

# Servant of God, Sister Josefa Menéndez

1890-1923

*Sister Josefa Menéndez* was born in Madrid on the 4th of February 1890. In 1920, she entered as a humble assistant nun in the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She died in the convent of Les Feuillants, in the town of Poitiers, France in 1923, at the age of 33 years old.

She is considered a great mystic, and she in fact had various visions of Jesus and of the Virgin Mary that gave her many messages which she always noted in her diaries, under the order of her Superior and of her spiritual director. The Diocese of Poitiers opened the diocesan process for the cause of Sister Josefa Menéndez of Moral on the 30th of November in 1948. From 1920 to 1923, the Lord dictated numerous writings to Sister Josefa that the Society of the Sacred Heart kept secret until 1938, when Cardinal Pacelli, at the time Protector of the Society, wanted to make them known to the world and then having become Pius XII he widely blessed the diffusion of them. Jesus always repeated to Josefa: "Not for you, but for the souls, I speak." The devil often paid her a visit with the intent of making her give up her vocation. In 1920 Sister Josefa describes in this way one of these attacks: "One evening, in the beginning of April, the temptation for me to go away hit me more violently; during the entire day I did nothing else but repeat: - 'My God, I love you!' - resolute as I was to remain faithful to Him. As I went to bed I put the Crucifix, as always, under my cheek. Around midnight I awoke and, kissing it, said with all my heart: 'From this moment on I will love you more and more.' In that same instant I found myself grabbed by an invisible force and felt a hail of strikes, like fists punching me that I thought I would die because of them. That torture lasted all through the night and continued during meditation and Mass. I was so frightened that I could not separate myself from my

Crucifix; I was worn out and I did not dare make any movement. Finally, at the moment of the Elevation, I saw pass in front of me a flash, like lightning, and I heard a sound like a strong blowing puff. Everything suddenly ceased, but I remained tense for several days." The demon would often transport her from one place to another in the convent and it would beat (thrash) her. One



time the demon even set fire to her vestments. To heal the wounds caused by that fire took a lot of time. On the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of January in 1921 the demon made another one of his attacks. Sister Josefa purposely wrote: "He tried with an ever increasing fury to make me abandon my vocation. He even attempted to trick me by taking the guise of Our Lord." Many times, later on, this attempt was repeated. The demon would change his look and his behavior, he would get agitated, and then he would betray himself and suddenly disappear swearing and cursing, as an impostor surprised in the flagrant crime of a lie.