Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Buen Suceso, Quito

Within the historic city center of Quito, Ecuador lies a hidden treasure of monasticism. In fact, there are probably few cities around the world that are home to so many religious orders, all congested within several blocks of each other. In the midst of this great treasure lies a most precious gem – Our Lady of Buen Suceso.

In several apparitions, (all approved by the Church) the Mother of God detailed many events that would befall the Church of our time. It is a devastating tale, outlining the work of the enemies of Christ. Some of these prophecies were included in the previous issue of *Sursum Corda*. Amidst this darkness of the 20th century, the importance of religious vocations is well noted by the particular intervention of the Mother of God. Installing herself as Abbess of the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, she has promised protection and direction to this specific convent, and has even guaranteed its survival through the dark times she prophesied. Much like the whole world would be blessed in the seed of Abraham, so to the whole world will be blessed through this convent.

The success of the religious vocation is key to the livelihood of the Church. While monasticism has taken a severe blow within the Church, the remnants of ages of Faith still remain. Vocations within the convents and monasteries have dwindled to the insignificant. Moreover, growth in the current situation (the failure of the New Order) is almost an impossibility.

From the dust of this devastation will rise-up the Church glorious once again – those whom the merciful love of my Most Holy Son will destine for this restoration will
need great strength of will, constancy, valor and much confidence in God. To put to test this Faith and confidence of the just, there will come moments in which everything will seem lost and paralyzed, and then will be the happy beginning of the complete restoration.

This complete restoration – this great event (buen suceso) – this Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – can only be within Tradition. It is not unthinkable that the SSPX may have a role in this restoration. This is the heart of our intentions, desires, and efforts: to be of service to the Church, to priests and to religious – this is the mandate of our Founder.

From January 24 – February 2, many tertiaries were blessed to attend pilgrimage to Our Lady of Buen Suceso. Our pilgrims participated in the novena of prayer and preparation for the feast of Candlemas. This feast, while a feast for all religious (the Presentation in the Temple), is also the feast of our Lady of Buen Suceso, who as stated, is particularly connected with the religious vocation.

During this pilgrimage, we rose from sleep at 4:30am so as to be the Church for 5:00am. Before light, pilgrims assembled in the church to form procession. Banners were carried in front of a small statue of Our Lady of Buen Suceso. All pilgrims processed to the various religious communities within the historic city center. At each convent, the prayers of the novena were recited, a small sermon was given to the religious, and some hymns were sung.

January 24 – Procession to the Jesuits and Mercedarian Sisters
Morning outing to the convent and museum of San Francisco
This day was the longest morning procession and one of the steepest hills to walk to get to the Basilica. The altitude (9500') makes it very difficult to walk and sing at the same time. Above, some tertiaries pose for a photo in front of the miraculous image of our Lord of Good Hope in San Augustin Church.

January 26 – Procession to the Convent of the Augustinians
Morning outing – the last day of President Gabriel Garcia Moreno
One of the postulant tertiaries attending, Joe Alf, is an avid historian for the events and life of President Gabriel Garcia Moreno. Having made several trips to Ecuador, and having read with great interest everything of Garcia Moreno, he was able to lead a tour of the last day of this assassinated Catholic president. Below you see in a box some blood and bones of Garcia Moreno which are kept in the Museum of Santa Catalina. The body of Garcia Moreno was hidden for almost 100 years in the convent Church of Santa Catalina.

January 27 – Procession to the Sisters of Charity
Morning outing to the Museum of Santa Catalina

January 28 – Mercedarian Priests
Day-long outing to Otavalo and San Antonio – Visit to the Franciscan Conceptionist convent in Otavalo

The Church of the Mercedarian convent is a stunner! To the right, you see the priests together saying the novena prayers during the morning procession.

The outing for this day was planned in the middle of the pilgrimage to offer pilgrims the opportunity to get out of the city and see the country-side of Ecuador. Moreover, it was a large shopping trip, as Otavalo is a center for the alpaca wool industry, and San Antonio is the carving center of Ecuador.
January 29 – Morning procession to the Carmelites of Carmen Alto and the Clarisas
Morning outing to the Convent of the Immaculate Concepcion – Group 1

January 30 – Augustinian Recollects and Sisters of the Annunciation
Morning outing to the Convent of the Immaculate Concepcion – Group 2

During these two days, pilgrims were able to see a few sites. Above is the place where our Lady of Buen Suceso appeared to Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres. Below, the Abbess’s chair where normally the miraculous statue of our Lady of Buen Suceso presides. We were also able to see the old site of the convent prison, where our Lady also appeared to Mother Mariana.
January 31 – Morning procession to Toca de Asis and Dominicans
Morning outing to La Campania Jesuit Church and Museum

This Jesuit Church is perhaps the most richly decorated of all the churches in the historic center. During the pilgrimage, each afternoon was free. The light schedule was perhaps one of the most enjoyable aspects of the pilgrimage. To the right you see some of the ladies availing of the free afternoon to go to the top of Mount Pichincha and do some horseback riding at 14,000’.

February 1 – Carmelites of Carmen Bajo and Franciscan Friars
Morning outing to the convent and museum of San Diego and Panecilla
Evening Serenade to Our Lady of Buen Suceso with fireworks

Panecilla is the hill upon which is erected the largest image of the Virgen de Quito. This representation of our Lady combines the Woman of the book of Genesis with the Woman of the Apocalypse who is given wings to flee from the dragon into the wilderness

To the left, Rachel Cavaretta from Buffalo poses with Fr Hawker who baptized her over 20 years ago. Neither knew the other was attending! They pose in front of the convent of San Diego located next to the oldest cemetery in Quito.
The night before the feast, many pilgrims were involved in a serenade to our Lady. This took place outside the convent church of the Immaculate Concepcion. This serenade including a marching band and fireworks.

February 2 – Feast of our Lady of Buen Suceso
Group Luncheon at the elegant Hotel Plaza Grande
Evening Serenade in the Church of the Convent of the Immaculate Concepcion

A solemn high mass was offered on the main altar of the convent church of the Immaculate Concepcion.
We really rely now on the tertiaries and the priests who attended this pilgrimage to spread the word. We as Catholics look for sites of pilgrimage. This is a very easy and rewarding pilgrimage; it is also one of the more inexpensive ones!

Some will be asking if I will lead again this pilgrimage next year. We leave these things to Divine Providence to dispose.

I would like to thank again the handful of benefactors who made this trip possible for the priests. All hotel accommodations were paid, most of the meals, as well as several plane tickets by the generosity of these few benefactors. Without their help, it would have been impossible to bring as many priests. May our Lady of Buen Suceso bless you!