

# JOSÉ MARÍA HERNÁNDEZ GARNICA

Newsletter of the Office for the  
Causes of Saints,  
Prelature of Opus Dei in Britain  
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## A priest filled with optimism

Asked by St Josemaría to extend the work of Opus Dei, Fr José María lived in several European countries: England, Ireland, France, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Holland. Despite his great intelligence and excellent memory, he was not good at languages. He took this limitation in his stride.

Margarita Berga Codony recalls the years he spent in Cologne (Germany): “Fr José María was very apostolic and humble. He gave catechism classes to the girls who worked in the Residence. He had learned a lot of German vocabulary, but did not pronounce it well. He was aware of this difficulty, and in spite of everything he did not mind that they sometimes laughed at him for that reason.”

From his correspondence we can see the effort of his apostolic work. In his first letter from France to the Founder, we can see how he tries to sustain the hope of others: “Everyone at home is happy. Father, they only need injections of optimism (...) Tomorrow we have a recollection and it seems that some young people will be coming. We are happy that they are responding, although if no one comes, we would also be happy because we know that all apostolic work is useful and fruitful.”

In a letter, in which the Servant of God instructs a member of Opus Dei to explain to another member the seriousness of his terminal illness, he gives supernaturally meaningful guidance: “We cannot in

conscience let him be unaware of the seriousness of his condition. It would be good for you to tell him, so that he can take advantage of it and offer it up for the whole Work, and that he recalls how Isidoro bore his last illness (...) Let him remember that the Lord is our Father and knows better than we do what is good for us (...)”.

The clear awareness that divine Providence governs all things led Fr José María habitually not to give importance to difficulties.

Dr. Martínez Lage, who diagnosed the final illness of the Servant of God, underlines his human and supernatural outlook: “From the first moment, I was impressed by his attitude (...) He did not ask me about the diagnosis, certainly very sombre, in this first consultation (...) I think he was fully aware that his illness was serious or very serious but, out of docility and supernatural vision, he remained smiling throughout the consultation, exuding joy and spiritual peace, as if he were not the sick person (...)”.

In one of the meditations he wrote at the end of his life, when he was no longer able to preach, he said: “Have the confidence to accept things as they come: that is, when we are not in good health, when something professional does not go according to the plans we had made, when family misfortunes happen to us or when we have to live through a period of spiritual struggle (...). We will not feel misfortunate, nor will we feel that, at that moment, we are being asked to do more than we should.”

## DOCUMENTARY:

*José María Hernández Garnica. Through the paths of Europe* (27 min)  
Goya Producciones, Madrid 2008.

## FAVOURS

### A job in the pandemic

I worked in a small, congenial company with a European focus, which allowed me to travel and meet many cultures and people. My company was bought by a multinational. I was offered a position, but at a national level. It was providential that on a trip to Barcelona, I went to Mass in the parish where "Chiqui" is buried. As he was such a "traveller", I entrusted him with finding a new job. I am 49 years old, which is not an easy age to find a new job. A few days later, I received a call offering me a position in a small company, also with a European focus. However, during the selection process, and when there was only the final interview left, in which there were candidates from other places, my country started the lockdown, so I had to do the interview by Skype. I urged Chiqui even more strongly to have me hired, despite not having been able to do the interview in person. And I was hired. I would like to say that the combination of the requirements I wanted for a new "ideal" job, together with my age and the pandemic situation, make this job change a great favour indeed. I now pray to Chiqui that the financial impact of the pandemic will not be too severe. I am also making a donation so that devotion to this great priest will spread and contribute to our soon being able to see him on the altars. Thanks be to God, to Chiqui for having mediated, and to you for spreading the life and works of this Servant of God.

*A.A. Spain.*

### The good cheer of grace

As a result of the pandemic, my mother could no longer go on trips as she used to. She only went out to buy food, because in Mexico City, the infection curve has not flattened out; on the contrary, it rose in December and January. My nephews and nieces could not come to visit my mother, so she felt unwell and sad. At first I thought she might be infected with Covid, but she wasn't; she was diagnosed with fatigue and depression. I began to pray to Fr José María Hernández Garnica, who I affectionately call Don Chiqui, and on the first day her mood began to improve; after 8 days she was feeling better; with the treatment they gave her to improve her mood, she is now well. And my nephews and nieces have come to visit her on several occasions. Although my mum has improved, I continue to pray to Don Chiqui that she will be in good health and in good spirits. Thank you, Don Chiqui.

*G.S. Mexico*

## NEWS OF THE CAUSE

The Positio on his life, virtues and reputation for sanctity has been delivered to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

[www.josemariahernandezgarnica.org](http://www.josemariahernandezgarnica.org)



**The Servant of God**

**JOSÉ MARÍA  
HERNÁNDEZ  
GARNICA**

### PRAYER

Lord God, you wished to count on your servant and priest José María to spread the call to holiness in everyday life in many parts of the world. Help me to get to know and follow Jesus Christ closely in my ordinary work, so that I can convey to many souls the joy of responding to the Christian vocation. Deign to glorify your servant José María and grant me, through his intercession, the favour I ask of you ... *(here make your request)*. 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.*

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