

# José María Hernández Garnica

**Newsletter of the Office  
for the Causes of Saints**  
Prelature of Opus Dei in Britain  
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## 25 Years at Montalegre

The year 2026 will mark the 25th anniversary of the transfer of the remains of Father José María Hernández Garnica to the church of Santa María de Montalegre in Barcelona. His tomb, located on one side of the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, allows his devotees to come and pray to him in person. Over the course of these 25 years, without any form of public worship, private devotion to Father José María in Montalegre has continued to grow. Every year, on the anniversary of his death, many people participate in a Mass which is offered there in suffrage for his soul. Other events have also been organised, such as the presentation of the biography *Roturando los caminos* (*Breaking New Ground*) and round tables on the occasion of anniversaries in the auditorium of the nearby Blanquerna Faculty of Communication. Publications for young people have been promoted, such as a picture book of his life, a biography for young teenagers, *‘La historia de Chiqui’* (*The Story of Chiqui*); as well as ebooks and audiobooks of the biography *‘Abriendo horizontes’* (*Opening up Horizons*). The most relevant aspect of this private devotion to Father José María – known as ‘Chiqui’ to his friends and devotees – is the large number of people who come to

pray at his tomb, not only from all over Spain but also the rest of Europe, as well as from distant countries such as Australia, the Philippines and Panama. Some leave a record of their visit in the visitors’ book or book of intentions. As not everyone can come to pray in Montalegre, a communication channel has been set up – [jmhg@montalegre.org](mailto:jmhg@montalegre.org) – to receive requests for intercession and thanksgiving for favours granted. A committee of ‘Friends of Chiqui’ is responsible for doing this on his behalf and confirming that the request has been fulfilled. Colombia, Brazil, and Japan are some of the countries from which the most distant requests originate. There is no shortage of messages from devotees who share their intentions so that more people can join in, forming a ‘prayer chain.’ The favours granted by Chiqui are very varied. They range from domestic issues (a lost key, a computer that crashes) to more serious matters (success in competitive examinations, a broken marriage that is being healed, a serious illness). He also lavishes favours on Montalegre itself, such as financing the renovation of the church’s roof and exterior walls which were in a state of serious disrepair. Chiqui is truly grateful to his friends.

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**Father José María Hernández Garnica**

(Madrid, 1913 – Barcelona, 1972)

had a doctorate in Mining Engineering, Natural Sciences and Theology. He joined

Opus Dei in 1935 and was ordained a priest in 1944. He was one of the first three priests of the Work and was very close to

St. Josemaría. He worked apostolically

in several European countries: Spain,

England, France, Austria, Germany,

Switzerland, Belgium, Holland and Ireland.

He died of cancer.

## Favours

### God hears us

This past year, Father José María has granted me several favours. I prayed to him for a friend's intention. When I told this friend about it, she became interested in him, because she was surprised by his help, and she has grown closer to God even though she does not yet have much Christian formation. I also started going to Mass at the church in Montalegre with another friend who did not know Chiqui. I told her about him and we prayed to him. This Thursday she said 'yes' to God with a vocation of dedication.

**E.V.T., Barcelona**

### Decades of prayer

Grateful for the favour that Father José María H. Garnica has granted for my daughter, who can now get married, after 20 years of asking him to intercede for her. Her mother, S. L.

**Anonymous. Book of intentions**

## The Servant of God **José María Hernández Garnica**

### Prayer for private devotion

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 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 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.

[ocs.uk@opusdei.org](mailto:ocs.uk@opusdei.org)

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

### News of the Cause

The Cause is in its Roman phase.

