am also not very fond of that word SURRENDER; it is those who are defeated who surrender. They surrender because they have no choice. Mary is making a choice, an act of the will. She is not surrendering. Rather, she is embracing God’s will as her own, wholeheartedly.

The Responsorial Psalm expresses it very well: HERE I AM, LORD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL. Or in Mary’s own words, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your Word.” It is only then that the angel can leave and say, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

And perhaps the same can be said, quietly and faithfully, of every hidden “yes” that continues your Foundress’s legacy—God’s work unfolding, always, by his mercy.✠



Whispers of Memories



S. Maria Teresita Francia, RVM

A NEW IMAGE OF MOTHER IGNACIA FOR OUR TIME

A portrait is more than an artistic representation. It tells a story. It conveys a message. It invites us to see not only the face of a person but also the spirit that animated her life.

The new image of Venerable Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo offers us such an invitation.

For generations, many have known Mother Ignacia through an image with eyes gently closed—a portrayal that beautifully reflected her life of deep prayer, contemplation, and intimate union with God.

It reminded us that she was a woman whose heart was anchored in silence, whose strength was drawn from prayer, and whose every decision was rooted in discerning God's will.

Today, however, a new image greets us.

Her eyes are open.

Her face radiates warmth.

Her expression is welcoming, serene, and attentive.

This is not a departure from the past but a richer unfolding of the same story.

The open eyes of Mother Ignacia remind us that authentic contemplation never closes itself to the world. Rather, it opens one's heart to the joys, sufferings, hopes, and struggles of God's people. The God whom she encountered in prayer was the very God she served in her neighbors.

Mother Ignacia lived during a time marked by social inequality, poverty, discrimination, and limited opportunities for women. Yet she did not remain a silent observer. With remarkable courage and evangelical vision, she responded to the realities of her day by opening a home where women could grow in faith, dignity, education, and service. *(Continued on p. 16)*



A RENEWED YES: LIVING THE SPIRIT OF MOTHER IGNACIA TODAY

—S. Maria Eloisa Marie Inocentes, RVM

It was not by chance that this reflection was first shared on the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

On this day, the Church remembers how the Virgin Mary simply said yes—a quiet, trusting yes that allowed God’s plan to unfold in ways far beyond what she could have imagined. It was not grand or dramatic. It was humble, hidden, and full of trust.

In many ways, this is also the spirit of Mother Ignacia. And perhaps this is what is being asked of us today—not something complicated, but a renewed yes.

A yes to consciously choose to pray.

A yes to live her spirit more intentionally.

A yes to share her with others.

A yes to trust God with the rest.

The promotion of her cause is not meant for a few—it belongs to all of us, all whose lives have been touched by MIDES. And it grows each time we quietly say yes, as Mary did, and as Mother Ignacia did, in the ordinary moments of our lives.

So we return to something simple, something we can carry each day. A word: PRAY.

Persevere in Prayer

Mother Ignacia began everything in prayer, and we, too, begin here—not in big or complicated ways, but faithfully. A simple daily prayer for her beatification. A quiet entrusting of our needs through her intercession.

And when something happens—when a prayer is answered, when grace touches our lives—let us not brush it aside. Let us notice it, treasure it, share it. Because sometimes, what we call “small” may already be God quietly at work.

Reflect Her Life

This may be the more challenging part, especially when we are busy, harassed, or pressured. People may not read books about Mother Ignacia right away, but they will “read” us. They will see how we live, how we treat others, how we trust God—especially when things are uncertain.

When we live with her simplicity, her humility, her spirit of service, and her deep trust in Divine Providence, we make her real for others. And honestly, the world today is searching for that kind of quiet, steady goodness.

Advocate Her Cause

This does not mean giving grand talks all the time. Sometimes it is simply a conversation: “Let me share with you about Mother Ignacia,” or “You can try praying through her.” It is in these small, sincere, heartfelt moments that devotion begins to grow. We do not need to convince—we only need to share.

(Continued on p. 19)

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

— M. Maria Rosabella Gallo, RVM

Good afternoon. Praised be Jesus and Mary!

My dear fellow RVM Sisters, collaborators in mission, and devoted friends of our beloved Mother Ignacia, as we gather today to renew our commitment to the sacred Cause for the beatification of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, we are reminded that the flame she ignited in 1684 was never meant to be kept hidden. It was destined to burn more brightly with every passing generation. For many years, we have walked the path toward her beatification with patient hope.

Today, we wish to re-ignite her Cause, for we feel a fresh urgency to share her sanctity with the world. This mission is far more than a protocol. It is a profound recognition of a woman who, through her humble service and total surrender, showed us how to find true freedom in God's love. Ultimately, this renewal of her cause is a celebration of Mother Ignacia's unwavering and transformative love for God. This love does not only exist in history books; it continues to touch our lives in the most personal ways.

I stand before you as a witness to this living grace. I have experienced the power of Mother Ignacia's intercession firsthand, having received many personal graces through her. Reflecting on my vocation story, I recall always dreaming of offering my life to God, specifically through the contemplative life. Yet, like many, I was not without my own doubts and fears. It was Mother Ignacia who silently interceded for me during those moments of uncertainty.

I clearly remember that, from 1986 to 1989, while I was serving as a Christian Living Teacher at Our Lady of Fatima Academy, Davao City, her guidance became my strength. I also vividly recall a time when I faced a significant struggle with my health. Through the quiet, persistent intercession of Mother Ignacia, I experienced a profound sense of healing and restoration, a grace that truly surpassed my own understanding. She has been a mother and model for me since I said Yes to God's call through the Religious of the Virgin Mary.

This personal encounter is the reason I stand before you today with such deep conviction. I know, without a doubt, that Mother Ignacia is alive in our prayers and ever attentive to our needs. Therefore, let this re-launching process be a true igniting of our hearts, moving us from a period of passive waiting into a season of active witnessing.

I encourage each of you to carry her story into your respective missions, communities, homes, and circles. Live out her virtues in your daily tasks and pray with greater fervor, that the universal Church may finally recognize her light. Just as she lit that first spark in 1684, let us now go forth as her living flames not weary from the long years of waiting, but energized by the fire of faith, for the greater glory of God and the honor of our Mother Mary! May our passion for the promotion of her Cause be our expression of profound thanksgiving as our Congregation celebrates its 300 years of its Constitution and Rules, which Mother Ignacia lovingly and humbly authored.

God bless all our undertakings and our heartfelt desire for the Cause of Venerable Ignacia's beatification!✠