



Montse Grases

**Newsletter of the Office
for the Causes of Saints**
Opus Dei Prelature in Britain.
No. 27 | 2023

Whatever you want

On 26 May 2022, the Mass of thanksgiving for the Venerable Montse Grases was celebrated in the Oratory of Our Lady of Bonaigua, in Barcelona, after a two years' cancellation due to the pandemic. We were thanking God for an important step in the process of canonisation. On 26 April 2016, with the authorisation of Pope Francis, the then Congregation (now, Dicastery) for the Causes of Saints declared the heroic degree with which she practised her virtues.

The Rector of the Oratory, Fr Javier Palos, emphasised that the grace of God and her correspondence to it forged a serene character in Montse, without diminishing her joy and vitality. When she found out that she had an incurable tumour, in front of an image of Our Lady of Montserrat which is now in the crypt of the Oratory where her remains are laid to rest, she told the Blessed Virgin: "Whatever you want". As it was already late, she went to bed and after a few minutes was fast asleep. The serenity with which she faced her illness reveals that she was a girl who was close to God. She understood that everything works out for the best and she humbly entrusted everything into His hands. God's grace helped her to accept with peace what seemed to make little sense. With her example, Montse encourages us to tell God "Whatever you want". *The Way* is a book by St Josemaría Escrivá that Montse often used for meditation. A text (no. 267) from there teaches us:

It's necessary to become convinced that God is close beside us all the time. –We live as though the Lord were far away, in the starlit heavens, and we don't consider that he is also always by our side.

And he is here like a loving Father – he loves each one of us more than all the mothers in the world can love their children – helping us, inspiring us, blessing... and forgiving.

How often we have cleared a frown from our parents' brows by telling them, after some misdemeanour: "I won't do it any more!" –Maybe that very day we fell once more... –And our father, with feigned harshness in his voice and a serious face, reprimands us..., while in his heart he is moved, realising our weakness, thinking: "Poor child, how hard he tries to behave well!"

We need to be imbued, to be saturated with the knowledge that the Lord, who is close beside us and in heaven, is our Father and very much our Father.

The *Non Nobis* choir of the Oratory of Our Lady of Bonaigua added a special flavour to the ceremony. At the end, the singing of the *Virolai* (a Catalan hymn dedicated to Our Lady of Montserrat) led the people present – together with Montse – to the feet of the *Moreneta* (Our Lady of Montserrat). ■

News of the Cause

Montse was declared Venerable in 2016.



Venerable Montse Grases

Prayer

O God, you granted your servant Montse the grace of serene and cheerful dedication to your will with admirable simplicity in everyday life. Grant that I may lovingly offer to you all my daily activity and convert it into Christian service for others. Deign to glorify your servant Montse, and through her intercession grant me 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 judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.

Those who obtain favours through Montse Grases' intercession are requested to write to the Office for the Causes of Saints, Opus Dei Prelature, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL. Email: ocs.uk@opusdei.org; or through the website www.montsegrases.org

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Favours

She takes care of my knee

I am fond of and devoted to Montse Grases. She got me through a complicated operation on my left knee when I was young. And the truth is that, since then, I usually entrust her with matters related to my personal physical health. I should go to her for more spiritual matters, I know, but at present, I am trying to survive moving house, which for various reasons is taking a long time (building work, etc.). Shortly before the peak moment of furniture removal, I was struck by a strong pain in my left knee. I told Montse to get rid of the pain so that I could play my part in carrying things during those days. And so it was: she granted me the favour and I was able to work without pain. **P. S. R. (Spain)**

Born against all odds

The daughter of a friend of mine was born against all odds. The doctors' advice was to abort her because she would either be born dead or with great deficiencies that would lead to her death within a few hours. Her mother has been telling me how hard she has fought for the baby's life. She comes regularly to Montse's crypt to pray to her and she feels especially confident about doing so with a prayer card that contains a small relic. We have made a prayer chain and many people are praying to Montse for this intention. Today I went with my friend to the crypt with her baby girl, to give thanks for her life and to continue praying: she is already seven months old and still needs help. **A. (Spain)**