

VIDA SOBRENATURAL (LA)**VIDA SOBRENATURAL (LA)**

VIDA SOBRENATURAL (LA), magazine of the dominicans of San Esteban de Salamanca (1921).

The *Vida Sobrenatural* (The *Supernatural Life*) magazine, founded in 1921 by the dominican Juan Gonzalez Arintero (cf. *supra*, col. 514-518), was the first magazine of its kind to appear in Spain. The magazine proposed to combine in-depth the study of doctrinal and practical aspects of the spiritual life. The magazine was born two years after its French counterpart *La Vie Spirituelle*, and although it had some common features, the differences were also clear. Until 1942, the magazine was published once a month, although from September-to October in 1936 only six copies a year appeared with double number each. From 1943 to date, the magazine is published twice a month. In 1953, it included the subtitle of *Revista de Teología Mística* (Journal of mystical theology). Since 1994, the title of the magazine has been *Vida Sobrenatural*.

The magazine was conceived in a time when the process of secularization of Spanish society and the blossoming of spiritual life and new initiatives of evangelization were occurring in parallel. The spiritual revival that Spain experienced during this period occurred largely under the sign of mystical restoration, the return of an interest in the mystical life at a scientific level that had an impact on the ground of the same spiritual life — whose main exponent in Spain was the Dominican Arintero. In its first decades of existence, *La Vida Sobrenatural* was the main vehicle to transmit this *mystical movement* to the Catholics of the time.

The main speculative and pastoral efforts made in the magazine were intended to theologially demonstrate and explain in a practical way, that the path of spiritual life is unique, that mystical life is necessary to reach Christian perfection and, therefore, everyone can and should aspire to achieve it. From the beginning, liturgy had a place of honor in the pages of *La Vida Sobrenatural*, which turned it into an instrument that contributed to the reception of the liturgical reform in our country. The magazine was also the pioneer in the dissemination of the spiritual teachings of Therese of Lisieux and the Merciful Love movement. Despite not having a scientific nature, *La Vida Sobrenatural* contributed to the renewal of studies on the spiritual life.

La Vida Sobrenatural was born with the aim of becoming an open space so all currents and schools of spiritual thought may collaborate and also to become a way of expressing the spiritual life in all the countries of Spanish language. The initial launch was carried out with 1,000 copies and soon the number of its subscribers was doubled. From the beginning the magazine reached a large number of religious communities, but also members of the secular clergy and laity.

In the first year, the administration was located in Bilbao, place of origin of the group of promoters who gave the initial economic investment. Since 1922, the ownership of the magazine went to the Dominican Fathers of San Esteban de Salamanca and the Administration also moved there. From the Provincial Chapter of 1978 the magazine belongs to the Dominican Province of Spain. In 1992 the Province of Spain incorporated the magazine to the Editorial San Esteban, still being its legal headquarters in the convent of San Esteban.

The magazine has characterized for the continuity of its editorial line and its structure. The administration of the magazine has always been under the Dominicans at the Convent of San Esteban de Salamanca and the first two disciples of Fray Arintero : Fray Ignacio M. Reigada (1928-1933) and Fray Sabino Lozano (1933-1966). The third director was Fray Arturo Alonso Lobo (1966-1983), and successively : Fray Armando Bandera (1983-1994), Fray Pedro Fernandez (1994-2001), Fray Manuel Angel Martinez (2001-2009) and Fray Julián de Cos (2010-). Since the first issue, the magazine was divided in five sections : *Doctrinal Section*, since 1994 *Doctrine* ; *Liturgical Echoes*, since 1994 *Liturgy* ; *Supernatural life examples*, since 1994 *Witnesses* ; *Ancient and modern texts*, since 1994 *School of Life and Book reviews*. After the death of Fray Arintero, the favors received by his intercession have been published in a separate section.

F.M. Requena

Bibliography

LITTERATURE

The history of the journal during the life of his founder is offered in :

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Commemorative articles published in the journal :

A.A. Lobo, *El P. Arintero fundador de la Vida Sobrenatural*, in *La Vida Sobrenatural*, 71, 1970, pp. 4-15 ; *La vida sobrenatural después de 50 años*, in *Ibid*, pp. 80-108 ; *Al cumplirse el decenio*, in *Ibid.*, 56, 1976, pp. 3-13 ; L. De Echevarría, *Bodas de oro de una revista que nació por iniciativa bilbaína*, in *Ibid.*, 72, 1971, pp. 34-37 ; J.M. Feraud, *Recuerdos y reflexiones en el 50 aniversario de esta revista*, in *Ibid.*, 72, 1971, pp. 23-30 ; P. Fernández, *Vida Sobrenatural cumple 75 años*, in *Ibid.*, 75, 1995, pp. 421-428.

There is a published index that cover from 1921 to 1995 :

P. Fernández, *Vida Sobrenatural. Revista de Teología Mística. Índices. 1921-1995*, Salamanca, 1996.

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