

Introduction to M M^a del Mar Albajar, Abbess of the Monastery of Sant Benet before her lecture at the 2018 CIB Symposium, Rome.

by M. Rosario del Camino
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Even though many of you have met M. M del Mar before, she has worked with the CIB for ages and she has acted as translator in two of the last symposiums, I want to introduce her briefly in order to place the context from which her words emerge.

M. M del Mar has been the Abbess of the Monastery of Sant Benet in Montserrat, for three years. She comes from a large family, gifted with musical sensivity, her openness to the world has provided her with a universal heart.

After earning a BA. in Economics, she joined the monastic community. She holds a diploma in Religious Sciences from the ISCREB (Instituto Superior de Ciencias Religiosas de Barcelona) and then she graduated with a BA in Theology from Berkeley University, USA. She is member of the European Society of Women in Theological Research (ESWTR).

Sister with a universal heart, she is an approachable person. She belongs to the Committee responsible for drafting the Constitutions of the Female Monastic Congregation which will be consisted of the current four Spanish Benedictine nuns' Federations.

Her home, her monastery, which is the fruit of the union of two communities which joined 66 years ago, is located on the rocks of Monserrat Mountains and it is very close to The Moreneta (Our Lady of Montserrat). M.M del Mar lives, rejoices and shares the suffering of her people which she is committed to and intercedes for.

She has developed her vocation acting as Mistress of Novices and as responsible for the chant at her monastery. Her personal spiritual quest led her to get interested in Focusing, reaching the level of Certified Focusing Professional from The Focusing Institute, New York. She offers beginners workshops and courses, among the wide range of formation available at her monastery's guesthouse premises all year round.

I accompanied her and her community the day of her Abatial Blessing in 2015, which was a truly feast of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the ceremony, M. M del Mar read the following text from a Catalan poet called Joan Maragall.

It is why (...) that we have even to start living – what is called living- and that life is still hidden in us; and that in each of us, the Son of God is still preaching His Gospel, striving to ignite the spark of the Eternal Light, which each man is a tabernacle to fuel the world with the life he keeps inside, and to consummate the creation of Earth.

(J. Maragall, Obres Completes, Barcelona, Selecta ,1947, p. 840).

Thank you, M. M del Mar because your search for God encourages ours.
We are looking forward to listening to you!