
Sor Maria de Jesus de Agreda

“The Lady in Blue”



7th Annual Celebration
SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015
6:00 P.M.

Christ the King Retreat Center
802 Ford Street, San Angelo, TX

- ◆ Known as “The Lady in Blue,” Maria de Agreda was a cloistered nun who lived in Agreda, Spain in the 1600s. She is known for her legendary bilocation—being in body at her convent in Spain while evangelizing in spirit to the Jumanos, indigenous Indians of this area.
- ◆ The arrival of missionaries as a result of Maria’s appearances secured San Angelo’s place in history as the site of the first missionary efforts in Texas.
- ◆ Be part of our history in honoring Maria de Agreda on the 350th anniversary of her death.
- ◆ Join in the effort to have the Church declare her a saint.
- ◆ Our celebration begins with a brief ceremony by Jumano Chief Gabriel Carrasco beside the Concho River, followed by Procession of Flowers to the Retreat Center Chapel where historian Gus Clemens will give a brief talk and Bishop Michael Sis will celebrate the Mass of Pentecost (the Mass satisfies your Sunday obligation). A reception follows in the Retreat Center.

MARIA DE JESUS DE AGREDA CELEBRATION MAY 24th

May 6, 2015

Dear Friend,

We need your support for an event that celebrates our Christian history.

Enclosed is information about an exciting celebration honoring the 350th anniversary of the life of Maria de Jesus de Agreda—the Lady in Blue Sunday, May 24.

Michael J. Sis, Bishop of San Angelo, and the Lady in Blue Committee will host the event. On that same date, we join other Sor Maria de Jesus de Agreda celebrations taking place around the world.

The appearances of Maria de Jesus de Agreda to the Jumano Indians is historically important because it prompted Franciscan missionaries to come to West Texas making San Angelo the place our Christian faith was first practiced in Texas.

We are honored once again that the Jumano Indians will be with us..

The mayor and commission in Agreda, Spain asked us to professionally video and photograph this event because Maria's cause for canonization will be presented to the Vatican in October and information on her celebrations are being documented around the world. This also will be noteworthy for San Angelo.

Help keep history alive. We sincerely hope you and your family will attend this event.

Sincerely,


Julia M. Stout

The Lady in Blue

San Angelo's place in Texas history is secure as the site of the first missionary effort in the state—more than 45 years before El Paso, more than 80 years before San Antonio—thanks to mysterious “Lady in Blue” appearances to members of the Jumano tribe who traveled across Texas and New Mexico in the 1600s.

Dressed in a flowing blue cape, the mysterious woman tended to the sick, comforted the afflicted and, most importantly, taught the indigenous people about Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and encouraged them to seek baptism.

In 1629 a band of Jumano Indians arrived at Isleta, New Mexico, where they presented themselves to Franciscan missionaries and asked to be baptized as the Lady in Blue had directed them, a request they had made several times before. This time, the Franciscans agreed to journey with the Jumanos to a central camping ground, the Concho River confluence area at present day San Angelo. The missionaries returned for a second, longer effort at the same location in 1632.

One of the missionaries, Fray Alonzo de Benavides, knew of a young Franciscan nun in the Spanish village of Agreda, north of Madrid. Sister Maria de Jesus reportedly lapsed into deep trances while in prayer and described visits to the New World, where she taught the natives. She told visitors she made more than 500 such spiritual visits, though she in fact never left her monastery in Agreda, Spain.

Upon returning to Spain, Fray Alonzo questioned Sister Maria at length and was amazed at her detailed descriptions of the lands she had never seen in person. He was also astonished to learn it was her custom to wear a blue cape when she went outdoors.

When Fray Alonzo asked Sister Maria where she learned to speak the Jumano language, she replied, “I didn’t. I simply spoke to them—and God let us understand one another.”

The appearances ceased after Fray Alonzo told Sister Maria of his contacts with the Jumanos. Maria then said, “My work with my beloved Jumanos is finished.”

After a full life of accomplishment, including the writing of “Mystical City of God,” a monumental work of Christian mysticism still in print today, Sor Maria died in 1665. Her incorrupt body can still be viewed at the convent where she lived and from where she “journeyed” to the Americas.

Jumano tradition relates that on her visits, every place Maria’s blue cape touched the ground, bluebonnets sprang up to forever grace the Texas countryside.