
FR. JOSEPH IGNACIO TORMO EDERRA

DECEMBER 8, 1952 - JANUARY 5, 2026



REQUIEM MASS



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

FR. JOSEPH IGNACIO TORMO EDERRA

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BIOGRAPHY

Reverend Father José Ignacio Tormo Ederra, fondly known as Fr. Joseph, felt a deep sense of belonging to Nigeria and to his spiritual family, Opus Dei, in his adopted homeland for four decades.

Whether it was in an informal discussion, during spiritual direction or in the confessional it was easy to get along with him, to open up to him, to tell him about whatever was bothering you. His response after listening with patience was often: "we are in God's hands."



"We are in God's hands" was a phrase Fr Joseph was fond of saying, most times with a smile, his hands spread out and, almost without fail, clutching a Rosary.

Fr. Joseph's hands were always busy, his manual dexterity for fixing and repairing things was exceptional. He treated the countless students, workers and professionals who came to him with the same attention that he paid to carefully fixing things: gold-plating, working on silverware, as well as on tabernacles, chalices and other delicate materials used for divine worship. He was always ready to teach others what he knew how to do, such as the binding of books, creating artistic picture frames and even making rosaries.

The same hands that burnished sacred vessels also absolved sins and blessed souls who came to him.

He was ordained a priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei in 1980. Six years later, he arrived in Nigeria where he spent the last 40 years dedicating himself to souls.

Before he came to Nigeria, he preached many spiritual retreats in various Spanish cities and was spiritual director to numerous men and women. He was the first priest of the Iroto Conference Centre, where he lived as the resident priest, preacher and confessor, first from 1986 to 1994, and then from 2014 to 2024.

Between 1994 and 2003 he was the priest at Ugwuoma and Uzommiri, centres of Opus Dei in Enugu and in 2004 was appointed by the Prelate at the time - Msgr. Javier Echevarría - to work in the Regional Commission (organ of government of the men's section of Opus Dei in Nigeria). This he did from 2004 till 2014, when he returned to Iroto, twenty years after he completed his first stint there.

People loved speaking with him and going to him for spiritual direction and confession. This was because he brought them so much peace, had a knack for dispelling whatever worries they had, and always encouraged them to a renewed struggle for holiness in daily life. While at

Iroto Conference Centre, Fr Joseph heard an uncountable number of confessions and preached many spiritual retreats and workshops for thousands of men and women, all of whom appreciated the help he gave them to improve their Christian lives as well as their knowledge of Catholic doctrine.

In his presence, people did not feel judged, hurried, or overpowered by authority; instead, they felt welcomed and listened to. This openness allowed them to speak honestly about their struggles, hopes, and doubts—essential for genuine spiritual growth.

Born in Valencia on 8 December 1952 into a family of nine children (5 brothers and 3 sisters), he loved *jamón* (dry-cured ham) as well as *paella* and was a big fan of Valencia Football Club. Though his years sprouted in Spain, he was rooted in Nigeria. His family members here in Nigeria, as well as his friends, remember his enjoyment of very spicy Nigerian meals.

Fr. Joseph travelled to Spain in October 2025 to accompany a sick person who was due for a hospital visit as well as to receive further medical attention for some ailments that he had. He was due for a surgery but needed to receive some other treatment beforehand. Throughout the period he was there, he was very cheerful and helped those who were around him in anything that was needed.

He wanted to return to Nigeria, his adopted homeland and hoped his visit for medical reasons to Spain would be short, because he felt a deep sense of belonging to this land and to his spiritual family. In fact, he mentioned often that it was important for him to spend his last days and die in Nigeria! However, God willed otherwise. Fr. Joseph died in his sleep on Monday, 5 January 2026, in Pamplona, Spain. It was an outcome he would have urged us to accept with the same trust and abandonment that marked his life, the firm faith that we are in God's hands. May the soul of Fr. Joseph and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in perfect peace. Amen!

Requiem Mass

ORDER OF MASS

ENTRANCE HYMN

YES I SHALL ARISE

Refrain:

Yes, I shall arise, and return to my father.

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you, O My God, I place all my trust.
2. Look down on me, have mercy O Lord. Forgive me my sins, behold all my grief.
3. My heart and soul shall yearn for your face, Be gracious to me and answer my plea.
4. Do not withhold your goodness from me, O Lord may your love be deep in my soul.
5. To you I pray have pity on me, My God I have sinned against your great love.
6. Mercy I cry, O Lord, wash me clean; And whiter than snow my spirit shall be.
7. Give me again the joy of your help, Now open my lips your praise I will sing.
8. Happy is he forgiven by God, His sins blotted out, his wilt is no more.
9. You are my joy, my refuge and strength, Let all upright heart give praise to the Lord.
10. My soul will sing, my heart will rejoice, The blessing of God will fill all my days.

PROCESSION

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

1. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like Thine
can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need Thee, O I need Thee;
ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

2. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
stay Thou nearby;
temptations lose their pow'r
when Thou art nigh. [Refrain]

3. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide,
or life is vain. [Refrain]

4. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
teach me Thy will;
and Thy rich promises
in me fulfill. [Refrain]

5. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed,
Thou blessed Son. [Refrain]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

May the Lord open to him the gates of Paradise, that he may return to that homeland, where there is no death, where eternal joy endures.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, almighty Father, who have strengthened us by the mystery of the Cross and promise us a share in the mystery of your Son's Resurrection, mercifully grant, we pray, that your departed servant **Joseph Tormo** may be gathered into the company of your chosen ones. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING (Daniel 12:1-3)

A reading from the Book of Prophet Daniel

In those days I, Daniel was mourning and I heard this word of the Lord:

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people.

And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book.

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9)

Response: ***For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.***

1. O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you; for you my soul is thirsting. For you my flesh is pining, like a dry, weary land without water. **(R)**
2. I have come before you in the sanctuary, to behold your strength and your glory. Your loving mercy is better than life; my lips will speak your praise. **(R)**
3. I will bless you all my life; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet; with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. **(R)**
4. For you have been my strength; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me. **(R)**

SECOND READING (Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brethren:

None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord of the dead and of the living. We shall all stand before the judgement seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So each of us shall give account of himself to God.

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (2 Timothy 2:11-12a)

Alleluia, Alleluia! If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him, and if we endure, we shall also reign with him. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL (John 12:23-24)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

At that time:

Jesus said to his disciples, The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honour him."

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray with faith and confidence to God our Father who lives forever and who can do all things. As He raised His Son Jesus Christ from the dead, so may He give peace and salvation to both the living and the dead.

1. Let us pray for **Joseph Tormo** that he may share the light of Christ's resurrection and come into the new life of happiness and peace. ***We pray O Lord. R. Lord hear our prayers.***
2. For those who this world is the be-all and end-all, that they may come to believe the good news of salvation, renew their lives and have faith in Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. ***We pray O Lord.***
3. For those suffering on account of bereavement, that the generosity of their fellow Christians may give them new unction and help them to relieve their anxiety. ***We pray O Lord.***

4. Let us pray for all who have come here to pray for **Joseph Tormo**, that we may live, act and speak in full realization that one day we shall be called upon to answer for our thoughts, words and actions. ***We pray O Lord.***
5. For the sick and suffering, that Jesus Christ who showed mercy to the infirm and the troubled may show them His bounteous mercy, and bestow upon them lasting health of mind and body. ***We pray O Lord.***

LET US PRAY

O Lord may these humble petitions find favour in your presence for the salvation of **Joseph Tormo** your servant, and all who have died in Christ, who is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

KOSISOCHUKWU BY JUDE NNAM

INTRODUCTION:

Chineke moo, Onyenwe moo, abiara m n'iru Gi, inye Gi ekele, Chukwu. Ana m aja Gi mma. Nna nk'igwe, ihe osoro Gi ee n'ime ndu moo mebe. K'osiso Gi Chukwu, Okaka ee, ihe osoro Gi ee n'ime ndu moo mebe!

REFRAIN:

K'osiso Nna. K'osiso Chineke Nna moo! K'osiso. Ka osi so Gi Chineke Nna moo! O diri m mma n'el'uwa, odiri m njo, a ga m aturu Gi mma mma n'obi ocha. Ngozi Gi, Chineke Nna, orugo m'aka. Ebe o masiri Gi Chineke Nna moo, o ma-siri moo!

VERSES

1. Obughi n'igbaka mbo n'ezie bu ya bu n'ego ekwe mkpata! Chetakwa n'ihe uwa si na'karaka! Ufodu n'ata ahuhu n'uwa echere chi ha. Emekata odi ka adigh'eme! A ga m agbar'egwu, buru onyinye m, wee bia n'ihu Gi. Omasi Gi Chineke Nna moo, o masiri moo!

2.Ekwere moo! Oge Chukwu kacha mma n'uwu. Ekwere moo! Ukwa ruo oge ya, ya daa!
Ngozi Chineke erusago m ka mmiri eh! Lee amara Ya n'ime ndu mo! Aga m agbar'egwu
buru onyinye m, wee bia n'iru Gi, omasi Gi, Chineke Nna moo, o masiri mo!

3.Ekene ka m ji bia. Ukwe ka m ji bia. Egwu oyorima ka m ji bia n'iru Gi Nna, ikele Gi n'ihe I
n'eme na ndu mo! Ahuhu bia na ndu mo, aga m atabanu ya n'obu Uche Gi. Añuri bia na
ndu mo, aga m añuriba n'ok'osiso Gi! K'osiso Chukwu. K'o_si so. K'o_si. K'o_si so Chineke
Nna mo, o masiri mo!

WHAT A BLESSED HOPE IS MINE

1. What a blessed hope is mine,
Through the love of Jesus.
I am heir of love Divine
Through the love of Jesus.

Refrain:

He will my soul defend
He my unchanging friend
He will keep me to the end
All glory be to Jesus (2)

2. For the blessed hope of Christ,
I lay strife of this world
For our salvation dear Christ
Did come down to us from the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, O Lord, on your servant **Joseph Tormo**, for whom we offer you the sacrifice of praise, humbly entreating that, reconciled with you through these devoted offices, he may merit to rise again to life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SANCTUS

MIMO L'OLODUMARE

CHORUS

Chant: Mi-mo L'Olodumare

Refrain: Mi-mo Mi-mo Mi-mo Mi-mo O - - - - L'o-lu-wa
(2x)

VERSE 1

Orun O-un a-ye yin O l'o-go o (*Refrain*)

Ho - -sa - -nah, L'oke Orun o (2x)

Chorus

VERSE 2

I-bu-kun ni f'eni t'onbo wa L'o-ruko O-lu-wa o (*Refrain*)

Ho - -sa - -nah, L'oke Orun o (2x)

Chorus

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 6:37)

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, says the Lord, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me.

COMMUNION HYMN

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul!"

Refrain:

It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

3. My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
If dark hours about me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

A LOS ARBOLES ALTOS

Moderato

1. A los ár - bo - les al - tos los lle - va el vien - to, y a
los e - na - mo - ra - dos el pen - sa - mien - to, el pen - sa -
mien - to. ¡Ay!, vi - da mi - a, el pen - sa - mien - to.

The musical score is written on three staves in 2/4 time. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes. A long slur covers the first two staves, and another slur covers the third staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

1. A los árboles altos
los lleva el viento,
y a los enamorados
el pensamiento,
el pensamiento.
¡Ay!, vida mía,
el pensamiento.

2. Corazón que no quiera
sufrir dolores,
pase la vida entera

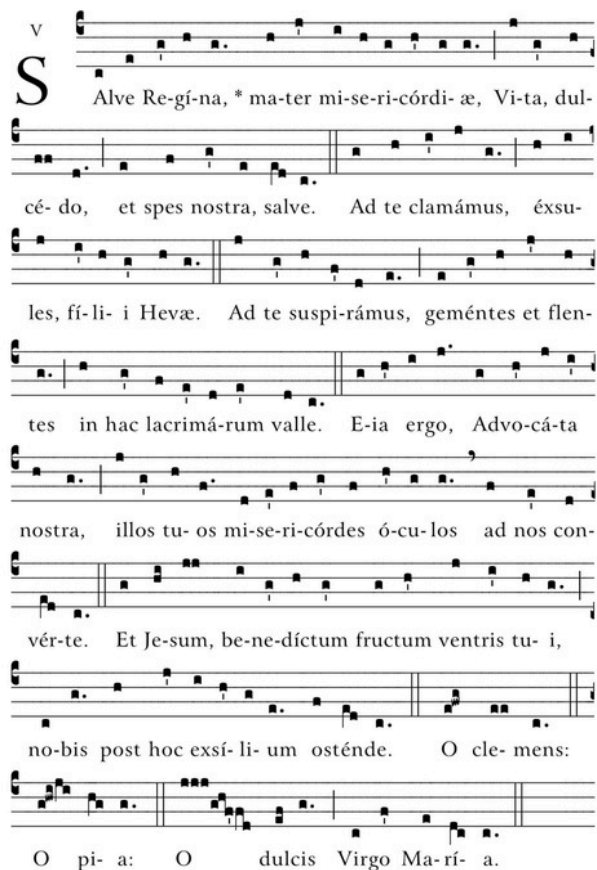
libre de amores,
libre de amores.
¡Ay!, vida mía,
libre de amores.

3. Corazones partidos
yo no los quiero,
y si le doy el mío
lo doy entero,
lo doy entero.
¡Ay!, vida mía,
lo doy entero.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this life-giving Sacrament, we pray, O Lord, that the soul of our brother **Joseph Tormo**, to whom you gave a part in your covenant, may be purified by the power of this mystery and rejoice without end in the peace of Christ. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

SALVE REGINA



S *Alve Re-gí-na, * ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ, Vi-ta, dul-
cé-do, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamá-mus, éxsu-
les, fí-li-i He-væ. Ad te suspi-rá-mus, geméntes et flen-
tes in hac lacrimá-rum valle. E-ia ergo, Advo-cá-ta
nostra, illos tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ó-cu-los ad nos con-
vér-te. Et Je-sum, be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i,
no-bis post hoc exsí-li-um osténde. O cle-mens:
O pi-a: O dulcis Virgo Ma-rí-a.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN

ABIDE WITH ME

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me
abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little
day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass
away;
Change and decay in all around I see—
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need Thy presence every passing
hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's
pow'r?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can
be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide
with me.







Condolence Letter of Msgr Fernando Ocáriz, Prelate of Opus Dei, to
Fr. Anthony Odoh, Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in Nigeria

Roma, 6 de enero 2026

Queridísimo Anthony: ¡que Jesús me guarde a mis hijos de Nigeria!

Acabo de recibir la noticia del fallecimiento de Joseph, y me uno de todo corazón a vuestra pena y a vuestras oraciones por este hijo fiel. Ofrezco sufragios por su eterno descanso –lo haré mañana en la Misa de modo particular–, y os encomiendo a la Santísima Virgen en estos momentos en que notáis su ausencia. Pedíamos al Señor por su salud, y Él sabe más y lo ha encontrado preparado para el Cielo. Ahora nos ayudará más y de modo particular a su querida Nigeria, en la que con tanta dedicación y cariño ha trabajado largos años.

El Señor se lo ha llevado tras años de generosa entrega en Casa: cuántas personas se habrán acercado a Dios a través de su ministerio sacerdotal siempre animante y con el que infundía tanta paz en las almas. Tenemos la segura esperanza de que Joseph habrá recibido el premio por su fidelidad y ahora, desde el Cielo, intercederá por toda la labor apostólica. Le pido por las intenciones que llevo en el corazón, especialmente ahora los Estatutos.

Joseph se nos han marchado dejándonos un gran ejemplo de piedad y disponibilidad. En su biografía se hacen realidad esas palabras que tanto gustaba repetir a nuestro Padre: *¡Fieles, vale la pena!*, y que nos animan a seguir luchando.

Os felicito a todos por esta solemnidad de la Epifanía, en la que nuestro Padre nos hacía considerar el don maravilloso de la vocación: demos gracias a Dios y cuidemos la Obra, como tantas hermanas y hermanos nuestros que, como Joseph, nos han precedido.

Os abrazo, me apoyo en vosotros y os bendigo

vuestro Padre Fernando

Condolence Letter of Msgr Fernando Ocáriz, Prelate of Opus Dei, to
Fr. Anthony Odoh, Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in Nigeria
(English Translation)

Rome, 6 January, 2026

Dearest Anthony: May Jesus protect my children in Nigeria!

I have just received the news of Joseph's passing, and I wholeheartedly join you in your grief and prayers for this faithful son. I offer prayers in suffrages for his eternal rest - I will do so tomorrow at especially at Mass - and I entrust you all to the Blessed Virgin at this time when you feel his absence. We asked the Lord for his health, but He knows best and has found him ready for Heaven. Now he will help us more, and in a special way his beloved Nigeria, where he worked with such dedication and affection for so many years.

The Lord has taken him after years of generous service in the Work: very many people have come closer to God through his priestly ministry, through which he encouraged and instilled such peace in souls. We have the sure hope that Joseph will by now have received the reward for his fidelity and now, from Heaven, will intercede for all the apostolic work. I ask him for the intentions I carry in my heart, especially now the Statutes.

Joseph has left us, leaving us a great example of piety and availability. In his biography, those words that our Father liked to repeat so much come true: "*Fieles, vale la pena!*" (Be faithful; it is worthwhile!) and which encourage us to continue struggling.

I greet you all on this solemnity of the Epiphany, in which our Father made us consider the wonderful gift of the vocation. Let us give thanks to God and take care of the Work, like so many of our sisters and brothers who, like Joseph, have gone before us.

I embrace you, I rely on you, and I bless you

Your Father,
Fernando

TRIBUTES

As we grow older, we begin to lose the people we love – the people who formed us, guided us, and shaped our lives.

It is a sober reminder to live with preparation, awareness, and above all, gratitude for the life we cherish, the life we often take for granted, and the life we strive to make better for those who come after us.

These are the hard truths – the quiet wounds left by time.

Rest in peace, Father Joseph, until we meet again, to part no more.

Anthony Ezulike

Dear Fr. Joseph, You were an epitome of cheerfulness. I thank God to have met you. Thank you for everything you have done for us. May God Almighty rest your soul in peace.

Samuel Ezeoba

Dear Father, I will miss you. Thank you for being a warm, guiding light on my path. Praying that you are already enjoying the beatific vision. Please pray for us as we continue on this journey. Hope to see you again soon.

Emmanuel Ugo Nwoba

Gracias Father Joseph, he tenido la inmensa suerte de conocerte en Pamplona y he sentido a tu lado la presencia de Dios tan cerca. Espero que al lado de Dios no te olvides de mí gran familia, especialmente de mi hija Belén. He llorado pero también he dado gracias. Muchas gracias, a ti y a Dios.

Thank you, Father Joseph. I was extremely fortunate to meet you in Pamplona, and I felt God's presence so close to me when I was with you. I hope that, now you are with God, you will not forget my large family, especially my daughter Belén. I have cried, but I have also given thanks. Thank you very much, to you and to God.

Raquel Negro

Fr Joseph,

Thank you for the quiet sacrifice, the good humor, the genuine interest in people.

Thank you for the good example in how you bore the different health challenges you had.

Thank you for the sacrifice of dying outside Nigeria when I think you preferred to die here.

Now that you have gone to be with God, help us from there. You know our realities, intercede for us.

Chuma Onyejizu

With a heart full of gratitude and deep sorrow, I write to pay tribute to a spiritual father, guide, and friend, Rev Fr Jose Ignacio Tormo Ederra, known to us simply and affectionately as Fr Joseph.

For forty years, Fr Joseph made Nigeria his home, his mission field, and his family. From his arrival in 1986, he dedicated himself entirely to souls, leaving an indelible mark on countless lives. We remember him not only as a Priest of Opus Dei but as a beacon of personal sacrifice, gentle, and joyful fidelity.

Many of us came to know his profound guidance at the Iroto retreat centre. For years, including the pivotal month of March 2020, just before the world shut down, and again the following year when we wore face masks for the retreat, he led us through the profound silence and clarity of good retreats. In those sacred spaces, he skilfully opened the treasures of St. Josemaría Escrivá's teachings, forming our interiors through his wise mediation, his insightful homilies, and his focus on finding God in the ordinary.

Fr Joseph had a rare gift for making holiness thinkable and approachable. Who could forget his cheerful presence during silent retreat meals, where he would teach us playful table napkin tricks? That simple, friendly act spoke volumes of his character, accommodating, joyful, and ever mindful of bringing a light-hearted warmth to even the most solemn moments. He embraced our culture with a full heart, a love reflected in his fondness for our food, the delight he took in a hot bowl of Okro soup and Garri with spicy goat meat, and even the simple pleasure of pap and akara at Iroto.

He was a man of a pure heart, whose life preached the most powerful sermon: that service to God is far, far more important than comfort or worldly achievement. He embodied this truth in his remarkable

dedication to the rural community of Iloti in Ijebu Ode. There, he lived a life of quiet commitment, showing us that love for God is best expressed in love for His people.

I recall, years ago at the interment of another Opus Dei priest at the Obalende Cemetery in Ikoyi, Lagos, Fr Joseph quietly pointed out a cluster of six or more pre-purchased tombs. With his characteristic peace, he indicated them and mentioned that he, too, would one day be laid to rest there among his brothers. It was a poignant reminder of his deep sense of belonging to this land and his spiritual family. For me, it etched in my mind the finite nature of life on earth.

Now, as we learn he has passed in his sleep in Pamplona, Spain, there is a personal pang of regret. I wish I had known he hadn't been well. I would at least have reached out, prayed more fervently for him, or done something. But then, God knows best. His plans are perfect, even when they take our loved ones in ways we did not foresee.

As a beneficiary of his interior formation, I join a great multitude in saying we will miss him dearly. We will miss his gentle smile, his peaceful spirit, and his steadfast companionship on the path to God.

Fr Joseph has been called home. While we feel his absence, we entrust his gentle soul to the infinite mercy of God, with hearts full of hope and thanksgiving for the priestly life he lived among us.

May his gentle soul, through the mercy of God, rest in perfect peace. Amen.

To Fr Joseph, a Servant of God, requiescat in pace!

Prof. Fabian Ajogwu, SAN

Dear Fr. Joseph,

Your life was a blessing for all of us who got to know you! I learnt a lot from you.

You taught me devotion to the holy souls in purgatory. I can attest that they are real because of the help I have received from them. With your departure, my devotion will be strengthened.

I can never forget this beautiful prayer you taught me for keeping the presence of God in the street: "Con Dios salgo de casa. Jesus acompaña me. Jesus, Maria y Jose, ven conmigo los tres! This prayer has

been ringing in my ears since I heard of your departure.

I fear the English translation of the prayer does not do justice to its poetic beauty and conciseness when prayed in Spanish, but here it is: "With God I am stepping out, Jesus accompany me, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, come with me, all three of you!"

The way you lived out your worsening health condition was for me a lesson in patience and abandonment in divine providence. You were always cheerful and prompt in attending to others so much so that we often forgot you were very ill. You knew how to use all your natural endowments - your handsome and stately presence, your knack for repairs, your sense of humor, your eye for detail, etc - to attract souls to God.

May our Lady with her Sabbatine privilege lead you to heaven to join the company of the saints contemplating the beatific vision.

¡Hasta la vista en el cielo don José!

Daniel Nyambi

Fr. Joseph you've been to me as a father indeed for many years now. Though you helped prepare me early on in my journey to the priesthood, the way you went straight on your knees asking my priestly blessings the first time we met again on my return to Nigeria said a lot to me of your deep humility and faith.

My consultations with you many times always left me in high spirit despite seeming a pest to you in your retirement age...who cared?

I know you'll continue enjoying there in heaven more than I saw you do here in earth... Never a dull moment with you as you listened, dined, commented on football, talked history and so on or about the latest silverware that needed 'shining'...

Fr. Joseph:

A contemplative and a practical man even a nerd in fixing things in the house and in machines to my amazement.

A devout child of our Lady clinging unto the Rosary, at times talking to her aloud when irritated rather than curse, plus a deep Eucharistic soul, deeply in prayer when celebrating the Holy Mass.

Full of anecdotes yet focused on the pillars - Jesus Christ through Mary with the Holy Father; and, for us in the Work, you kept us united to the Father and St. Josemaria Escriva's spirit.

You emphasised charity and fraternity with our brothers and sisters living by example in your affectionate care always foreseeing needs of the persons around you.

The greatest testimony is the life we live, all the souls you have guided in meditations, retreats, classes, spiritual accompaniment, Confession etc.

Intercede for us. Distance is no more a barrier! Pardon us for 'not allowing' you fulfill your wish to remain in Nigeria till your time which finally became today... Domine tu omnia nosti!

Rest in peace Fr. Joseph. I owe the Holy Mass I'll keep offering as suffrage for your repose though I don't believe you need it anymore having reached heaven safely!

Fr. Elobuike Asogwa



