



Office of the Archbishop

Archdiocese of San Antonio

P.O. Box 28410 • San Antonio, Texas 78228-0410

Phone (210) 734-2620

Fax (210) 734-0708

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St. Joseph's Parish
c/o Rev. Gabriel M. de la Santa Cruz, mcs
P.O. Box 1429
Del Rio, TX 78840

To All the Faithful of St. Joseph's Parish in Del Rio, TX:

I am writing this letter today in reference to the "Virgen del Rosario del Pozo".

Last summer, the Missionaries of Christ the Priest arrived to St. Joseph's Parish in Del Rio, filled with enthusiasm and zeal to serve you, the people of God in this area. Since then, they have been carrying on a fruitful ministry in Del Rio, helping more people to know and grow closer to the Lord.

Among many valuable activities, they have also been promoting the devotion to the "Virgen del Rosario del Pozo" (the Virgin of the Rosary of the Well), a devotion that is fruit of alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the Well of Sabana Grande in Puerto Rico, around the year 1953.

After several years of study, investigation and discernment, the Puerto Rican bishops presented their conclusions to the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and on the 22nd of August of 2000, they received the final declaration about these apparitions. The Congregation confirmed the results from the investigations previously made by the local bishops and the investigating commissions: that the facts of the apparitions were "lacking of credibility", that "the evidence presented did not satisfy the established criteria" necessary to consider the veracity of the apparitions of the Virgin, and that "the supernatural nature of the alleged 'apparitions' of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary in the Well of Sabana Grande is not verified".

Furthermore, on November 14, 2006, the Puerto Rican bishops released a pastoral letter in which they conclude: "For this reason, we ask the Christian faithful not to approach or to seek nourishment for their spiritual relationship with the Most Blessed Virgin Mary in the "Misión de la Virgen del Rosario del Pozo".

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Considering all these facts, I have asked the Missionaries of Christ the Priest not to promote the devotion to the Virgin of the Rosary of the Well in Del Rio nor in any other part of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. This implies that no statues of the Virgen del Rosario del Pozo should be displayed in the parish, office or rectory, and that no meeting, prayer or any other devotion related to the Virgen del Pozo may be carried out.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter, and I ask you to continue growing in a healthy love and devotion to our Most Blessed Virgin Mary, so that she may continue to lead us through a safe and sure path toward a deeper encounter with her Son, the Lord Jesus.

Be assured of my prayers for all the community of St. Joseph's Parish, and I ask the Lord to continue pouring out his abundant graces over each one of you and your families.

May Jesus, through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, grant you a Lenten Season filled with many blessings,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D.
Archbishop of San Antonio