

THE SERVANT OF GOD

ENCARNITA ORTEGA



Good humour

The circumstances that each person goes through, whether pleasant or difficult, do not affect the foundation on which our life rests: we are children of God the Father and brothers and sisters of the risen Christ.

Pope Francis insists that a Christian is a joyful person. St. Josemaría used to say, "in human things I want to leave you as an inheritance the love of freedom and good humour." These teachings move us to smile, to banish long faces and to ask ourselves, "Am I good humoured, with the ability to find the positive side of things, the amusing side?"

Encarnita had a sense of good humour. Before joining Opus Dei, she was a military nurse during the Spanish Civil War. At the end of that conflict she spent some time in the Alacuás prison. From there, she wrote encouraging letters to her father: "Yesterday, in honour of two companions because it was their saint's day, we organized a little party. You cannot imagine the good time we had and how we made everyone laugh, which is what we intended. We made good humour our inseparable companion."

After feeling God's call to join Opus Dei in 1941, she maintained and nurtured that joy in the varied circumstances of her life. Encarnita spoke with sparkle and wit. She downplayed apparent failures and knew how to grow in experience.

At the end of her life, during the years she suffered from cancer, she supported the funny ideas of others. Her neighbour in Valladolid, who also suffered from the illness, says: "I often saw her in a little white chair, on a small terrace, reading in the sun. Warned by the antics of my children and grandchildren, I had the idea of buying a whistle, and I would blow it loudly. She would wave to me. It was a game that kept up our good spirits. One day she remarked to me, 'You didn't blow your whistle today...'. "

You can view an animated biography [in Spanish] of Encarnita Ortega by scanning this QR code:



Favour

A friend of mine was out of work a few months before the Covid pandemic lockdowns began. In addition, because of his age (over 50), the outlook looked bleak. My friend immediately started to make arrangements, send the curriculum vitae, etc. I decided to entrust him to Encarnita Ortega. Time went by and there was no progress, but I kept praying. Finally, at the end of 2020, a company called him to replace temporarily a person who was on sick leave. My friend started coming to work and asked me to keep praying, for there was a chance of continuing when the person he was replacing rejoined. I intensified the request to Encarnita. Indeed, my friend has been transferred to another section of the company with a permanent contract.

LRM (Spain)

News of the Cause

The Positio on the life, virtues and reputation for holiness is being finalized for submission to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

Those who have obtained favours through the intercession of the Servant of God, Encarnita Ortega, are asked to let us know by writing to us at the address below. More information is available at www.encarnitaortega.org

Prayer for private devotion

Lord, you showed your daughter **Encarnita** how attractive it is to seek holiness in the middle of the world and gave her the grace to follow that quest faithfully in Opus Dei. Grant that, like her, I may discover your Love afresh every day and communicate it to those around me. Deign to glorify your daughter Encarnita and, through her intercession, grant me the favour I ask of you... (*here make your petition*). Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgement of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use..

This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give a contribution to help its publication may send donations by cheque or postal order to the address below or by direct transfer.

Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL e-mail: ocs.uk@opusdei.org Direct transfer for donations to "Opus Dei Charitable Trust" Account Number: 81044834 Sort-Code: 40-05-33 Ref: Encarnita