

José María Hernández Garnica

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for the Causes of Saints

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He fostered the union with the Pope and the Bishops

Fr José María's life was an eagerness to serve the Church, and he was happy to have been able to serve her in many countries in Europe. He instilled in others loyalty to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff and union with the bishops in every diocese. In his preaching and in his work of spiritual direction with many souls, **he encouraged them to pray and offer mortifications for the Pope, to get to know his teachings and to obey his indications.**

Bishop Javier Echevarría, the second prelate of Opus Dei, wrote of the Servant of God: "Fr José María always prayed for the unity of the Church. He wanted it to be the place where all souls would be welcomed, respecting the freedom of each one. Naturally, **he prayed that there would be no fissures or divisions in the Church.** For this reason, he strictly rejected the slightest hint of gossip or criticism, because he did not want to tear the tunic of the Bride of Jesus Christ."

In 1965 the women of the Work in the Netherlands set up a student residence in Amsterdam. Shortly afterwards, the Servant of God went to Amsterdam and personally made the altar and altarpiece for the new oratory. On

the front of the altar he placed an aspiration that St Josemaría liked very much: *Omnes cum Petro ad Iesum per Mariam* (All with Peter – the Pope – to Jesus through Mary). Helga Ohmes, who lived there, recalls some of the difficulties that arose in the post-conciliar period. "Fr José María was undoubtedly thinking about the situation of the Church in the Netherlands in those years when many things were being called into question, **especially the union with the Roman Pontiff and devotion to Our Lady.**"

When he was already suffering from the throat cancer that shortened his life, he visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Covadonga in Asturias (Spain) with others. They had planned for him to celebrate Holy Mass for this small group, in a low voice, as it was too painful for him to raise his voice. But the sacristan changed the order without warning, and Fr José María ended up celebrating before a large group of pilgrims in the grotto. In his homily, he spoke with great force and in a high tone of voice about his love for Our Lady and **the need to pray for the Church through her intercession.** Those who heard him were deeply moved. He had to make a great effort, because the water of the waterfall below the grotto produces a very loud background noise.

FAVOURS

Good, nice and cheap

I am a graduate student in a country that is not my own and in a city where having a car is indispensable, because of the climate and the distance to certain places like churches. My car was damaged and repairing it was as expensive as buying a second hand one. For me the process of selling my old car and getting another one was complex, because I don't have much experience or mechanical skills to be able to judge a fair deal. When I started the process, what I was offered for my car was derisory: not even 5% of its value. On the other hand, the search for a used car was not easy either: the prices were very high and the cars were not in good condition. After a while without any luck, I decided to ask Chiquí [Fr José María's pet name] for help. I threatened him and told him that if he didn't get me a good, nice and cheap car and a buyer who would give me a fair price for my old car, I wouldn't ask him for any more favours and I wasn't going to spread his devotion. The result was that in less than 8 days I got a good, nice and cheap car, and the best thing was that whoever was selling it wanted my old car as part of the payment and, of course, gave me a fair price. The person I did the deal with was also very cordial, and let me take the car days before the payment money arrived in his account. In short, Chiquí came through in a big way and I did not fire him, but continue to ask and recommend him to my friends. **M.J.R. (USA)**



My disability was recognised

Three years ago I became unemployed. I was 58 years old and the way the world of work was going, returning to work seemed impossible. The benefits were running out and the time came when there were no more. A year ago I was diagnosed with a tumour in my lung, hip and pelvis, and the adventure of work became very difficult. I dedicated myself to praying to Fr José María using his prayercard so that he would help me to solve some of the many problems that were arising in my family environment: personal, medical and financial... Today, 10th August, I have received a communication in which, due to my injuries, a degree of disability has been recognised, which provides me with sufficient monetary help for serenity with family finances. For all these reasons: thanks to José María's intercession, his help has undoubtedly been key and determining... We continue to move forward, with great faith, in other matters in which I know that I can count on his help... **J.C. (Spain)**

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.

Those who obtain favours through Fr José María's intercession are asked to write about them to the Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL. e-mail: ocs.uk@opusdei.org

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 our 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.

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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