

ENCARNITA ORTEGA

Newsletter of the Servant of God,
Encarnita Ortega

Office for the Causes of Saints

Prelature of Opus Dei in Britain

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After almost 34 years abroad, I've now returned to Argentina, my homeland. In 1990, full of dreams, I went to Spain to study for a university degree. I travelled with my father, carrying a letter addressed to someone we did not know: Encarnita Ortega, who was the sister-in-law of the librarian of my school. We decided to go first to Valladolid to deliver the letter, although my intention was to study in Asturias. Encarnita welcomed us with great joy when she learned how closely connected we were to her Argentinian relatives. We chatted for a long time, discussing our plans and she telling us about Opus Dei. My father was deeply impressed by that first conversation and told me he would like me to study close to that lady.

Through Encarnita, I secured a place in an apartment linked to Los Arces Hall of Residence. I called her upon my arrival and we met one afternoon in early October at my new residence. She asked to see the apartment, showing a keen interest in each of the residents and the details of the house. Afterwards, she asked if I had tried Spanish churros with hot chocolate. As I hadn't, she invited me out. This was the first of many outings together. Encarnita was always attentive to people, regardless of differences in age or position. Nothing prevented her from getting close to people.



FRIENDSHIP, WITH DEEDS OF SERVICE

In the Hall of Residence, I found the climate of friendship I needed while living away from my family. Opus Dei's message of sanctifying ordinary work in the midst of the world caught my attention, and after periods of prayer in front of the tabernacle, I decided to ask to be admitted to the Work. When I told Encarnita, she told me in a few words that vocation is a gift from God, that He takes the initiative, and that we must respond every day.



I remember the affection Encarnita showed towards my whole family. She wrote to my parents, especially when there was a political issue in Europe or Spain that might worry them. My family treasured her letters and were very grateful for them.

Encarnita opened up new paths. St. Josemaría had explained to her that God needs courageous Christian women. God continues to need the courageous response of women and men in this new century. It is good for us to look back at those beginnings so that we can begin again now.

(Mariela Pacho's story abridged)

A providential arrival

I was enjoying a leisurely drive through the city. At one point, I decided to take a different route, one I didn't normally take. As we drove down that unfamiliar street, something unexpected caught our attention. On the pavement, we saw a desperate mother with her child, who was having convulsions. My companion and I quickly got out of the car and approached them.

Despite our efforts, the child showed no signs of improvement. At that moment, I remembered the story of Encarnita Ortega, which my son had told me about that morning. Daniel had said she is my angel in heaven, since I am a designer and manage a fashion business (Encarnita was a consultant in that field). I closed my eyes for a moment and fervently prayed in silence for her intercession. We called 911 and were told that no ambulances with a stretcher were available and that the best thing to do was to take the child in a private car.

PRAYER

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 faithfully that quest 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.

Those who obtain favours through the intercession of Encarnita Ortega are asked to notify the Prelature of Opus Dei, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL; e-mail: ocs.uk@opusdei.org

FAVOUR

Almost instantly, a police car appeared in front of us, lights and sirens blaring. The officers approached and offered to escort us to the hospital. Grateful and amazed, we got back in the car and followed the policemen, who were making their way through the congested traffic. The roar of engines and flashing lights created a sense of urgency and adrenaline flowed through our veins as we tried to stay close to the police.

Finally, we arrived at the hospital. Doctors and emergency personnel were waiting and took charge of the convulsing child. His mother, grateful and emotional, hugged us with tears in her eyes. With a heart full of gratitude, I knew that Encarnita Ortega's intercession, although my prayer seemed like a simple thought, had been heard.

KD (Costa Rica)



NEWS OF THE CAUSE

The diocesan investigation has been completed, and the Cause is now in its Roman phase

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