

events

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新聞摘要

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由聖若瑟瑪利亞施禮華創辦

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歐華路主教被選為聖施禮華的第一位繼承人

2009年6月3日

(加入歐華路主教的相片)

聖施禮華在1975年6月26日逝世的三個月後，歐華路主教被選為他的繼承人作為主業會的首腦。



當歐華路主教在1975年9月15日被全體一致推選為創辦人的繼承人時，沒有人感到驚訝。他後來對選舉團說：「我可以理解你們為什麼選擇將主業會這個擔子放在這個卑微人的身上。我清楚知道我一文不值、一無所能、什麼都不是。你們這樣作是因為你們知道與你們任何一個相比，我與父親(聖施禮華)相處的時間較多，而你們想有連續性。你們不是投歐華路一票；而是選擇了我們的父親。」歐華路主教在1935年7月首遇聖施禮華後，便一真跟隨着他。

9月15日當天，大概下午一時，他走進和平之后座堂的地下室。這是歐華路主教被選為繼承人後首次拜訪創辦人的墓。當他進去時，在場所有人士皆起立以示尊敬。歐華路主教卻指向墓說：「只要有船長在，船員便不會發號施令(西班牙諺語)，而船長現正在此。」隨後便跪下親吻大理石碑，說：「請求他從天上管理主業會，讓他所有的繼承人只當作他的工具而已。」

歐華路主教常如他自己所說的「以極大的喜悅」來引用教宗保祿六世在聖施禮華逝世後首次接見他時給與他的建議：「他鼓勵我要絕對地忠於創辦人的精神。他用堅定而熱切的語調對我說：『每當你有什麼事情需要解決時，把自己置於天主的臨在中，問問自己：創辦人會怎樣做呢？然後便照着做。』」

於1994年3月23日歐華路主教辭世當天，現任主業會監督蔡浩偉主教用這些話語來概括歐華路作為主業會領導人期間的工作：「他在任時將主業會管理得極出色。基於各種理由，這是個絕妙的經歷。他必須成為一個聖人的見證人，而他接受了這挑戰（容許我這樣說），並以與創辦人同樣的端莊舉止，步伐與幹勁向前邁進。」

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歐華路主教的列聖案件

歐華路主教的列聖案件經已開始。他是主業會自治社團的首任監督。為了紀念歐主教，現分享一些軼事和因他的轉禱而獲得應允的恩惠。

2012/03/12



準時

2011年9月6日 如我所料，拉哥斯是一個大都會，很多時在無法預計的交通情況下，能夠準時到達目的地是比較困難的。在這情況下，我通常會請求歐華路主教為我代禱，這樣我便會非常準時到達目的地。

有時想找一輛計程車或巴士同樣是非常困難，我也會請歐華路主教代禱，他也從不會使我失望。

同樣，在快要下雨時，我也會請求歐華路主教為我代禱，只不過是簡單的禱文：「歐華路主教，請你為我祈求，不要下雨，至少讓我回到家中才下雨吧。」這樣的禱文可真的見效——只見天空一片平靜，大風竟將黑雲吹散了！就算剛開始下雨，也只是毛毛細雨，而這現象會持續至我到達目的地——明顯是歐華路主教代禱的證據，我可作證，有時當我剛抵達目的地時便傾盆大雨了。

歐華路主教總是樂意地接受嚴峻的挑戰，至少這是我和他交往時所體驗到的。在歐華路主教探訪尼日利亞時(1989)，我得到他親自接見——他散發著一股強烈的神聖的靈氣，



而他整個生命也見證了這份神聖。試試找他代禱吧！

V.P., 尼日利亞

含羞草樹上的奇遇

2009年6月3日

我媽媽提議我去剪些粗大而正在開花的含羞草回家，因為那花芬芳撲鼻。我爬上梯子剪下一些樹枝，可是因為我太貪心，竟失足從梯上跌了下來，倒在樹叢中。我並沒有受重傷，但當我下跌時，有一根樹枝擦到我的眼睛，弄掉了一片隱形眼鏡。園丁日前在花園用細小的木屑及其他雜物覆蓋著樹下的地面，我知道能夠找回那片隱形眼鏡一定是個奇蹟，尤其是我只可用一隻眼睛來找——沒有戴上眼鏡的我等同盲了一樣！我想「歐華路主教，你的機會來了！」。之後，我一邊找那片隱形眼鏡，一邊唸着我所能記憶到的歐華路主教的敬禮禱文，我答應歐華路主教如果他願意幫助我，我一定會寫下這事件。轉瞬間，我竟發現那片隱形眼鏡就在我的腳前。我真的很感激歐華路主教！雖然我知道這只不過是另一個隱形眼鏡的故事，但為我來說這是一個真正的蹟。

E.C., 英國



他總不會讓我失望

2009年6月6日

我子宮有一個瘤需要切除，這不單是因為它可能會變成癌症，而且它不停地出血，這會使我患上貧血的。當我準備做手術那天，有些意想不到的事使手術未能如期進行。於是，我祈求歐華路主教，希望那個瘤會自動消失。在一個月內，那些病徵停止了，當我返回醫生那兒作掃描檢查時，他告訴了我一個好消息——那個瘤消失了。從那天起，我完全康復了。我知道是歐華路主教醫治好我。我媽媽證實患了子宮癌，這對全家來說是一個打擊，因為醫生說他們不能確定那癌擴散的情況。於是，我再一次向歐華路主教祈求。之後，我媽媽做了一個CAT掃描，竟證實癌細胞並沒有擴散。我非常感激歐華路主教，現在我每天工作前也會用他的祈禱卡向他請求。他總不會讓我失望。

PCV, 葡萄牙

歐華路主教一直幫助我

2011 年8月9日

以下記述的事件使我更接近歐華路主教，我亦想藉此機會與你們分享我與丈夫G透過歐華路主教的代禱所得到的幫助。

2010年3月——我在加拿大溫哥華寓所的洗衣機漏水，滲漏到下層的單位（我們之所以發現這事件是因為樓下的住客敲打他們的天花板——即我們的地板）。我丈夫G便到樓下查看，那單位的住客只對他說：「哦，沒有問題。」這樣，我們再沒有跟進，也沒有再想起這件事。（雖然不曉得為什麼，G總是有點擔心我們會有麻煩，但我向他保證不要擔心，況且我們的單位沒有面對任何結構上的破壞，加上樓下的住客也說他們沒事。）

2010年7月——出乎意料，我竟然收到房東的電話，他問我是否知道2010年3月那次漏水是由我們單位的洗衣機範圍引致的。我對他說：「是的，洗衣機曾在使用時漏水。」我亦告知他G已經查問樓下的住客，他們亦說沒事。我補充說之後再用那洗衣機時也沒有什麼事故。然後房東說：「是嗎……但我收到由Strata發出的帳單，要我們支付一筆因為你們的單位漏水引致樓下單位損毀的維修費，而這張帳單的銀碼相當大，是7,200加幣。」我被這個消息嚇壞了，我顫抖地回覆：「喔，據我所知，那次我們沒有異常地使用洗衣機；而且那洗衣機現在還是好好的。」他再說：「那……好吧；遲些再說吧。」我們的對話就這樣終止了。

收到這個消息後，我非常擔心我們要支付這筆費用。稍後，G提及他在2010年3月所擔心的就是會發生類似的事。現竟確實發生了。

我馬上將我們的苦況告知我住在多倫多的姊妹M，她毫不猶豫地提議我應向歐華路主教祈禱，懇求他幫助，並與他作出以下的協議：如果我們可以不用支付這筆費用，我們會將這筆款項捐給主業會作為主業會發展的用



途。她說我亦可以向他說：「神父呀，我願意將那筆款項資助你的計劃以代替支付那些維修費用。」我說：「那，好吧，這樣也不錯！」起碼這是一個雙贏的局面。

2010年8月——我收到房東寄給的一封信，內容是關於那次漏水的事，並作出以下的聲明：「我們現在通知你這是租客的责任[支付給Strata的7,200元]。」

2010年9月——在我父親的協助下，我與G寫了一封回信給房東，請他轉向保險公司索償（而我則繼續向歐華路主教祈求，期望這個惡夢盡快結束。並提醒記着我們的「協議」。）

2010年11月——房東回覆我們說他們沒有投保；就算他們有買保險，也未必需要賠償損失，因為當時負有法律責任的一方（指我們，即我們需要負責，所以我們要支付那筆費用）須要承擔這個費用的。

在信中，房東通知我們，他們已經向房屋部門提交了判決訴訟，而聆訊日期竟然是2011年3月11日早上9時正（沒錯，3月11日——歐華路主教的生日）。於是我便把這事告知我姊妹M，那時她正在羅馬。她建議我繼續祈禱，提醒歐華路主教我與他在2010年9月的協議，即：

- (1) 用那筆款項去資助他的事業/計劃——但今次我要明確地指出，是為在Squamish 建築中的Britannia Beach會議中心；
- (2) 也撥一部分款項去羅馬探訪我姊妹M；而最重要的是
- (3) 在這旅程親自答謝歐華路主教的幫助。

打從2010年11月左右，我更熱切地向歐華路主教祈求。雖然我與歐華路主教的「協議」還未兌現，但我已經做了一些損獻。G與我亦決定搬離寓所，住在我父親的家中。

2011年3月11日8時50分，我取出歐主教的祈禱卡，祝他生日快樂，然後全心全意地向他祈求，請他幫助（尤其在接著的一小時聆訊中尤為重要）。我亦將祈禱卡交給我丈夫G叫他祈禱，之後在整個聆訊中，我將祈禱卡放在我們面前的桌上。

大家庭是信仰的見證

2012年3月1日

教宗本篤十六世在二月十五日舉行的週三公開接見活動後發言：「大家庭是信仰的見證,是整個國家富裕及希望的泉源。」

「在當今的社會背景下,子女眾多的家庭是信仰、勇氣、樂觀的見證, 因為沒有子女便沒有未來。」

教宗對「意大利大家庭協會」的代表發表了以上談話。在這早晨聚會的家庭代表對教宗的談話內容都十分踴躍和喝采。

教宗繼續說: 「我祝願能進一步促進適當的社會及法律措施來保護和支持大家庭, 這些大家庭是整個國家富裕及希望的泉源。」

教宗也提起日前聖濟利祿及聖默多狄的瞻禮, 歐洲的守護主保, 希望他們的見證能幫助我們成為福音的福傳者, 成為真正能更新個人、家庭及社交生活的酵母。



聆訊在9時正開始, 房東及我們經過相當時間的陳述, 聆訊在半小時後結束。最後, 法官說: 「那麼, 我會在下周, 最遲下周五, 雙方來聽取判決。」哎呀! 還要等待! 我真的好想這個惡夢盡快完結!

好吧, 就繼續每天不停地向歐華路主教祈求, 或許這就是使我更接近歐華路主教的原因。(真的, 我現在記起, 我曾經向主業會的一位信友提及過, 在過往幾個月我好像和歐華路主教常有聯繫, 關係更為密切)

2011年3月16日——星期三, 下午5時30分。G帶着法官/房屋部長發出的信回家, 那封信他渴望見到我時才一起打開的信。我們便一同打開那封信, 他慢慢地翻閱着紙張, 而我由於焦慮不安, 竟喊出: 「噢, 歐華路主教!」之後, 我便笨拙地急促地翻看紙張, 搜尋法官的判決。

最終, 法官聲稱她不相信那洗衣機漏水是我們的疏忽, 因此, 我們不需負上任何責任。她駁回房東對我們的指控——這意味着我們不須支付那7,200元了!!!!

歐華路主教, 非常感謝你的代禱!

MLL Richmond (加拿大)

在地球上與一位天使共同生活，他的重擔是輕的

我是 Isabel Merino 。成為主業會會員已經二十五年了。我已婚並且育有四名子女。

2011年6月12日

我最幼小的兒子,Inigo, 2008年4月13日出生。



在懷孕時期，我身體出現了一些複雜情狀，必須在醫院高危病房接受觀察。在一次超聲波掃描檢查，發現胎兒有嚴重的心臟問題。我們了解胎兒出生後將會有一半機會患有綜合症狀。

在餘下的懷孕期，我不斷記起聖施禮華說道：「如果困難來臨時，你可以肯定，它們是天主要賜給你慈父的愛的鐵證。」(《煉爐》第815段)

沒有任何人，包括我作為他的母親，比天主更希望嬰兒活得最好。

他出生後幾小時，我們被通知兒子患有唐氏綜合症狀！期後的染色體測試結果證實了這個事實。

所有的祈禱，我們的祈求，為嬰兒健康向天父作出的哀求……難道是一切落空，豪無結果嗎？不是！其實所有的祈禱都協助我們以充滿喜悅的心情接受一個獨特兒子的來臨，對天主全心信賴！天生俯聽了我們的禱告。Inigo五個月大時成功接受了一項有生命危險的心臟手術。天主傾聽了我們的祈禱。今天，我們兒子已三歲了，並且在每天生活中，帶給我們無限的喜樂。

我經常默想聖施禮華在《道路》中說道：「凡全心接受天主的旨意，必然有快樂與平安：是基於「十字架」的快樂。這樣，我們才會發覺：基督的軛是柔和的，祂的擔子不是沈重的。」(第758段)

作為他的母親，我感到非常幸運，我們全家亦感到幸運。自從Inigo出生後，我意識到自己從未有過如此接近天主的感覺。我好像與一位天使共同生活在地球上。我越來越深信，每天，天主牽著我們的手帶領著我們。如果我們對祂懷著信任，祂永不會使我們失望的。

杜麗(Dora)在主業會擁有特別重要的位置

歐陽杜麗(Dora del Hoyo)是在主業會擔任家務工作的首位獨身會員。這是與Javier Medina神父進行的採訪，他寫了一本關於杜麗的簡短傳記，名為《一盞亮着的燈》(“A Lighted Lamp”)。

2012/03/18

你為什麼決定寫關於歐陽杜麗？你個人認識她嗎？

我沒有見過杜麗的榮幸。我只是透過曾經與她一起在羅馬生活的幾位女士所記錄有關她的生平而認識她。透過那些逸事，我發現她擁有富於吸引力的個性，使我急不及待讓其他人認識她。於是便開始寫這本書。



在左方的是杜麗

杜麗與主業會創辦人有什麼關係？

杜麗是主業會第一個擔任家務工作的獨身會員。聖施禮華在這位既忠信而又願意獻身的女兒身上，發現她擁有很多天賦，她總是懂得怎樣回應天主的召叫，那就是為什麼她在主業會擁有特別重要的位置。

書中指出家務工作是一真正的專業。這又怎樣應用於杜麗身上？

就工作而言，“專業”是指一些工作需要非常特殊的才幹；而“專業人士”是指一個人能夠表現出他擁有極高的能力去應付他的工作。所有關於杜麗的見證，一致地肯定杜麗以一極好的專業人士的能力來執行她的家務工作。她精通每項工作的細節，並以最高水準來完成它。

這一類型的專業工作與現今社會仍有關連嗎？



Fr. Javier Medina，
傳記的作者。

我們經常聽到人們投訴現今社會變得越來越冷酷。與此同時，我們都會渴望見到人與人之間有更多的團結、共融及互相諒解。我們如何能達到這樣？當然，這是沒有單一方案。在我來看，如果我們想人與人之間的關係得到改善，我們必須從最基本——家庭開始。

年青人——其實是每一個人——需要家庭 暖。如果他們無法找它便會很難學習怎樣與他人融洽地相處。就這觀點來說，明顯的像杜麗那樣負責打理家頭細務的人在社會的福利中扮演一個很重要的角色。那些當權者必須確信這事實，並積極鼓勵從事這行業的人員——作為對未來社會一項重要的投資。杜麗的那一種個性是最獨特的？

如果只容許我說一個特質，毫無疑問地是她對天主及鄰人的愛。她是一位胸襟廣闊的女士。

書中提到一些見證，回憶說杜麗在日常生活中是一名英勇的婦女。那些英勇行為指的是什麼？

基督徒的英勇行為不是指作了什麼「最困難」或「最偉大」的事。它產生於日常生活中，能夠在每件微小的事上，不斷地將愛表現出來。正如杜麗怎樣生活一樣：以愛去關懷別人。

（傳記，“Una luz encendida”，由在馬德里的發行人Palabra提供。）

監督為何黛麗女士封聖蒐集見證

2011年10月11日，監督蔡浩偉主教公開發表文告，呼籲所有認識主業會首位家政助理何黛麗女士的人士，提供一切有關為何黛麗女士立檔封聖事宜的資料。

2012 年3月17日

監督蔡浩偉主教致函所有主業會及聖十字司鐸會（Holy Cross）所有信徒

自主業會首位家政助理何黛麗女士於2004年1月10日過身後，神蹟隨即接踵發生，明確而廣泛地顯示她的聖德。自那天起，我陸續收到數百封信件，全部皆由曾與何黛麗女士一起生活的主業會信徒及其他認識她的人士署名親筆，詳盡地見證她身為基督徒虔誠的一生。



基於這些見證，我們務必繼續進行調查。依照現有基準初步查證後，我認為目前已有足夠條件為何黛麗女士（Salvadora del Hoyo Alonso）「立檔列聖」。

為此，我懇請所有聖十字司鐸會及主業會的信徒細心思考，是否存有不不論是正面或負面，與這次「立檔列聖」事宜有關的資料，以及何黛麗女士親撰以反映其本人及生平事蹟的書信或文件，並考慮願意將之全面公開，使調查有所進展，最終使事實真相呈現。

2011 年10月11日，羅馬

+ 蔡浩偉主教

經聖施禮華的代禱而獲賜的恩惠

膝下無兒



我們結婚已四年，經歷一次小產後，我沒再懷孕。有一天，我和丈夫決定作為祈禱，每晚誦念聖施禮華祈禱卡的禱文，懇求他為我們代禱，使我們可以成為父母。三個月後，我懷孕了，並於9月14日生下兒子若瑟。直到今日，我仍繼續祈禱，懇求聖施禮華看顧我家，並幫助我們經常愛慕天主的意願。多謝你，聖施禮華！

C. P., 西班牙
2012年2月13日

離婚在即



我的兒子和媳婦準備離婚，他們5歲及2歲的兒子眼看就難免要受苦了。為此，我向聖施禮華祈禱，他在數天內就回應了我。現在，我的兒子和媳婦和好如初，兩個小孩也大大地不一樣，生活得非常快樂。

J.R.I., 美國
2012年2月9日

遺漏的文件



那時我正在為即將到我家來度假的一個家庭做安排。由於我們政府近年傾向於嚴謹地簽發暫時居留証給海外人士，尤其是針對那些經常發生非法移民事件的國家。幾經波折及努力，我才準備好所有公文，而那即將來度假的家庭也已在他們的原居地辦妥一切，經他們的外交部及領事館審核後，寄到我手裡。最後，當我在辦事處正式辦理申請時，有關官員仔細地查收所有的公文，然後告訴我，當中遺漏了一份。我在離家之前，依照清單點算過很多次，怎樣想也想不通為何會遺漏了一份。那可不是小事，因為如果我們要再次取得所需的公文，就不得不由那個家庭的原居地開始重新辦理手續，而剩下的時間及經費有限，根本就不容許我們這樣做。回家後，我再次依照清單檢查所有的公

文，發現當中並不包括那份遺漏的文件，因為我所提交的申請不需要它。可是，倘若要說服官員是他搞錯了，是件不大可能的事。然而，那是我唯一可做的事。因此，我決定翌日再走一趟，希望他們不要再提及他們認為那份所需的文件。

我沒有九天的時間向聖施禮華祈禱作個九日敬禮，但我卻需要他的幫忙。所以我在地鐵裡重複誦念聖施禮華祈禱卡的禱文，包括天主經、聖母經及聖三光榮經。在到達辦事處時，我連續誦念了九遍。

這一次換了一名非常親切的官員接見我。當他問到該份文件時，我解釋那並不適用於這次申請，他馬上就同意了。他隨即收下所有文件，交予辦理。我相信他也沒有與同事多加討論，因為我在限期內已拿到批准。

我理解我的祈求，相較於治癒、皈依、危難得救，是微不足道的。但對我而言，那份遺漏文件的確是件棘手的難題，因此我十分感謝聖施禮華，他令事情圓滿解決，就如一件天大的要事一般。

J.L.G.M., 西班牙
2012年1月26日

兒子絕食



我的兒子22個月大，不願吃東西。我祈禱，但卻不見起色。我答應聖施禮華，倘若孩子願意再次進食，我就會公開見證這份恩惠。感謝天主，我的兒子現已正常吃東西。我為此，同時亦為其他種種恩寵，感謝聖施禮華。

宏都拉斯
2012年1月23日

在我陷入絕境時，他聆聽我！



我一直祈求聖施禮華為我代禱，但我最近得到天主的恩惠，使我欣喜若狂。在我快要失去家園之際，他及時營救了我。我找到了工作。出走四年的兒子安然返家。我的婚姻也很美滿。為了這一切，我衷心感謝聖施禮華。在我陷入絕境時，他聆聽了我的哀求。感謝！

L. J., 波多黎各
2012年1月21日

經聖施禮華的代禱而獲賜的恩惠

寬恕的救贖價值

2011年10月24日

Bernardo M. Villegas 博士，發表於Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation



羅蘭·約菲，查理·考克斯，魏斯·班特利

在菲律賓的馬尼拉，上世紀六十年代和七十年代的電影迷都被已故導演大衛·連恩 (David Lean) 的大銀幕電影和他傑出的攝影深深吸引。

我那一代鍾情的名片有如《桂河大橋》、《阿拉伯的勞倫斯》、《齊瓦哥醫生》、《印度之旅》，這些電影均由在一九九一年離世的大衛·連恩導演所執導。隨後同類的史詩影片則由兩屆奧斯卡獎提名導演羅蘭·約菲 (Roland Joffe) 執導，代表作為《戰火浮生》、《殺戮戰場》與《歡喜城市》。



魏斯·班特利 飾演 Manolo

然而，羅蘭·約菲導演總會添加一些價值觀到電影裡。在他所有的成功的作品中，總是有著重量級的象徵性，捕捉持續不斷以英勇的美德戰勝邪惡的人性鬥爭。

羅蘭·約菲導演最新的電影是“寬恕就是愛” (There Be Dragons)，這是一個關於西班牙血腥的內戰時革命者和聖人的故事。五十萬以上的人在這場持續了幾

乎有四年之長的戰爭中被殺害。整個故事的情節由愛情、英勇和嫉妒、仇恨及暴力交織而成，一個由寬恕的力量而消除被過去罪惡所奴役的震撼人心的戲劇。

在www.josemariaescriva.info網站裡介紹了“寬恕就是愛” (There Be Dragons) 這部電影。

一位來自倫敦的調查記者羅伯特·托雷斯去西班牙研究一本有關聖施禮華的書，意外地發現他那位疏離的父親馬諾洛竟是他最主要、但最不配合的資料來源。當羅伯特開始挖掘自己父親不可告人的秘密時，真相被慢慢揭開。他發現自己的父親馬諾洛不僅和聖施禮華一樣出生於西班牙北部的一個小鎮，而且他們還是兒時好友，並進過同一修院。

然而兩人走的是完全不同的道路，聖施禮華創立了主業會獻身上主，那是一條在履行平凡工作和基督徒日常職務中聖化的道路，而馬諾洛則捲入了殘暴和混亂的西班牙內戰的漩渦裡。

當羅伯特繼續發掘施禮華的生活和馬諾洛身為父親的那種莫名憤怒和冷漠時，發現在他們重疊的旅程裡的真相和悲傷，都源自於他們當初的選擇。馬諾洛一生中的「毒龍」(心結)最後終被一個寬恕的機會驅除釋放。



聖施禮華答覆猶太女孩的DVD觸動了他的心弦

這部電影充滿了其他強大的精神層次上的訊息。電影的主軸是寬恕的救贖價值，原諒他人的人獲益遠超過被寬恕的人。羅蘭·約菲導演形容自己是個「搖擺的不可知論者」，被聖施禮華寬恕精神的傑出善表所感動，而答應為這部電影執導。聖施禮華總是說：「愛，是諒解勝於給予。」

羅蘭·約菲導演第一次接觸到有關聖施禮華生活的這個劇本時，他並不感興趣。

改變他的念頭的是一張有關主業會創辦人的DVD，一個猶太女孩在一個數千人參與的公開聚會中，詢問聖施禮華她想轉信天主教的看法，她的問題是她遭到父母親的反對。施禮華回答說，他一生中的最愛是猶太人，而且

天主非常重視和尊敬她的父母。

羅蘭·約菲導演是一個猶太英國雕塑家Jacob Epstein的養子，他對那個人性化的答覆感到驚訝。正如他後來表示：「聖施禮華把自己放在她的位置，亦把自己放在她父母的位置；他理解那女孩所處的完全人性的立場。」

他承認這就像陷入生活的兩難局面，像愛情一樣，有時要為別人犧牲，但這種犧牲是自由選擇的，天主不會讓人為到祂跟前而踐踏別人。

聖施禮華對人在人性或精神層面需求的開放態度給羅蘭·約菲留下深刻印象，於是同意為這部講述聖人的電影執導，但他有一個條件，他要自己寫劇本。經過許多個月的研究，閱讀一切關於聖施禮華的著作和西班牙內戰的資料，以及透過與聖施禮華認識的人的交談，他坐下來撰寫了一本史詩般的戲劇，聖施禮華為其中重要的角色之一，他們都面對在極端的壓力之下，作生死攸關的抉擇。羅蘭·約菲最感興趣的是聖德在戰亂時代的影響。

他所閱讀到一些有關聖施禮華在內戰期間為人表率的行為，沒讓他感到失望。“寬恕就是愛”(There Be Dragons)將於十一月份在菲律賓上映。這部電影為今日許多仍受內戰影響的國家，譬如中東、南亞和非洲等地，帶來一個適時的訊息。電影片名的原文是拉丁文，意思是在中古世紀的地圖上，標示一些還未開發的地方。

*Hic sunt dracones*是指不同的生活經驗造成人的痛苦因而引起不同的反應。根據羅蘭·約菲所說，當我們承認並面對心中的「毒龍」時，才能避免墮入在二十世紀非常普遍的復仇和非人道的惡性循環中，直到今天的社會也還是一樣。羅蘭·約菲成功地捕捉到聖施禮華怎樣給身邊的人深邃的基督徒榜樣，特別處於西班牙內戰時。「我認為這就是聖施禮華重複的教導：把經歷過極度艱難的人的經驗人性化，他不僅教導受苦的人，也教導那些使他人受苦的人。」每一個基督徒必須英勇地模仿基督臨終時所說的：「父啊，請寬赦他們，因為他們不知道自己在做什麼。」教會的第一位殉道者聖史提芬，也重複過同樣的話。



查理·考克斯飾演聖施禮華

有龍出沒觀賞有感

離婚免談

「諸位先生：我寫這篇見證以感謝你們拍了這部電影。幾個星期前我致電一位朋友，告訴他我和我的妻子決定了離婚。我們有一個女兒。這個朋友告訴我：「在你進行這事之前，你應該看一看“寬恕就是愛”(There Be Dragons)這部電影。在這位朋友的陪同下，我和我的妻子去了看這部電影。離開電影院時，我們都泣不成聲。我們用了整晚談論這件事情，因為我們發覺問題並不在於我們的夫妻關係，而是我們未能認清並克服我們內心深處的『龍』。真正的問題存在於我們自己內。因此我們決定專注在這的方面的奮鬥，克服我們自己內的『龍』，並不再談離婚這件事。我們還決定嘗試再多生一個小孩哩」

-- Enrique Lorenzo (西班牙)，二零一一年四月二十日

自我妹妹去世後，我開始疏離天主

我欣賞完“寬恕就是愛”(There Be Dragons)後便很想立即給你寫信，我想我真的找到心中一直尋找的「龍」了。我在Manolo這個角色中看到自己。當我那只有十五歲的妹妹去世時，我懷著他一樣的憤怒。當時我拒絕天主，因為我認為妹妹是世上最純潔的：一個好學生、大方、可愛、懂得犧牲自我、開朗，每當我不快樂時，她總會說一個笑話或跳舞來逗我歡笑。我不明白為什麼上天要把她帶走？她只有15歲！為什麼患癌症的人都不是那些恐怖份子？上天應多留一些善良的人在世上，就像聖施禮華一樣，為世上加添一點愛心。為什麼天主要帶她到天堂？天堂裡不是早就充滿著各樣的好人嗎？但當我看到Manolo這個角色的改變時，我開始明白，決定重新投向天主。昨天看到的這部電影激發起我心裡一些埋藏已久的情感。一些自十八歲以後再沒有出現過的感覺，那之前的我是非常虔誠的。現在我已找到心中一直尋找的東西，並開始去面對它。真的非常感激這部電影。

--Ana A., 二零一一年三月二十九日

十八年後，她又成為我的媽媽

我非常感謝Roland Joffé拍了這部電影。我今年41歲，但已有18年沒有和母親說過話。當我還是23歲而她43歲時，她竟然和我當時的男朋友有著

一段關係，自此我便對她恨之入骨。我一直都不能理解。正如電影所述，當你開始原諒時，你是在釋放自己。這些年來，我一直執著於這事而無法活得快樂，因為我未能原諒我母親，縱然她多次懇求我的原諒，我真的無法做到。現在我終於可以放下這個包袱，原諒了她，我倆重拾母女之情。我也重新感到喜悅。再次感謝你！

-- *Lucía Morales*, 二零一一年四月三日

我女兒回家了……也回到天父的懷抱

「你好，我寫這信的目的是想和大家分享一件事。昨天，一個常來教堂的男士告訴了我他女兒的事。他女兒離家出走了一段時間，幾個月以後，當她錢花光了便回家去了，可是她的態度一直很差。這個週末，她誤打誤撞地去看「寬恕就是愛」(There Be Dragons)這部電影。看完以後，便直接去了一間教堂辦告解，然後回家向父母親道歉。現在她是一個全新的人，告別了以前的那個她。這位先生非常感激並快樂，請我代他寫信感謝你製作這部影片。」

-- *Rafael Majadahonda* (西班牙)，二零一一年四月十五日

神父是好人嗎？

「兩個哥特族人（就是穿黑衣，戴粗鏈，喜歡恐怖東西的那類人）上週五到電影院，當他們在選擇看什麼時發現了「寬恕就是愛」(There Be Dragons)這部電影。他們誤以為是一部有關梅林(亞瑟王傳奇裡面的傳奇人物)和刀劍的電影，於是便買票入場。當電影結束後，大家都陸續離開了，只有他們留在座位上不動。我走過去問他們是否喜歡這部電影。其中一個回答道：「太喜歡了，我們從來沒想到神父是這麼好的人。」

-- *Sean*，二零一一年四月十三日

離開電影院時立志要做一個更好的人

謝謝你，Roland Joffé，你能使一個好人離開電影院，立志要做一個更好的人，同時他更清晰明白，讓自己的激情牽著鼻子走，是不值得的。過一個正直的生活，有時會帶來一些痛苦。反之，若選擇過一個不正直的生活，可能可以避過一些衝擊…但這樣的態度是不值得的。謝謝你拍了這部這麼出色的電影。

-- *José Ignacio*，馬德里（西班牙），二零一一年三月三十日

那位婦女在公園告解的一幕

「我特別喜歡電影中聖施禮華和一個女人坐在公園長椅，聽著那個女人的告解那一幕。當她給聖施禮華提供一個『安全』的地方逗留（在她只有一房間的公寓內），他對她非常友善，但亦立刻很清楚並很堅定地拒絕了這個明顯會導致犯罪的情況。這一幕帶給了每一個人（告解者及悔罪者）一個很強烈的訊息：不要天真地以為我們有足夠的定力去處理事情，相反，我們應以一顆謙遜的心去認清我們人類的弱點，在面對一些有可能損害我們靈魂的情況時，作出謹慎的處理。」

-- *Greg Coyne* 神父

「龍」電影可改變人生

Charlie Cox查理考克斯本人，在電影中飾演聖施禮華的演員，告訴記者：「在演這部電影的過程中，我和天主教教會、和天主的關係無疑得到極大的改善。」很多人都在聖施禮華的網站上寫下他們的見證，描述這部電影對他們人生的影響。以下是其中幾個見證：「我一生中都在嘗試去原諒我的母親…在五月六日那天，我的治療時段課題是尋找方法去原諒她，而在那天晚上我就看了「寬恕就是愛」(There Be Dragons)。我決定去請求聖施禮華的轉禱。從那時開始，我對她只剩下美好的回憶。我已擺脫了我的『龍』！」

-- *Cynthia*

佳片必看

這真是一部很出色的電影，非常感激我的妹妹邀請我去觀看這部電影。如果是我自己一個人，我是不會去看的。我很高興能認識聖施禮華的生平故事，現在我很好奇也想多閱讀一點、更了解他。謝謝妳，Joanna！

-- *Tania Ibarra*, 二零一一年五月十二日

整個家庭改變了

我朋友的兒子邀請他的一位朋友去看這部電影。這位青年(一個有名無實的天主教徒)與他的家人相處並不十分和睦，正處於一個艱難的時期。當欣賞完這部電影後，這位青年第二天就帶全家人去看這部電影。從那天以後，全家人決心正視家中的問題，並著手努力去改善家庭的關係。

-- *José*，二零一一年五月十一日

天主帶領我們的生命

天父在生活中指引著我們，我深信是上天引領我去觀看這部電影的。本來在最後一分鐘我決定去看動作片Fast Five 但因為其他朋友沒法陪我，我只好一個人去了。“寬恕就是愛”(There Be Dragons)是唯一有夜場的電影，當我看到簡介時，發現是與宗教有關的電影時，便決定買票去看。原來這部電影的訊息是「寬恕」。不久之前，我剛巧與一位朋友談論怎樣去原諒一個對不起我是的朋友。我為這次的巧合，得到天父的指引而感動不矣。謝謝。

--Zack, 二零一一年五月十日



“寬恕就是愛”(There Be Dragons) 海報 — 土耳其

更多關於觀眾的留言，請看以下網站：

http://stjosemaria.org/dragons/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=37&Itemid=118

Election of Msgr. Alvaro del Portillo as St. Josemaria's first successor

June 3, 2009

Three months after St Josemaria's death on June 26, 1975, Msgr. Alvaro del Portillo – “Don Alvaro” – was elected to succeed him at the head of Opus Dei.



No one was surprised when, on September 15, 1975, Don Alvaro was unanimously elected as the founder's successor. He himself later said to the electors, “You have chosen to place the burden of the Work upon the shoulders of this poor man, and I know why. I well know that I am worth nothing, that I can do nothing, that I am nothing. You did this because you knew that I spent more time than anyone else with our Father, and you wanted continuity. You have not voted for Alvaro del Portillo; you have elected our Father.” Don Alvaro first met St Josemaria in July 1935 and from then on was constantly with him.

That same day, September 15, just before one o'clock in the afternoon, he went down to the crypt of Our Lady of Peace. It was the first visit he made to the tomb of the founder since being elected as his successor. When he entered, all those present stood up as a sign of respect. Don Alvaro gestured towards the tomb and said, “Where there is a skipper, a sailor doesn't give the orders. And the skipper is here.” Then he knelt down, kissed the marble slab and said, “Ask him to be the one to direct the Work, from heaven, and to have his successors be just his instruments and nothing more.”

Bishop Alvaro del Portillo used to quote “with great delight,” as he himself put it, the advice that Pope Paul VI had given him during his first audience after the death of Monsignor Escriva. “He encouraged me,” he would say, “to have always the most absolute fidelity to the founder's spirit. He said to me in a very assured and enthusiastic tone of voice, ‘Always, whenever you have some matter to resolve, put yourself in the presence of God and ask yourself, What would the founder do? And then act accordingly.’”

On March 23, 1994, the day of Don Alvaro's death, Don Javier Echevarria, the present Prelate of Opus Dei, summed up his work as head of Opus Dei in these words: “His period of governing Opus Dei has been a beautiful one. For many reasons, it has been a marvelous adventure. He had to preserve the witness of a saint, and he accepted the challenge (if I may put it this way) by moving ahead with the same gracefulness, rhythm and energy that always characterized our Founder.”

Favors granted through the intercession of Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, the first successor of the Founder of Opus Dei

On time

September 6, 2011

Lagos as expected is a metropolitan city and sometimes getting to a destination on time could be quite bad because of unpredictable traffic. I have always gone to his intercession in these circumstances and have arrived very much on time as well.

At other times it is getting a cab or bus to destinations that had been rather difficult – Don Alvaro has never failed after going to his intercession!



In the same way, I've gone to his intercession several times when it was obvious that it would rain; a simple prayer: "Please, Don Alvaro, pray for me that this rain would not fall, at least let me get home first". Those words had always worked it out – the heaven kept still; the dark cloud soon disappears being blown by heavy winds! Even when it had already started to drizzle, it only continues in such manner until I got to my destination – and as a sign that he had intervened, I've witnessed heavy downpour just after reaching my destination.

He likes to be challenged in very difficult situations; at least that is what I've made out from experience of dealing with him. I've met him personally when he came to Nigeria (Nov. 1989) and he received me in an audience – he had a great aura of holiness; all his life is testimony of it. Try him.

V.P., Nigeria

Adventures in a Mimosa Tree

June 3, 2009

My mother suggested I cut some generous branches of mimosa in bloom to take home to my house as the scent is very beautiful. So I climbed a ladder to

cut some branches off the tree, but was a bit too ambitious and I slipped and fell off the ladder landing in a bush, which broke, and my fall!



I wasn't badly hurt, but as I fell a branch brushed against my eye, dislodging a contact lens. The gardener had been working the day before and had covered the ground underneath the tree with little wood chips and other stuff, so I knew from the start that it would take a miracle to find my lens again, especially as I could only see out of one eye – I'm practically blind without my lenses! I thought, 'Don Alvaro, this is your chance!' and said as much of his novena as I could remember, while I was searching for it. I promised him I would write it down if he helped me. Within about one minute, I found I was looking straight at the lens, just in front of my feet. I am truly grateful to Don Alvaro. I know this is just another contact-lens story, but for me it is a real miracle.

E. C., England

He never lets me down

June 6, 2009

I had a growth on the uterus that had to be extirpated. Not only might it develop into a cancer, but it was causing me to become anemic because of frequent hemorrhages. On the day I was supposed to have the operation something unexpected occurred which prevented the operation from taking place. I prayed to Don Alvaro that the growth would simply disappear. Within a month the symptoms stopped, and when I went back to the doctor for a scan, he gave me the good news that the growth had vanished. From that day on I have felt perfectly well. I know that it was Don Alvaro who healed me.

My mother was diagnosed with cancer of the uterus. It was a great shock to the whole family, because the doctors could not tell how far the cancer had spread. Once again I prayed through Don Alvaro's intercession. My mother had a CAT scan, which showed clearly that there was no metastasis. I am very grateful to Don Alvaro and pray the prayer-card to him every day before I start work. He never lets me down.

P.C.V., Portugal

Don Alvaro always helps me

August 9, 2011

Here is to describe the details of the events that led me closer to Don Alvaro, but also to share with you the intercession that he did for my husband G. and I.

March 2010 – the washing machine in our apartment in Vancouver, BC, Canada overflowed, causing water leak into the apartment below us (we found out because the resident knocked on their ceiling/our floor to bring the leak into our attention). My husband G. went downstairs to check with them, and the residents in that unit simply told him “oh, it’s okay”. So, we left it at that and didn’t think much of it after (although G. was quite worried that we’ll be in trouble somehow, I reassured him to stop worrying especially because our unit didn’t face any structural damage, and that the residents in the apartment below us said they were fine).



July 2010 - I got a call from our landlord (surprisingly!). He asked if I knew about a water leak that originated in the washer area of our unit in March 2010. I told him “Yes, the washing machine leaked water while it was being used.” I also told him that G. checked with the residents and they said it was fine. I also added that we subsequently used the machine without further incident. Then the landlord said, “Yes, uhuh.. Because there is a bill now from the strata charging us of the damage repairs made to the unit below as a result of this water leakage. And the bill is quite big, it is \$7,200cdn”. Terrified by the news, I replied shakingly, “Well, as far as I know we didn’t do anything different when we used the machine that day. Additionally, the machine is fine now.” Again he said, “Well... Okay we’ll have to see.” And that’s how our telephone conversation that day ended.

After receiving this news, I became worried that G. and I may have to pay for this bill in the end.

Later, G. mentioned to me that his worries back in March 2010 was stemming from the fact that something like this would happen. And there it was.

I immediately shared our predicament with my sister M., who back then was living in Toronto, and she advised, without hesitation or whatsoever, that I start praying to Don Alvaro... to pray to him and make a deal with him on conditions

such as:

that if we didn’t have to pay this bill, then the money that we would’ve used otherwise, will be donated towards the projects of Opus Dei instead.

She also said to perhaps tell him this: “Look Father, instead of paying for this damage repairs, we will instead give the money to fund your projects (...).”

I said, “Well, okay. That’ll be good!” It was a win-win situation.

August 2010 - I received a letter in the mail from our landlord stating the water leak incident as I described above, and with the statement: “We are informing you that this [payment of \$7,200 to the strata] is the responsibility of the tenants.”

September 2010 - with the help of my father, G. and I wrote a letter back to the landlord stating to re-direct their claim to their insurance company (continuing to pray to Don Alvaro that this will be the end of this ordeal. And that if not, to remember “our deal”)

November 2010 - our landlord wrote back saying that they do not have insurance coverage; adding also that even if they had insurance, they will not necessarily cover the expense, because the person found liable for the incident would have to incur the cost (referring to us, in that we are liable, and so we should be paying).

In that letter, the landlord also informed us that they submitted a “resolution hearing case” to the housing ministry. And that the case hearing is set for — March 11, 2011 at 0900h (yes, March 11 – Don Alvaro’s birthday).

Again, I informed my sister M., who was already in Rome at that time, about this. She advised that I continue to pray, and remind Don Alvaro of the deal we made back in September, which was,

1. to use the money instead to fund his projects – although this time specifically in the building of Britannia Beach Conference Centre in Squamish, BC;

But also adding that we would also be able to use some of the money to

2. visit her (ie. M. herself) in Rome, and to, most importantly,

3. Thank Don Alvaro personally during our visit there.

So since November 2010, much more so, I continued to pray (hard) to Don Alvaro. I also already donated a small amount of money (...) despite the full deal not being completed yet. G. and I also decided to move out of the apartment and

live in my father's condominium (...).

March 11, 2011 – at 0850h- I pulled out Don Alvaro's card, greeted him Happy Birthday, and prayed to him with the full intention of asking for his help (which was critically needed in that next hour or so during our case hearing). I also showed the card to my husband G., and asked him to pray it. I then put the card on the table in front of us during our hearing.

The hearing started right at 0900h... and after much deliberation from the landlord and us, the tenants, it ended half an hour later. At the end, the judge said, "Ok. Both parties should hear about the decision by next week, Friday the latest."

Ahhh! More waiting. I really just wanted to finish this ordeal!

Well, as has been going on already, my daily prayer to Don Alvaro continued. Perhaps this was a way for me to get closer to him (rightly so, because as I recall now, I mentioned to a member of Opus Dei that I seem to be more "connected" and drawn closer to Don Alvaro these past few months).

March 16, 2011 – Wednesday, 5:30pm. G. came home with a letter from the judge/housing ministry on his hand. A letter that he had been waiting to open until he saw me. So, we opened the letter together, and slowly he flipped the pages, and I, out of my anxiousness, said "Oh Don Alvaro" then, clumsily and more hastily scanned and flipped through the pages, looking for what the verdict was from the judge.

Ultimately, the judge stated that she was not convinced that the water leak from the washing machine was due to our negligence. Therefore, we cannot be held liable for it. She pretty much dismissed the case of our landlord against us—meaning we wouldn't have to pay for the \$7,200!!!!

All thanks to the intercession of Don Alvaro!

M.L.L., Richmond, Canada

"Large families are a witness to faith"

Addressing the crowd after his general audience on February 15, Benedict XVI said that "large families are a witness to faith, and a source of wealth and hope for the entire country."

February 15, 2012

"In today's social environment, families with many children are a witness to faith, courage and optimism, because without children there is no future."

The Pope addressed these words to representatives from the Italian National Association of Large Families who were attending his general audience this morning. The families present there cheered enthusiastically at these words

"I hope", Benedict XVI continued, "that adequate social and legislative measures will continue to be promoted to support and protect larger families, who are a source of wealth and hope for the entire country."



Benedict XVI also recalled the fact that yesterday marked the feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the patrons of Europe. "May their witness help you to be apostles of the Gospel, the leaven for authentic renewal in personal, family and social life."

Living with an angel on earth. His burden is not heavy

I'm Isabel Merino. I've been in Opus Dei for 25 years. I'm married with four children.

December 6, 2011

Our youngest son, Inigo, was born on April 13, 2008. There were complications with the pregnancy, and I was hospitalized in the high-risk unit. One of the ultrasound scans showed that our baby had severe heart problems. We knew there was a 50-50 chance he would be born with some syndrome.



For the rest of the pregnancy I kept remembering how St Josemaria said, "If troubles come, you can be sure they are a proof of the Fatherly love God has for you" (*The Forge*, no. 815).

Nobody, not even I as his mother, wanted the best for our baby more than God did.

A few hours after he was born, we were told (and it was later confirmed by a chromosome test) that our son had Down Syndrome!

All those prayers, all that praying, all that begging God for our baby's health... had it all gone for nothing? No! All that praying helped us to accept with joy the arrival of a special son, and to trust in God! All those prayers were heard, and at 5 months, Inigo came through a life-or-death heart operation. God heard our prayers, and today our son is 3 years old and he fills us with happiness as we share our lives together day by day.

I have meditated a lot on something St Josemaria says in *The Way*: "Accepting the will of God wholeheartedly is a sure way of finding joy and peace: happiness in the Cross. Then we realize that Christ's yoke is sweet and that his burden is not heavy" (no. 758).

I feel so lucky as his mother, and the whole family feels lucky too. I have to recognize that ever since Inigo was born I have felt closer to God, living as I do with an angel on earth. I am more convinced every day that God leads us by the hand, and if we trust him he never lets us down.

Dora holds special importance for Opus Dei

Dora del Hoyo was the first numerary assistant. An interview with Javier Medina, who has written a brief biography entitled "A Lighted Lamp."

February 08, 2012

Why did you decide to write about Dora del Hoyo? Did you know her personally?

I didn't have the good fortune of meeting Dora. I have gotten to know her through the written accounts of her life from several women who lived with her during her years in Rome. Reading those accounts, I discovered a rich and attractive personality, and felt prompted to make her life known to others. So I started writing this book.



Dora is on the left.

What was Dora's connection to the Founder of Opus Dei?

Dora was the first numerary assistant in Opus Dei. St. Josemaría found in this spiritual daughter of his a faithful and dedicated woman with great human gifts, who always knew how to say yes to God. That's why she holds special importance for Opus Dei. The book refers to domestic work as a real profession. How does that apply to Dora? In regard to work, the term "profession" designates occupations that require a high level of specific capabilities; and a "professional" is a person whose actions reflect a high degree of competence. All the testimonies about her life concur in affirming that Dora carried out her domestic work with the

competence of a first-class professional. She mastered every aspect of that work and exercised it at the highest level.

Is this type of professional work still relevant today?



Fr. Javier Medina, author of the biography.

One often hears the complaint today that the world is becoming ever more de-humanized. At the same time, we would all like to see more agreement, more solidarity, more understanding among people. How can we achieve this? Certainly there is no single remedy. But in my opinion, if we want social relations to improve, we have to begin with the most basic unit—the family.

Young people—and in fact everyone—need the warmth of a home. And if they fail to find it, it becomes very difficult to learn how to relate to others in a truly human way.

From that perspective, it is evident that homemakers like Dora play a very important role in the well-being of society. Those who govern need to be convinced of this reality and give a strong impetus to the work of those who exercise this profession—as a fundamental investment in society's future.

What is especially notable about Dora's personality?

If I were to mention just one characteristic, without a doubt it would be her love for God and neighbor. She was a woman with a great heart.

Some testimonies cited in the book recall Dora as a heroic woman in the midst of a very ordinary life. What sort of heroism was it?

Christian heroism does not mean doing what is "the most difficult" or "the greatest." It takes place in ordinary life, the consequence of a love shown continually in apparently small details. That's how Dora lived: taking care of others, out of love.

(The biography, *"Una luz encendida,"* is available from Palabra publishers in Madrid.)

Prelate asks for testimonies regarding Dora del Hoyo's Cause of Canonization

On October 11, 2011, Bishop Javier Echevarría made public a document calling for those who knew the first numerary assistant in Opus Dei to make known any information relevant to opening her Cause of Canonization.

November 07, 2011

Bishop Javier Echevarría Rodríguez, Prelate, to all the faithful of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei



Immediately after the death of Dora del Hoyo, on January 10, 2004, clear signs began to appear of the strong and widespread reputation for holiness enjoyed by the first numerary assistant in Opus Dei. Since that date I have received hundreds of written and signed accounts sent spontaneously by faithful of the Prelature who lived with Dora and by other persons who knew her. These amply attest to her exemplary Christian life.

Because of these testimonies, we feel compelled to continue the investigation. After having taken the steps foreseen by the current norms, I have concluded that conditions are present to introduce the Cause of canonization for Salvadora del Hoyo Alonso (Dora).

Therefore, I invite all the faithful of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei to consider whether they have anything useful to report concerning this Cause, both favorable and unfavorable to it, as well as anything she may have written or documents that refer to her person and deeds, and that they make them known with full freedom, so as to enable the investigation to go forward to a final result that will make the truth completely clear.

Rome, October 11, 2011

+ JAVIER ECHEVARRÍA

Msgr. Ernst Burkhart, Chancellor of the prelatic curia

Favors granted through the intercession of St. Josemaria Escriva

No children arrived



We had been married for four years and after a miscarriage no children arrived. One day my husband and I decided to pray the prayer-card of St. Josemaria every night asking him to intercede for us to be parents. After three months I became pregnant and our son José was born on September 14. I still pray every day for St. Josemaria's protection for my family and for him to help us always to love God's Will. Thank you, St. Josemaria!

C. P., Spain

February 13, 2012

Set to divorce



My son and his wife were already set to divorce. Their two small sons 5 and 2 were of course suffering the consequences. I prayed to St. Josemaria. He answered within days. My son and his wife are happy now. The big difference is of course the two little boys. You can see how happy they are.

J.R.I, USA

February 9, 2012

A missing document



I was making arrangements for a family we knew to come and spend their holidays in our house. Our government is currently very reluctant to grant permission for foreigners to stay in the country, especially if their country of origin has been the source of considerable recent illegal immigration. With a lot of difficulty and hard work I got all sorts of documents together, and the family that was going to come and stay had to do the same in their

country, get it processed by their Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Embassy, and then send it to me. When I finally presented myself at the office that was handling the application, the official went carefully through all the documentation and told me that one document was missing. I had gone over the list very many times and could not understand how I could have left out a document. It was no trivial matter, because to get the new document required, we would have to begin the whole process again practically from the beginning in the family's country of origin, with an outlay of time and money that simply were not feasible. Back at home, I went over the list of required documents again, and realized that I had not included the said document because it did not in fact apply in this case. However, to try and persuade the official to admit that he was mistaken was going to be an almost impossible task. Yet it was the only thing I could do. I decided to go back the next day, with the intention of getting them not to ask me for the document they had stated was required.

I didn't have nine days to do a novena to St Josemaria, but I needed his help. The whole way there in the metro, I said the prayer of the prayer-card again and again, including the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. I had said it nine times over without stopping by the time I got to the office in question.

The official who saw me was a different one, and a very friendly person. When he asked me for that particular document I explained that it did not apply in this case, and he agreed straight away that I was right. He passed the whole dossier of papers for processing, and he cannot have discussed the case with his colleague, because I received the approval within the time limit. I realize that this story seems very trivial compared with cures, conversions and rescues from danger, but the solution of this question seemed highly problematic to me and I am as grateful to St Josemaria, to whom I attribute its successful outcome, as though it were a really major affair.

J.L.G.M., Spain

January 26, 2012

My son wouldn't eat



My 22-month son wouldn't eat, I prayed, nothing happened. I promised St. Josemaria that if my baby started eating I would publish the favor. Thank God, my son is now eating normally. Thank you St. Josemaria for this and many other favors received.

Honduras
January 23, 2012

He heard me in my most difficult times



I have always prayed through St Josemaria's intercession, but the favors he has recently obtained for me from God are overwhelming. I was on the point of losing my home, but it was saved at the last minute. I found a job. My son who had walked out came back after four years. My marriage is going well, and for all of this I am immensely grateful to St Josemaria: in my most difficult times, he heard my petitions. Many thanks.

L. J., Puerto Rico
January 21, 2012

The Redeeming Value of Forgiveness

October 24, 2011

By Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas published in Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation

MANILA, Philippines — Movie goers of the sixties and seventies in the last century were captivated by the big-screen, spectacular photography of the late director David Lean.



Charlie Cox, Roland Joffe, Wes Bentley

My own generation relished such blockbusters as *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Dr. Zhivago*, and *Passage to India*, which were all directed by David Lean who passed away in 1991.

Then, in the same tradition of epic films followed the movies directed by two-time Academy Award-nominee Roland Joffe: *The Mission*, *The Killing Fields*, and *City of Joy*.

There was, however, a major value added that Joffe contributed to the big screen. In all his successful films, there was always a big dosage of symbolism capturing the ever continuing human struggle to overcome evil with heroic acts of virtue.

The newest film of Joffe is *"There Be Dragons,"* an epic tale of revolutionaries and saints in a time of a most bloody civil war in which half a million people, perhaps more, were killed in a fratricidal war lasting almost four years. It is also a story of love and heroism amidst jealousy, hatred, and violence, and a very powerful drama of the power of forgiveness to break the enslaving chains of past sins.

As described in a movie guide published in the website www.josemariaescriva.info, *"There Be Dragons"* tells the story of London-based investigative journalist Robert Torres, who visits Spain to research a book about Josemaria Escriva and discovered to his great surprise that his estranged father, Manolo would turn out to be his most promising but least cooperative source.



Wes Bentley as Manolo

The two men took radically different paths in life, with Josemaria dedicating his life to serve God in founding Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the ordinary duties of a Christian, while Manolo gets caught in the whirlwind of the brutal and tumultuous Spanish civil war.

As Robert continues to unearth the intricacies of Josemaria's life and Manolo's mysterious anger and coldness as a father, their overlapping journeys are revealed with the truths and sorrows of their past choices. The ghosts, the "dragons" in Manolo's life are finally exorcised with one last opportunity of forgiveness.

Intertwined with other strong spiritual messages, the main theme of the movie is the redeeming value of forgiveness, more for the benefit of the one forgiving than for the one forgiven. Joffe, who describes himself as a "wobbly agnostic," was convinced to take on the assignment of directing the movie by the outstanding example of a forgiving spirit that he saw in St. Josemaria who always preached that "Love, more than in giving, is in understanding."

The first time Joffe was offered a script about the life of Josemaria Escriva, he showed no interest.

What changed his mind was a DVD of the founder of Opus Dei in which a Jewish girl had consulted St. Josemaria in a public gathering with thousands in the audience about her wish to convert to Christianity. Her problem was that her parents were opposed to her conversion. Escriva replied that the greatest love of his life was Jewish and that God valued and honored her parents.

Joffe, the adopted son of the Jewish British sculptor Jacob Epstein, was amazed at the humanity of that reply. As he later said: "St. Josemaria put himself in her place and he put himself in her parents' place; and he understood the full humanity of the position she was in."

He recognized this was a life dilemma that will involve, as love does, a sacrifice on somebody's behalf, but that sacrifice can only be chosen. God does not ask that people come to Him treading on others."

Impressed by the openness of St. Josemaria to the human and spiritual needs of others, Joffe agreed to direct a film on the Saint, but on the condition that he would write his own script.



Saint Josemaria's answer to the Jewish girl

After many months of research— reading everything available about St. Josemaria and the Spanish civil war, as well as talking to people who had known him — he sat down to pen an epic drama in which Josemaria was one of a number of significant characters faced with profound choices in situations of extreme stress. Joffe was most interested in the effect of holiness in a time of war.

What he read about St. Josemaria's exemplary behaviour during the civil war did not disappoint him.

"There Be Dragons" —offers a very timely message in today's world still torn with numerous civil strifes especially in the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. The movie's title comes from original Latin words which were found on medieval maps indicating unexplored territory.

Hic sunt dracones refers to the experiences in life which cause people to suffer and to react in varying ways. According to Joffe, only by acknowledging and dealing with those "dragons," can we avoid the cycle of vengeance and dehumanization which so marked the twentieth century and continue to today's world.

Joffe captures well the deeply Christian example given by St. Josemaria to the people around him, especially during the Spanish civil war: "I think that's what Josemaria was teaching, again and again, to people going through anguishing

experiences to connect to the humanity not only of those who are suffering but also to those who are causing them to suffer."

Every Christian must be heroic enough to imitate the dying Christ when he uttered these words: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing." The first Christian martyr, St. Stephen, echoed exactly the same words. (e-mail address : bernardo.villegas@uap.asia.)



Charlie Cox is Josemaria Escriva in *There Be Dragons*



"There be Dragons" Poster

Guestbook

No more discussion of divorce

"Gentlemen: I am writing to thank you for having made this film. A few weeks ago I called a friend of mine to tell him that my wife and I had decided to divorce. We have a daughter. This friend told me: "Before you do that, you have to watch *There Be Dragons*." I went to see the movie with my wife, accompanied by this friend. We left the theater crying and unable to speak. We spent all that night talking about it, because we realized that the problem was not in our relationship as husband and wife, but that we had not been able to identify and overcome our own inner dragons. The real problems were in each one of us. So we have decided to focus our struggles on that, to overcome our dragons, and not to talk about divorce any more. We have also decided to try to have a new child."

-- Enrique Lorenzo, Madrid (Spain), April 20, 2011

I disconnected from God when my sister died

"I just saw *There Be Dragons* and I need to write to you right away. I have indeed found "my dragons." I felt that I was totally reflected in the character of Manolo: I felt his rage when my 15 year-old sister was taken from this world. I felt that rejection toward God because my sister was the purest thing that existed in this world: a good student, generous, affectionate, self-sacrificing, always cheerful, ready to pull you out of your little daily drama with a dance or a joke ... and she had to be taken away ... Why, if she was only 15? Weren't there enough terrorists in the world to send them a cancer like my sister's? The best persons should stay on earth, like Josemaría, to give a little kindness to the world. Why does God want my sister in heaven, which is already full of goodness? But seeing the development of Manolo's character in the movie, I have decided to turn my eyes to God. The film I saw yesterday stirred something inside me that was silenced at that time. It has re-awakened what I have not felt since I was 18 years-old when I was very religious and was very practicing. Now I have found my dragons and I'm going to face them. Thank you for this movie!"

-- Ana A., March, 29, 2011

Mother and daughter again after 18 years

"I wish to thank Mr. Roland Joffé very much for this film. I am 41 years-old and have gone 18 years without talking to my mother, because when I was 23 and she 43, she had a personal relation with the man who was my boyfriend at that time. I've had a miserable life hating her ever since. I have never understood that, as the film says, when you forgive, it frees someone: yourself. I have lived all these years unhappy being a slave to this, because I had not forgiven my mother, even though she asked for my pardon many times. Now I have forgiven her and we are mother and daughter again. And I'm happy once again. Thank you once more."

---Lucía Morales, April 3, 2011

My daughter has come back to home ... and to God

"Good morning. I am writing you because yesterday a man who comes to my parish told me that that his daughter had left home some time ago. A few months later she came back home because she had run out of money, but she came with a bad attitude. This weekend she went to a multiplex theater and, by mistake, saw *There Be Dragons*. When she left the movie, she went straight to a church and went to confession. At home she apologized to her parents and now she is a different girl, totally new. This gentleman asked me to write to thank you for making this film. He was excited and happy."

--Rafael, Majadahonda (Spain), April 15, 2011

Priests are good persons?

"Two Goths (who wear black, carry chains and like morbid things) were at a multiplex movie theater on Friday. Reading the list of movies they discovered *There Be Dragons*, and thinking that it was a movie about Merlin and swords and so on, they bought tickets. When the film ended and the theater emptied out, I saw that they were not moving from their seats. I asked them how they had liked the movie. "Too much," replied one. "We never imagined that priests were such good people."

-Sean, April 13, 2011

I leave wanting to be a better person

"Thank you, Roland Joffé. You have managed that a person, at the end of the film, is left with desires to be a better person and with the clear idea that it is not worth letting yourself be carried away by your passions. To behave in a decent, human way will at times lead to suffering, and acting badly perhaps has some advantages and saves you some blows in life . . . but it is not worth it. Thank you for this beautiful film."

-José Ignacio, Madrid (Spain), March 30, 2011

Confession of the woman in the park scene

I particularly liked the scene in the movie where Josemaria was hearing the confession of a woman, seated together on a park bench. When she offered a "safe" place for him to stay (her one-room apartment), he was very kind to her but also very clear and firm in rejecting immediately the obvious occasion of sin. This scene sends a powerful message to everyone (both confessors and penitents) not to be naive in thinking that "we're strong enough to handle the situation" but to be humble enough to recognize our human weakness and prudent enough to avoid situations which could be potentially dangerous to our souls.

- Fr. Greg Coyne 05.29.2011

A Journey Towards Forgiveness

I've been trying to forgive my mother all my life for the physical and emotional abuse I endured during my childhood. The damage continued during a semester living with her in Indonesia, when she so boldly stated that she 'never wanted me'. I believe that to have been the worst blow. When she passed away in Oct '97, despite her abuse, I flew half way across the globe to try to 'save her, heal her'. My mission was in vain, but I did learn so much more about her, that she had had an affair, while married to my father. A man that we knew, as I later put together with memories of having been taken to his house, or to the pool with him. Now that I am 38 years old, the pain from those memories, those words was so raw that I broke last summer. On May 6 the topic of my therapy session was finding a way to forgive her, and that night I saw *There Be Dragons*. I chose to ask for St. Josemaria's intercessions, and since then, I have had nothing but good memories of her. I AM FREE of my dragon!!!

-- Cynthia 05.23.2011

Great Movie

I was given the opportunity to watch the movie with my sister and I have to thank her for thinking of me. I don't believe I would have gone to see it on my own. I'm happy to know the history of Jose Maria Escriva. It has made me curious to learn and read more about him. Thank you Joanna!

-- Tania Ibarra 05.12.2011

Family changed

I have a friend whose son invited one of his friends to see the movie. This teenager (a non-practicing Catholic) and his whole family were passing through difficult times with many infights, etc. After seeing the movie, this teenager took his whole family to see the movie the following day. After seeing the movie, the whole family decided to examine their situation and start working seriously towards the improvement of the family situation.

-- José 05.11.2011

God guides us in life

I believe GOD guided me to go watch this movie. I just decided to go see an action movie Fast Five at the last minute, no friends could go with me, but I went by myself anyway and it was the only movie playing late. Once I read the summary and notice the religious aspect, I went for it. Then I realized that the message was about forgiveness while I was just having a talk with a friend about forgiving somebody who was acting wrong with me. I was really moved by the whole coincidence and how God guide us in life. Thank you.

--Zack 05.10.2011