

# Nuestra Señora del Buen Remedio

- *brother Peter*

**I**N THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, JESUS INAUGURATES HIS MISSION by quoting the prophet Isaiah. Jesus has come “to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim release to the captives ... to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Lk 4/18-19; Is 61/1-2 and 58/6)

With the visit of our Trinitarian sisters from Suesa, Spain, this October, we became acquainted with Nuestra Señora del Buen Remedio, the Marian image of the Trinitarian Order—Mary holding a bag of coins, ransom for captives, and the Christ child holding links of a broken chain. The Trinitarians were founded by San Juan de Mata in the 1100’s to rescue Christian captives and work for reconciliation between Muslims and Christians in the wars of the time.



In the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe (the Nican Mopohua) the apparition of Mary announces: “I will show him (Jesus), I will exalt him on making him manifest ... I will give him to the people in all my personal love, in my compassionate gaze, in my help ... I will listen to their (the people’s) weeping, their sadness, to *remedy*, to cleanse and nurse all their different troubles, their miseries, their suffering.”

As the American Civil War was nearing its end, an anti-slavery poem appeared in The Atlantic Monthly (Vol. 15, No. 88) of February, 1865, by John Greenleaf Whittier, presenting St. John de Matha (San Juan de Mata) as a symbol of hope for an end to slavery: “Take heart from John de Matha—God’s errands never fail!”

These repeated calls to be concerned for the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed and enslaved peoples of our time recommend this image of Mary and the Christ child for our Christmas greetings this year. The community life and witness of our Suesa Sisters, of our Mexican Benedictine Sisters, of our Weston brothers’ community are brought together in our shared concern for the good and the future of our country and our world in this troubled time. ■