

Maria Esperanza González Puig

1823-1885

Maria Esperanza González Puig
born in Lleida on May 19, 1823.

She founded, with much difficulty, the Congregation of the Missionary Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the initial objective of welcoming young prostitutes or destitute girls so that re-integrated, they could become productive for themselves and for society. Conscious of the importance of prevention, she extended her field also to the education of children and of young students. Many were the virtues which Mother Esperanza practiced heroically: humility, obedience, mortification, and heroic charity; this last one was exercised especially with the young girls that she sheltered in her home. In her book *Notas Autobiográficas* she speaks many times about

the Angels, describing that she would often feel accompanied by the Angels who instructed her directly. On January 4, 1856 she wrote: "I saw myself surrounded by six new Guardian Angels that began to instruct me about the manner in which I needed to behave in order to make progress in the way of virtue".

