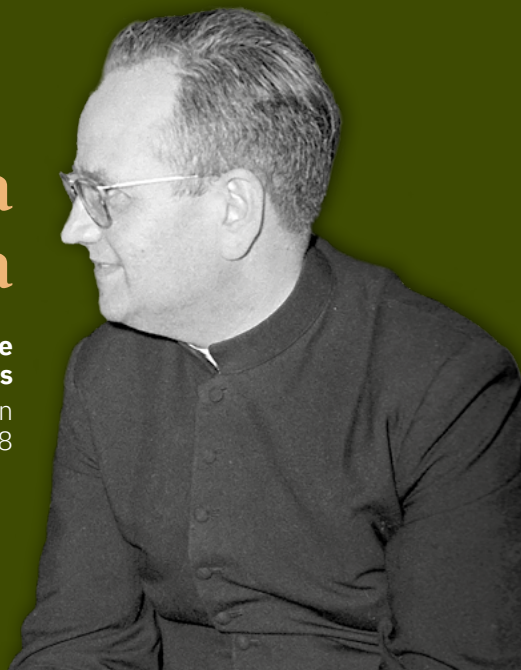


José María Hernández Garnica

Newsletter of the Office
for the Causes of Saints

Prelature of Opus Dei in Britain
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A sober and happy life

The Servant of God lived the Lord's invitation: "Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on.... your heavenly Father well knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Mt 6:25,32-33).

From the moment God called him to Opus Dei in 1935, Fr José María lived detached from material goods, and also from any fame, ideas, tastes, places of residence, etc.

In his constant travels through Europe for apostolic purposes, he was very thrifty, looking for the lowest fares. He would take sandwiches for the trip instead of eating in a restaurant. **He always wanted to act – as he learned from St Josemaría – like the father of a large and poor family, who takes careful account of all his expenses.** When he moved to live in another country, he carried only bare essentials in his small suitcase.

The Servant of God showed a **habitual renunciation of comfort** in the small houses in which the Work often began. In Germany his narrow room contained only a bed, a small table and a chair. In Paris he settled in a small space where sheets, towels, etc. were kept. It was very difficult to fit a bed in there. So Don José María made a folding bed that allowed the space to be used as a storage room during the day. By such ingenuity, he gradually became a skilful carpenter, an active way of living the Christian virtue of poverty. In residences of the Work in various European countries, he made altarpieces and altars for the oratories, and also items of furniture for other areas.

So as not to spend money, Fr José María made many trips on foot. When this was not possible because of distance or pressure of time, he used public transport. In Germany, when he was fifty years old, he got a bicycle, so that others could use the only car in the house.

In his final years, due to throat cancer and the therapies he was undergoing, his throat felt raw. Faced with some special care they wanted to give him, the sick man replied: "Never forget that, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, we will remain poor: such poverty unites us to Jesus Christ who was born, lived and died poor."

Favours

The bacteria had disappeared

Several months ago I suffered an infection by two kinds of bacteria. One was *Serratia fonticola* and later *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*). Antibiotic treatment did not work and, moreover, produced unwanted effects. It was a very resistant microbe.

I began to make a novena to Fr José María asking that the new antibiotic prescribed for 10 days would not produce any allergy or side effects. And so it happened: I had no negative effects. With faith I asked him to intercede with God so that the test would be negative. I also knew that even if my request was not granted, “everything turns out for the best”. I have just picked up the test and it was negative. I know that Fr José María interceded so that after almost a year the bacteria has disappeared.

M.D.C. – Spain

A providential intervention

Due to various life circumstances, my husband had become unemployed after being informed that his employment contract was not going to be renewed. All this at the age of 52, about to turn 53, when both his age and outdated education had distanced him from the demands of the labour market. It is true, however, that he had work experience.

When the end of his last work contract was imminent, a suggestion was made that I entrust him to Fr José María. His intervention could not have been more extraordinary since, 11 days after the end of his employment, he was already hired by another company with better prospects. There were 474 applications for the job for which he was hired, and the way in which the selection process was carried out clearly indicates a providential intervention.

C.M.P. – Spain

This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give alms to to assist in its publication may send donations by cheque to the address below or by bank transfer to:

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Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints,
4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL
e-mail: ocs.uk@opusdei.org

News of the Cause

The Positio on his life, virtues and reputation for sanctity has been delivered to the Dicastery 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



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.