

## GRACES RECEIVED

**"In silence and hope is our strength."**

*Saint Francisco Coll*

I am Sister Obdulia Portalatín, currently serving in the community of Virgen del Camino (León). I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our beloved Mother Benito for the healing of my legs. For years, I suffered from painful blisters that would form on both legs and eventually turn into open sores.

In March 2024, I began praying to the Servant of God Cristina Dominga Benito, asking for her intercession and healing. From the very first novena, I began to notice improvement. By the time I completed the second novena, my legs were completely healed. I continue to pray to our beloved Mother Benito every day. I feel a deep affection for her and a strong sense of her maternal presence-always available, always ready to listen with patience. She encourages me to follow Christ with generosity and joy. I thank God for inspiring me to entrust the healing of my legs to her intercession. To this day, my legs remain healthy, thanks be to God.

I share this testimony in the hope that many others will be inspired to place their trust in her with great faith and perseverance-through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sister Obdulia Portalatín**

**We have received many more testimonies of graces attributed to Mother Benito. Due to space limitations, they will be shared in future editions.**

I've been suffering from a very rare illness for several years, and doctors have been unable to find a cure. I ask all devotees of Father Coll to join me in praying for a cure for this illness.

**Maria (U.S.A)**

I am a devotee of Father Coll and I ask readers to help me with their prayers to pray that I can find a good person to care for me at home.

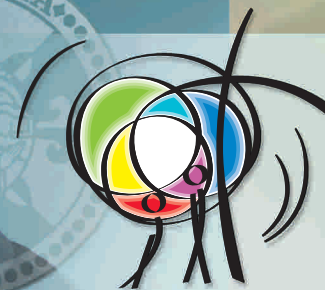
**Orense**

And we continue to encourage everyone to confidently invoke Father Coll and to share in this leaflet their testimonies of his intercession, be it in any presence and blessing discovered in daily or extraordinary events.

If you wish to share the graces you have received through the intercession of **Saint Francisco Coll, Martyr Sisters or Sr. Cristina Dominga Benito**, you may do so by getting in touch to [equipotestigosdelaluz@gmail.com](mailto:equipotestigosdelaluz@gmail.com) or with the Dominican Sisters of the Anunciata.

### GRACE REQUESTS

May, 2025



## WITNESSES OF the LIGHT

nº 28

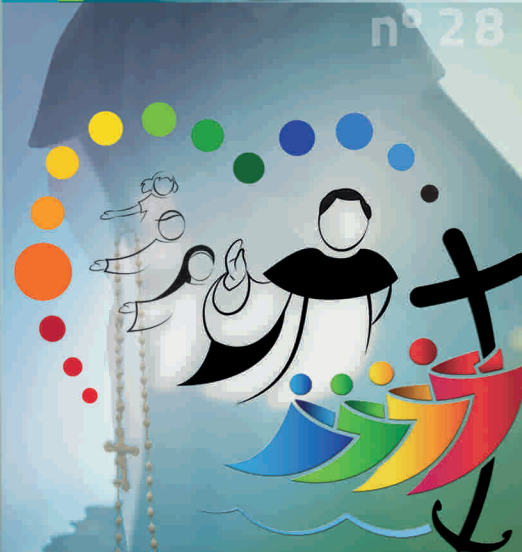
### FATHER COLL:

### PILGRIM AND PROPHET OF HOPE

On April 2, 2025, a year of celebration began for the Anunciata family. We are witnessing a truly meaningful event: the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the death of Father Coll-his *dies natalis*, the day he was born into Heaven, the place he so deeply loved, longed for, and preached about.

Providentially, this anniversary coincides with the Church's Jubilee Year, whose theme is Pilgrims of Hope. This is a most fitting description of Father Coll's entire life: a pilgrimage in hope.

- His witness as a Dominican in the face of many challenges
- His daily faithfulness in the little things
- His commitment to preaching words of life and hope
- His prophetic openness to the needs of his time
- His deep conviction that the Anunciata is the work of God and of Mary
- His trusting longing for Heaven, for Eternal Life...



### 150th ANNIVERSARY of His Death Saint Francisco Coll Pilgrim and Prophet of Hope



Dominicaines de l'Anunciata  
[www.dominicasanunciata.org](http://www.dominicasanunciata.org)

**"On what was his hope founded?"**





## FATHER COLL: PILGRIM AND PROPHET OF HOPE

Today, hope is not in fashion. Armed and economic conflicts, climate change, urgent migration crises, and an uncertain future... Across much of the world, a wave of discouragement is spreading; among adolescents and young people, a sense of meaninglessness is growing; entire societies immerse themselves in consumption and entertainment to cover up the deep emptiness they feel inside.

The commemoration of the Easter of St. Francisco Coll offers us the opportunity to pause with love and contemplative attention and allow ourselves to be challenged: On what was his hope founded? How was it that he, living in such a turbulent time-marked by persecution, crisis in the Church, a cooling of popular faith, and fierce opposition to his foundation-did not lose hope? How did he hold on to it even amid the painful trials of physical and mental decline? Why did he not become paralyzed, or settle for the easy path, the secure route, the comfort zone?

These questions now turn to us, inviting us to reflect on the foundations of our own hope. Perhaps we have become used to thinking of hope as naive optimism-a "you've got this" or "everything's going to be fine," a kind of self-help story. But when not everything works out, or not everything turns out well, our hope begins to falter. **Yet hope is not the same as being content when things go right. Christian hope-the hope of Father Coll-is not about fulfilling dreams or pushing through by willpower; it is something deeper. It is an act of faith in the faithfulness of the Father who fulfills His promises and strengthens us in the face of life's difficulties.** As Benedict XVI said: "The true, great hope of man, which withstands all disappointments, can only be God-the God who has loved us and continues to love us 'to the end,' until full completion. Anyone who has been touched by love begins to intuit what true life might really be." (Spe Salvi, 27)

**Blessed are you, St. Francisco Coll-pilgrim and prophet, who teaches us what true hope is!**

### PRAYER

*O Lord, who made of **Saint Francisco Coll**, a tireless apostle of the Gospel and the rosary, enriching him with the virtues and the crosses of great souls, grant us through his intercession the grace which we ask of you...*

*Help us imitate the actions and work of his life and give us the strength to live the joys and sorrows of our Christian life with true peace of mind. **Amen***



## WITNESS & PROPHET

PILGRIMS OF HOPE



## LIGHT LIGHTS ANOTHER LIGHT



## SISTER CRISTINA DOMINGA BENITO RIVAS

Dominican Sisters of the  
Anunciata  
Pido, Cantabria (1900) -  
Madrid (1977)

Born into a Christian family, Sister Cristina Dominga has lost her father at the age of nine. In 1916, she began her teacher training in Oviedo. It was there that she encountered a Dominican sister and a Dominican missionary from Peru-two figures who played a pivotal role in nurturing and deepening her religious vocation.

After completing her studies, she entered the Congregation of the Dominicas de la Anunciata in 1920. She professed her vows in Vic in 1922, taking the religious name Dominga. Assigned to various schools, she devoted herself wholeheartedly to the mission of education. During her years in Asturias, she endured difficult times, including the Revolution of 1934 and the Spanish Civil War from 1936 to 1939. For part of this turbulent period, and until 1946, she served as Mistress of Novices. That same year, she was elected General Secretary of the Congregation, a position she held until 1970. This role allowed her to become deeply familiar with the life and mission of the Anunciata across the world. She passed away in Madrid on November 13, 1977.

Those who knew her from childhood recall her as a reserved, deeply pious, and

self-sacrificing individual-qualities she carried throughout her life. A true daughter of Saint Dominic, she spoke with God and about God. She was known for her prudence, wise counsel, compassion for human frailty, and a delicacy that reflected profound humanity. Sensitive to the sisters' struggles-whether physical or spiritual-she always offered words of encouragement and hope. Though austere in lifestyle, she was rich in charity and profoundly human. **Her presence radiated the depth of her inner life, which unified her being and sustained her intimate relationship with "the THREE," as she lovingly referred to the Blessed Trinity.** Her constant aim was to live the Gospel authentically in the ordinary rhythm of daily life. Mother Benito was a true beacon of light within the Anunciata. She died with a reputation for holiness, and her cause for beatification is currently underway.

**More information in:**  
<https://www.espinama.es/separata.html>