When she was sixteen, Maria and her mother were seamstresses. When she was seventeen years old, our Blessed Mother showed her “the world in ruins” and silently urged her to pray and perform acts of penance. That apocalyptic vision never left the thoughts of Maria. Thus began the first of her many acts of reparation. Later, the Virgin Mary repeatedly asked her: “Do something for me!” Moved by such a request, Maria Dolores asks: “Most Holy Virgin, what can I possibly do to please you in my lowliness?” The reply came quickly.

In 1899, enraptured in the contemplation of Calvary, she thought about the reparation that was offered to Jesus by loving and devoted hearts. Why was there nothing offered to Mary even though she had co-operated in our redemption and still was so often offended? This sudden inspiration so overwhelmed the heart and soul of Maria Dolores that she personally solicited anyone wishing to embrace such a devotion of reparation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She immediately organized the reception of Holy Communion as a means of reparation; this was granted an indulgence in 1904 by Pope Pius X. She combined this practice to a holy hour of Reparation with the recitation of the rosary and other prayers of reparation. She died on December 28, 1928 with a saintly reputation.

Even before she joined the Servants of Mary Reparatrix, Maria Dolores promoted devotion to Mary in the north of Italy with the recitation of the rosary and the holy observance of Saturday.

This was the beginning of the first Saturday devotion of Holy Communion for reparation; it was the result of a revelation she received in 1903. Her devotion to the Blessed Mother accompanied by her fervent prayers more than once enabled her to overcome the attacks from the devil who was enraged by the new devotion – which was providentially mentioned by the Virgin Mary at Fatima in 1917 – not content to terrify the young woman with coarse and vulgar visions, the devil physically approached her, saying: “Your daily recitation of the rosary causes me more pain and suffering than anything else. This prayer makes me incapable of causing you to sin by leading you into temptation; how I would wish to pull you down!” She replied: “I’m glad because now that you have told me this, I will never abandon this prayer!”

Gnashing and grinding his teeth, the devil pounced on her, wishing to throttle her. At once, Maria Dolores’ Guardian Angel appeared with a fiery countenance. As he extended his golden wings to protect the young woman, the devil was forced to flee!