Does our Lord know what's going on in our world today? Is there really such a thing as Divine Providence? Is God really all-knowing? Couldn't He give the faithful a special sign in a time of distress, a time of increasing hatred for God and His followers, times of increasing immorality, deceit, infidelity, and confusion? I suppose the first question is: are you sure He hasn't already?

In 1483, after many years of patient waiting and endurance of hardship, a humble Portuguese religious sister by the name of Beatriz da Silva, founded a cloistered, contemplative religious order called: The Order of the Immaculate Conception (aka Conceptionists). The first Conceptionist convent was established in Toledo, Spain.

In 1563, Diego Cadiz and Maria Alvarez gave birth to a daughter, Mariana, in Viscaya, Spain. Mariana would eventually (centuries later, actually) become one of the most well-known Sisters of The Order of the Immaculate Conception. Mariana was quite devout from an early age. In 1577, when she was only 13 years of age, she left Spain with an aunt and 4 other nuns to travel to the New World to establish a new Conceptionist convent in Quito, Ecuador. Mariana would eventually become Mother Mariana, the prioress (head) of the convent established in Ecuador. It is here that our story picks up and becomes directly relevant to our own time.

In 1582, while praying earnestly in the chapel, Mariana saw our Lord come out of the Tabernacle, with His Cross, as He was during His Passion. Our Holy Mother also appeared, weeping at the feet of Jesus. Mariana inquired of the Blessed Virgin if she was the cause of this suffering, to which Mary replied: No, it is the criminal world. Mariana then heard God the Father speak: this is the punishment for the 20th century, and she was shown 3 swords that were labeled: heresy, blasphemy, and impurity. The Blessed Virgin then asked Mariana if she would be willing to offer herself, through sufferings, in reparation for the sins that would be committed during that epoch; Mariana agreed.

Mother Mariana would eventually be shown all the great crimes against God that would come about roughly 400 years later, that is to say, in our time. These prophecies were delivered mostly through our Holy Mother who came under the title of: **Our Lady of Good Success**. As stated by Dr Marian Hovart: "Favored with many singular gifts from heaven, this chosen soul was given to know many future events, especially the grievous situation of the Church in the 20th Century." The following is a partial presentation of what Mother Mariana was told.

"[The Pope's] infallibility. Mariana was told, will be declared a dogma of Faith by the same Pope chosen to proclaim the dogma of the mystery of my Immaculate Conception. He will be persecuted and imprisoned in the Vatican through the usurpation of the Pontifical States and through the malice, envy, and avarice of an earthly monarch." These very objective things have, of course, already come to pass. But we should note that these were foretold and written down by Mother Mariana at least 200 years before they occurred. Her messages continued...

"Unbridled passions will give way to a total corruption of customs because Satan will reign through the Masonic sects, targeting the children in particular to ensure general corruption.

Unhappy, the children of those times! Seldom will they receive the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. As for the sacrament of Penance, they will confess only while attending Catholic schools, which the devil will do his utmost to destroy by means of persons in authority.

The same will occur with Holy Communion. Oh, how it hurts me to tell you that there will be many and enormous public and hidden sacrileges! In those times, the sacrament of Extreme Unction will be largely ignored.... Many will die without receiving it, being thereby deprived of innumerable graces, consolation, and strength in the great leap from time to eternity. "The sacrament of Matrimony, which symbolizes the union of Christ with the Church, will be thoroughly attacked and profaned. Masonry, then reigning, will implement

iniquitous laws aimed at extinguishing this sacrament. They will make it easy for all to live in sin, thus multiplying the birth of illegitimate children without the Church's blessing....

Secular education will contribute to a scarcity of priestly and religious vocations. The holy sacrament of Holy Orders will be ridiculed, oppressed, and despised, for in this both the Church and God Himself are oppressed and reviled, since He is represented by His priests.

The devil will work to persecute the ministers of the Lord in every way, working with baneful cunning to destroy the spirit of their vocation and corrupting many. Those who will thus scandalize the Christian flock will bring upon all priests the hatred of bad Christians and the enemies of the One, Holy, Roman Catholic, and Apostolic Church. This apparent triumph of Satan will cause enormous suffering to the good pastors of the Church...and to the Supreme Pastor and Vicar of Christ on earth who, a prisoner in the Vatican, will shed secret and bitter tears in the presence of God Our Lord, asking for light, sanctity, and perfection for all the clergy of the world, to whom he is King and Father.

Unhappy times will come wherein those who should fearlessly defend the rights of the Church will instead, blinded despite the light, give their hand to the Church's enemies and do their bidding. But when [evil] seems triumphant and when authority abuses its power, committing all manner of injustice and oppressing the weak, their ruin shall be near. They will fall and crash to the ground. Then will the Church, joyful and triumphant like a young girl, reawaken and be comfortably cradled in the arms of my most dear and elect son of those times. If he lends an ear to the inspirations of grace—one of which will be the reading of these great mercies that my Son and I have had toward you—we shall fill him with graces and very special gifts and will make him great on earth and much greater in Heaven. There we have reserved a precious seat for him because, heedless of men, he will have fought for truth and ceaselessly defended the rights of the Church, deserving to be called 'martyr.'

At the end of the nineteenth century and throughout a great part of the twentieth, many heresies will be propagated in these lands....The small number of souls who will secretly safeguard the treasure of Faith and virtues will suffer a cruel, unspeakable, and long martyrdom. Many will descend to their graves through the violence of suffering and will be counted among the martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the country and the Church.

To be delivered from the slavery of these heresies, those whom the merciful love of my Son has destined for this restoration will need great will-power, perseverance, courage, and confidence in God. To try the faith and trust of these just ones, there will be times when all will seem lost and paralyzed. It will then be the happy beginning of the complete restoration....

In those times the atmosphere will be saturated with the spirit of impurity which, like a filthy sea, will engulf the streets and public places with incredible license.... Innocence will scarcely be found in children, or modesty in women. He who should speak seasonably will remain silent. There shall be scarcely any virgin souls in the world. The delicate flower of virginity will seek refuge in the cloisters.... Without virginity, fire from heaven will be needed to purify these lands.... The secular (~ diocesan) clergy will fall far short of what is expected of them because they will not pursue their sacred duty. Losing the divine compass, they will stray from the way of priestly ministry mapped out for them by God and will become devoted to money, seeking it too earnestly. Pray constantly, implore tirelessly, and weep bitter tears in the seclusion of your heart, beseeching the Eucharistic Heart of my most holy Son to take pity on His ministers and to end as soon as possible these unhappy times by sending to His Church the Prelate who shall restore the spirit of her priests."

God, ladies and gentlemen, not only knows the woes of the modern world, He warned us of them centuries before it came. Evil comes not from God's unwillingness to prevent it but rather from man's unbridled willingness to seek his own desires. Will we respond to the solution, the only solution, given by our Lord and delivered through our Holy Mother? Would it be so bad to do so? Would it be so bad to be free of evil and to really know our one true Father?