

events

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Table of Contents 目錄

向歐華路主教致謝

他確實是位父親 3

家庭的工作

善用時間為他人 7

杜麗靜默的虔敬 8

經歐陽杜麗的代禱而獲得的恩惠 8

向聖施禮華的敬禮

一本獄中閱讀的書 10

天主之友 12

藉著聖施禮華的代禱而獲得的恩惠 14

專題文章：電影《寬恕就是愛》

聖施禮華的繼承人講述《寬恕就是愛》這部電影 16

With Gratitude to Bishop Alvaro del Portillo

He really was a father 18

The Work of the Home

Time for Others 24

The Quiet Piety of Dora 25

Favors granted through the intercession of Dora del Hoyo 26

Devotion to St Josemaria Escriva

Because of a book I read in prison 28

Friends of God 31

Favors granted through the intercession of St Josemaria Escriva 34

Special Feature: There Be Dragons

Successor of St. Josemaría speaks about the film
"There Be Dragons" 36

向歐華路主教致謝

他確實是位父親



1975年9月15日，聖施禮華逝世升天之後，歐華路蒙席即被主業團總選舉會議推選為其繼承人。

1994年3月23日，蔡浩偉蒙席將歐華路主教職掌主業團期間的貢獻總結如下：就許多方面來說，他在位的時間非常精彩，有了不起的成就。歐華路主教致力於見證前位聖人的生命，接受挑戰。若我能這樣說的話，他跟隨創辦人同一腳步，風格，及剛毅，正如創辦人一貫的表現。

歐華路：主業團的主教監督(Alvaro del Portillo: Bishop Prelate of Opus Dei)一書的作者薩爾瓦多·伯納與歐華路神父相識，於書中描寫了不少歐華路靈性的父愛特質。

獲選接管主業團之後不久，歐華路被問到，創辦人對他的生命有何意義。他引用了亞歷山大大帝的話回答：「是千真萬確的，我親生父母的確把我帶到世上，但亞里斯多德的教導將我從世上領到天上。」亞歷山大大帝曾被指控他愛亞里斯多德勝過自己的父親，馬其頓的菲利浦王。

1984年，在歐華路聖名日（2月19日）這天，弗拉比歐·卡普其(Flavio Capucci)神父告訴我，他以一本著名的語源學字典查詢歐華路這個名字的含义，發現這名字表示保護、照顧、守衛眾人。歐華路回應：「比起德文字根，他更喜歡從猶太文字根而來的衍生字，意思是『兒子』。但這不妨與你們剛才的詮釋結合，」他接著說：「希望我能成為天主的好孩子，另一方面，但願像個父親般去照顧祂的孩子們。」

這段對話或許出現在卡普其神父的腦海中，當他於1994年寫下這些句子時：創辦人和繼承人之間深刻的合一，這父性的傳承（雖然兩人在個性上如此不同，靈性上卻如此一致），這精神脈絡的延續，在在顯示這合一無法由本性來解釋。

主業團藉著天主的恩寵，無疑地由歐華路維持了它精神脈絡的活躍，及基督徒家庭的手足情誼（參閱道路，995）。這份契合植根於主業團根本創始的神恩，創辦人使它存有，但這與他的個性無關，即便他是一位非常熱情的人。

當選繼承人的第一周年日那天，歐華路精妙地解釋了這點。他說：「施禮華蒙席有兩種不同的父性，一種是基本的，屬於他個人的，因為他身為主業團唯一的創辦人。另一種是精神上的，『將永留於主業團，直到末日，因為我們是一個藉超性連繫而形成的大家庭。』」

十周年紀念時，歐華路以下面這番話表達他對天主聖寵進入自己及主業團的生命表達感謝：「這精神上的父性以獨特方式體現在我們摯愛的創辦人身上，如今傳承給這個作為你們父親的可憐人。的確，*cor nostrum dilatatum est*，我的心已敞開到足以父愛及母愛去愛你們每一個人，因為我們的父親這樣要求了他的繼承人。」（參閱格後6:11）

同時，主業團成員以熱切的愛做出回應，也「因為主業團持續是個美妙的大家庭」，讓他舉心向上地感恩。艾絲德·多倫佐說了一個有關歐華路於1989年拜訪奇邦德尼中心的故事，發生在主業團奈洛比的女生中心，大家以馬塞（Masai）歌曲歡迎歐華路的到來，伴奏的鼓就有十六個之多！而其中一節歌詞是這樣：「我出門去看爸爸。當爸爸要開始說話，我請他別說，因為我想先表達我看到他的喜悅。」

無數的趣事反映了歐華路父性而非父權的態度。他以親生父母的關愛去愛主業團的每個成員。他記憶力好得驚人，不僅是有關教會或主業團的事，還記得有關他的孩子們的大小事情及所有細節。藉著許多人直接主動地寫給他的信，他不間斷地了解他們的煩憂、痛苦與喜樂。我非常驚訝一個人居然能消化這樣多的訊息。他經常提出一些特別的問題，是我們都無法回答的。

許多次我見到歐華路典型的身為父母的反應，發自於內心而非理性的，通常是在照顧或關心病人的時候，但有時，甚至是在客觀說來並不重要的一些情況下，亦是如此。有時他會沉醉於景仰他人的美德或才能，雖然他有他的理由，可是發生在陌生人身上，還是有點誇張。譬如說，巴斯克語言學院的成員安娜·愛凱德回憶到1980年，在托勒斯特(Torreciudad)的一次聚會，歐華路想到她曾幫忙將創辦人的文章譯成巴斯克語，而讚美她「比世上任何人都還了解巴斯克語。」



1990年4月19日，在西班牙邦不隆那的阿勒拉中心，我們正在等候歐華路。他是從巴塞隆納坐車來的，從出發時間判斷，我們估計他大概下午一點抵達。時間快到了，當我們準備好去迎接他時，卻接到一通電話告知我們他的行程會嚴重耽擱。我們很快地就知道了原因。原來他在沙拉高薩停留，去彌格爾醫院的傷燙中心，看望一個名叫卡門的女兒。在一月底，她遭遇到極為嚴重的意外，幾乎全身都燒傷了，直到目前情況依然危急。她待在一間隔離病房，歐華路只能

用電話和她交談，她隔著一面玻璃窗望著他。但歐華路告訴她，自從在羅馬聽到這個消息後，就不斷地為她祈禱，他依賴她奉獻她的苦難，為使全世界的使徒工作更進一步。四年後，她在納瓦拉大學研習法律時，寫下了這段對話刊登在校園日報(Diario de Navarra, 4/5/94)：「有時候，叫你難以對生命抱持樂觀的看法，其中一種情況是因為一場意外，而你的生命全盤改變……歐華路神父對我說，雖然難以理解，然而痛苦確實是來自天主的撫慰。他的確是這麼說的。他說時懷著堅定的信念，將我也提昇到他的層次，信德的層次。」

我自己，理所當然地，時常接受他直接的關愛。歐華路能夠用極單純的方式表達他的關愛，注意到別人沒有發現的細微小節。譬如說，有一次，是在1988年8月初，我在用早餐的時候，跟大家說了我做的蠢事（足以證明那天早上我是多麼昏昏欲睡）。當我準備刮鬍子的時候，發現熱水被切斷了，所有我用冷水打出泡沫。刮完鬍子，我打開熱水水龍頭來洗臉，以為流出來的會是冷水，結果險些被燙傷了。我一邊說一邊覺得自己很糊塗，是不是哪裡弄錯了，大家都與我有同感，除了歐華路以外。顯然他不把這當作笑話，反而問我是幾點刮的鬍子，我努力想了一想，回答應該是7點10分左右，於是他說：「大概是我害的吧。」

隔天吃早餐的時候，歐華路問了今天早上熱水供應的情形，他聽到回答是一切正常，而說：「那真的是我害的。」原來，我刮鬍子和他放浴缸熱水恰好同時，在這個十九世紀末二十世紀初建的老房子裡，住在我下面的正好是他，為聽從醫師的建議，他那時正在放熱水。從那天起，他為了不打擾我刮鬍子而提早沐浴，這件事讓我感到驚訝。



很自然地，歐華路對主業團成員的親人們同樣關懷備至，有時他們的父母並非教友，這情形通常發生在教友少的國家。歐華路建議這些成員要更愛他們的父母，並且要尊重和尊敬父母。1987年2月，長崎的一名女士問到她能為信奉佛教的父母做些什麼事，歐華路回答說：「若妳接受到天主教信仰的禮物，這絕對是來自天主旨意，但妳的父母親藉著真誠信奉他們的信仰使你這條路走得平坦。可能無意間，他們使你成為一個有信仰的人——使你能接受信德的種子。妳不要對父母說教，而應該以極大的尊重之心去對待他們，愛他們。妳能做且應做的事是多為他們祈禱。」為另一名問到幸福之源的醫學系學生，他接著說：「記得讓他們看到你有多開心，多滿足。然後他們會自問，為什麼我們的女兒比從前快樂了許多？或許他們還會問妳呢。我要向天主祈禱他們會問你。然後你可以告訴他們，『因為我是一名基督徒。』為了能夠這麼說，你應該藉著辛勤工作，努力奉獻，服務他人、愛人、助人去立下榜樣。」

1978年9月15日早上，我的父親在塞高維亞因意外過世。(…)我接到歐華路兩頁長的來信，日期是9月16日，紙上滿是他特有的爽朗字跡和長而優雅的筆劃。「保持平靜，」他寫道，「幫助你所愛的人在這噩耗之中心平氣和，也為了我，別忘了奉獻這份痛苦。與我彌撒中的意向結合，我會以特別的方式，全心地永遠和你在一起，向你的母親和你的家人致意。」

他從來都不習慣聽聞這樣的消息，即使變得越來越頻繁，因為，就像他自己所說，我們現在有許多的成員。除了全然交付自己在天主的眷顧之中，他的心決不會變得麻木。1991年9月初，幾位神父在托勒斯特晉鐸後，他在邦不隆那住了幾日。期間，他去探望一些女病患，回程中，他聽聞了兩位在美國的女性成員去世的消息。為她們祈禱之後，他說：「在極樂的喜訊後總伴隨著極大的悲哀，我們能怎麼辦呢？這像一場來自天主的暴風，或者該說是一陣輕撫吧！」

歐華路以這樣深厚的人性履行了他的神職，超過且凌駕於各種律法和牧靈職務之上，而且，如同監督團團章指出，他是一位導師和父親，以基督的心愛我們眾人。他培育我們並燃起炙熱的愛德，並樂意地以身作則。這是他生活動力的來源、每日的重心、工作和祈禱的核心。自1975年起，他的心不斷地擴展，日復一日他更親切近人。

卡瓦東加(Covadonga O'Shea)曾問過蔡浩偉蒙席，他從歐華路身上學到最寶貴的一課是什麼。「毫無疑問地，」他回答，「是順服和純真。我從未見過任何人像他那樣，隨時準備好去幫助他人。根據我們創辦人的教導，若說有人了解愛，並且成功的去愛，那人必是歐華路。」

不需要身在主業團也能體會這點，歐華路逝世前幾個月曾接受作家維托利歐·莫索瑞(Vittorio Messori)的採訪，他在一份義大利報 *Corriere della Sera* (3/23/94) 中寫道：「他的確是位父親，如同他們在主業團裡那樣稱呼他。向他提問時，彷彿是在向他辦告解。」

節譯自Don Alvaro del Portillo: Bishop Prelate of Opus Dei, by Salvador Bernal. Scepter Publisher, 1999, Chapter 15.



家庭的工作

善用時間為他人

21/04/2012

1957年6月瑪麗亞·卡門·歌明首次與杜麗於羅馬碰面。她們自1965年開始一起共事至1996年3月。



杜麗一直為教宗祈禱

「倘若要以一種德行來描繪杜麗的優點的話，那就是勤奮。她對時間的運用非常了得，我彷彿現在仍能聽到她說：『若我有數分鐘的閒暇，我必定會用它來做點甚麼。』她一直以來都是這般堅持，且更不斷要求從事更多的使徒工作，即使身體機能開始衰退，比如她的視力開始退化，她仍會做一些較簡單的工作，像是聽聽電話、補補襪子等。」

杜麗一直為教宗祈禱

「杜麗以世俗及超聖的方式愛著他人，她把光陰都用在別人身上。她以專業的方法塑造及教導他人，並運用自己的經驗為別人帶來裨益。偶爾，她也會發怒，訓斥別人的疏忽及懶惰，但她很快就會消氣，而別人亦從不曾為此而感到難受。我從未聽說過有人會去冒犯她，或對她心懷忌恨。」

「她非常敬愛教宗，無論在位者是誰，她都會為他和主教們祈禱。1978年12月，她參與教宗若望保祿二世主持彌撒聖祭，並從他手中領受聖體，當時她那萬分雀躍的神情，我仍歷歷在目。」

「聖施禮華有一次向我們特別指出杜麗行事低調，不喜歡惹人注目。那是1974年3月24日，主業團創辦人首次到訪位於哥塔羅沙Grottarossa (鄰近羅馬)的主業團中心 - Albarosa 艾伯羅莎，我們所有住在那兒的人都為了他的到來而聚首一堂，而他卻突然發現杜麗不在場，他便問道：『我那經常把自己藏起來的女兒又往那兒去了？』聖施禮華就是利用杜麗「短暫缺席」的這個大好時機，深情地表揚了她。」

瑪麗亞·卡門·歌明
瓦倫西瓦，西班牙

杜麗靜默的虔敬



杜麗常去朝聖的 Mentorella 聖母聖殿

Amaia在羅馬與杜麗認識，並與她同住直至她逝世。Amaia回憶杜麗從不會炫耀她對主的虔敬，但…她每日都會誦念玫瑰經不同部份，每每花很長時間跪在聖體櫃前。她對聖母十分虔敬，經常邀請人陪伴她去羅馬或其附近的聖母聖殿朝聖。當她領聖體時或彌撒後感恩都十分專注…她不時提及她多麼急切要為別人交托給她的意向祈禱…

經歐陽杜麗的代禱而獲得的恩惠

一個成功的會議

我們十分關注一個即將到來的重要的股東會議，除了會議過程上的事項很重要外，亦因為每一個決定對我們大家的專業及個人均有影響。

我祈求杜麗幫助我主持一個無論在專業及人際關係方面都令人滿意的會議，同時希望能維持在這類會議時經常被忽略的和氣而有愛心的語調。在所有的討論完成後，我們作了許多困難的決定，而我們做決定時亦顧及到受影響的人。過了幾天，這些人因我們顧及到他們的情況很感激。



I.L. (西班牙)

與母親來自同一城鎮

家父在數月前去世，而母親亦開始變得有點健忘，為此，我們需要照她的意願為她找一個讓她能留在自己家中，也有足夠的照料，而不需要搬到子女家同住。我們開始祈求杜麗協助找尋一個能完全信任的人，能帶給母親所需要的關顧和照料，願意通宵留守照顧她，且協助她料理基本家務，而同時這人要求的薪酬又是我們付得起的。我們透過不同途徑詢問了每一個曾為我們工作的人，但她們全都獲聘了。整個八月，我們更堅持地每天向杜麗祈求，就在九月一日那天，當所有的子女都必須上班時，我們這問題亦解決了。



當我們跟這個年輕的女士面試時，發現她與母親來自同一個城鎮，而她的祖母更在我母親年幼時照顧過她。當母親與她見面時，她為能有這樣一個可靠的女士作伴而感到高興。再者，這女士所要求的工時及工資均在我們的預算內。從這件事上我們都非常清晰地看到了杜麗的幫忙，亦為她的代禱而感到欣慰。每天，我都會繼續祈求她照顧這細緻的情況。我確信杜麗會用她那熱衷服務及照料人的聖召在天國看守及照顧我的母親。

R.A.M. (西班牙)

訂單完成了

我在家中經營一個小型的烘焙生意，身為主業團成員的媽媽給了我一張歐陽杜麗的祈禱卡。我每天都祈求杜麗協助我把烘焙的工作做好，並能多接些訂單。



在2011年聖誕節期間的一個星期一或二，我收到了一個在周五要26個蛋糕的訂單，在接下訂單時我便知道我必須馬不停蹄地工作。

以往我只接收小量的訂單，亦只靠一個小型的手持式攪拌器來做蛋糕。在接到這26個蛋糕的訂單後，我開始發短訊向朋友和家人借一個「廚寶」攪拌機，或一座立式攪拌機，卻無人能借給我。

第二天早上起來後，我用杜麗的祈禱卡祈求她的幫忙，就在我踏出房門的那一剎，媽媽告訴有超過4位女士願意將她們的「廚寶」攪拌機借給我。憑著兩部借來的「廚寶」攪拌機，和我兄弟姐妹的協助下，我在兩天烤了26個蛋糕，並在周五的前一天已將它們準備妥當。

我從杜麗那兒得到了大大小小的幫助，她經常回應我的祈求，使我能按時完成我的訂單，並確保我所做的工作品質都是好的。我真的很感激她一直給我的幫助，亦很慶幸能有這樣一張祈禱卡。

C.D. (菲律賓)

向聖施禮華的敬禮

一本獄中閱讀的書

J.A.



二十九歲時，因為之前犯下的罪行，我在西班牙獄中已經渡過了兩年。那時候，我覺得天主離我的生活非常遙遠，他在天上，而我在地上。我唯一能確定的就是祂確實存在。

此前，我未曾聽說過聖施禮華，直到一位修女帶來一本名為《天主之友》的書。這本書讓我確信天主不只是在天堂，也在人間，在我內。

孩提時，我接受了完善的信仰教育，但進入青少年階段後，朋友們總是說：天主才不存在呢，別傻了，進步一點好不好，快趕上潮流吧.....。那時的我就這樣被牽著走。有時人們需要

別人來坦白地跟你說說話，而這就是聖施禮華藉這本書為我做的。

我發現自己排拒天主於生活之外究竟有多遠，也看到自己是如何的欺瞞祂。我逐漸瞭解，天主不只是在危急時撥打的熱線，我發現我必須去愛祂，無論情況是好是壞，永遠要和祂在一起，因為離了祂我什麼都做不到。



感謝這本書，替我開了一條無悔的路。我開始閱讀聖施禮華所有的著作，也借給其他獄友看——而他們竟然不還了！



當世界青年日的十字傳送至獄中時，我內心感到激動不已，當時心中突然產生一股念頭：我希望來個妙極的好計畫，把仍住在我們家鄉的妹妹帶到西班牙的馬德里，讓我們兩人一起參加世界青年日的活動。雖然我在獄中洗衣服的工錢

很少，我仍把錢全都存起來，並開始認真籌備這計畫。

那時候我妹妹二十歲，還在念大學，她自己無力負擔這筆開銷。其實我的家庭六年前已經破碎，我的父親拋下母親，使她和妹妹幾乎難以維生。雖說他支付妹妹的學費，但那其實是迫於壓力。

抱持著這個目標，我把一切希望寄託給上主，就這樣十分拮据地過了一年，終於湊到足夠的錢，寄去給妹妹。她跟本國主教團的官方代表，訂了在馬德里參加世青要住的地方。

當這夢想眼看就要實現，我申請參加世青的許可卻被拒絕。那時六年的刑期我已服了四年，剩三個月就可以假釋，而獄方明知我妹妹的到來，和我為儲蓄費用所付出的重大犧牲，卻毫無理由地拒絕了申請。

距離世青還有兩個月，我感到極度悲憤。我寫信給獄長，法官，感化服務機關.....等陳情，說明我多麼盼望能與妹妹一起體驗世青，我已四年沒見妹妹和其他的家人了，因為他們都不是住在西班牙。但我一封回信也沒盼到，逐漸失去了希望。世青就要開始，我卻感到非常絕望。那時，妹妹開始做聖施禮華的九日敬禮，藉著九天的克己，祈禱和退省，妹妹祈求我能得到那熱切渴望的許可。



我其實已漸漸說服自己，這個八月只有妹妹會待在馬德里，至少這件事對我而言至為重要。但我還是忍不住感到沮喪，畢竟付出了，捨棄了那麼多，卻無法和妹妹一起參加世青，最多只能隔著玻璃窗和她相聚兩小時。漫漫長路的努力竟只得到這種結局。

接著，奇蹟發生了。妹妹結束九日敬禮的隔天，也就是第十天，我被告知感化服務機關決定准許我在世青期間假釋外出六天，我可以去馬德里和妹妹見面了。



我簡直無法相信這個消息，世青終於來到，我和妹妹重逢了。那週的

高峰是青年們與教宗在Cuatro Vientos的相見。那天晚上，我決定不再讓天主繼續等待，我決定把生命交給祂，只為祂而活。度聖德的生活，聖化我的工作，聖化我重拾的學業，聖化別人和自己的生活。



聖施禮華教了我如何生活，他讓我回應天主，為此我對他感激萬分。他形塑了我的心靈，教我去保持內心的潔淨，去寬恕，去道歉，去原諒自己。他還使我瞭解到，耶穌真的是我們的朋友及父親，祂比任何人更愛我們。認識耶穌之前，我一無所有一無是處。現在我則是無比開心，感謝祂讓我的生活終於有了意義。

現在我刑期服滿，回到故鄉，和第一次踏進監獄的那個我已經不同。所有的改變我只能說感謝天主，是祂使我重獲新生。而今我已全心歸向上主，如果是天主的旨意，我十分願意進入神學院修道。

天主之友

喬安·立末·厄兒 (Joan Levy Earle) 是一位作家與藝術家，她在多倫多的加拿大信使聖心雜誌 (Canadian Messenger of Sacred Heart magazine) 擔任副編輯。這裡她記述閱讀聖施禮華的文章為日常生活帶來的幫助。

不管是教導女孩們跳舞或短棒旋轉操，或從事繪畫，做自由作家，我從未追求過財富上的成就。在我創作的生涯中，賺錢從不是首要目標，我只不過是隨著自己的心意行事。

當我開始接觸主業團時，才了解我的這種想法無誤，因為它跟隨了主業團創辦人聖施禮華的精神，他期望追隨者尋找天主的旨意，並在每人各自選擇的事業中侍奉他。

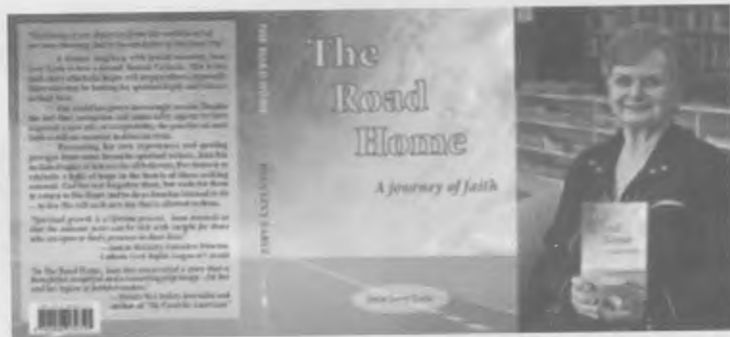
因為家裡經營文具書店，我有幸認識瑪莉，弗烈德，和約克，他們將聖施禮華的著作介紹給我。一年後，我與瑪莉一同參加了主業團在魁北克的波也莊園舉辦的避靜。

後來有一天，維吉妮雅來到我家探訪，我們以及其他女生朋友聚在一起，還看了介紹主業團的影片。隔天次日，其中一位朋友回到我店裡，興高采烈地說：就這樣囉？昨晚的聚會真是太棒了，能不能再辦一次呀？

所以呢，在2000年11月21日聖母奉獻日這天，我們成立了一個婦女團體。以我們借用了聖施禮華的一本著作的書名，稱呼自己為：「天主之友」。此外，我們定下宗旨，並決定每兩週聚會一小時。

我們的宗旨是這樣的：在生活中追尋天主的旨意；聽從天主的召叫在工作中侍奉祂；全心交託在天主的眷顧中和聽從天主的聖意，欣然接受祂替每個人選擇的聖召；彼此鼓勵以堅定信仰生活；與人分享我們類似的目標；藉著閱讀天主聖言，及真福（現已列聖品）施禮華的著作，將他在著作中流露的精神活出，使我們在信、望、愛德中成長。阿們。

聚會的形式非常簡單：以向聖神祈禱為始，接著祈求聖施禮華的指引，一端玫瑰經，隨機閱讀那三本聖施禮華的默想小書，即《道路》、《煉爐》、《犁痕》。討論所揀選的默想和這默想給我們生活帶來的影響。末了以祈禱作結，然後各自離去。聚會人數上限是七人，好讓每個人有幾分鐘時間表達自己。而聚會中討論的內容則需保密。



第一個聚會團體成立短短幾週後，第二團也成立了。另外，我作為團體的管理人推行人(catalyst)，多了個福利，每週都能參加一個為婦女而設的信仰默想時間。然而，由於我們並不想淪為一社交團體，而且在活動中彼此變得熟稔，還互相依戀。所以十八個月之後我們決定解散。無庸置疑，這些日子以來的聚會增強了成員的信德，達到了我們當初成立的目的。往後，這些聚會的成果令我們每個人都感到驚訝。

就我本身而言，與「天主之友」的團體祈禱幫助及支持我面對六個月後先生的驟逝。有一位成員失去了她正值壯年的女婿；另一位幫助她罹癌的女兒面對疾苦；又有一位勇敢忍受與她女兒分離，而好幾位感到更能面對生活中的挫折。聖施禮華的著作持續地在我們每人不同的生活道路上帶來啟發。

我們住的是個小社區，有機會參加正式的協助人月省。「天主之友」這小團體的培育得以使我們彼此加油打氣。成員中大部分都每天領受聖體，其中一人是非天主教教友，但熟讀聖經，並且一同熱誠地參與對聖母的禱告。

對我來說，聖施禮華繼續是我的指路明燈。即使我有分神之時，他也總能領我回到正途。每天，當我看著祈禱卡上的聖施禮華，他笑容中的喜悅總提醒我：生活於天主的臨在中是找到回歸天國之路的關鍵。

喬安·立未·厄兒 (Joan Levy Earle) 寫了不少關於玫瑰經的小冊。《傑克的農場》(Jack's Farm) 記敘了她的寡居生活，《駛向命運的火車》(Train Ride to Destiny) 則講述了她受聖母瑪利亞啟發的再婚經歷。而最近的新書是《回家的路》(The Road Home)。

藉著聖施禮華的代禱而獲得的恩惠



聖施禮華

來自孩子們的古樂

藉著聖施禮華在天主面前的代禱，我得到了豐厚的祝福。為了感謝這轉求及祝福，我在6月26日這一特別的日子，寫下這個故事。

兩年前，我夢想著能為兒童創立一個表演樂團，專門演奏15-18世紀的直笛音樂。創立這樣的樂團是很有挑戰性的，但聖施禮華絕對聽見了我的祈禱，並做了回應。兩年過後的現在，我們有12名年齡從8到12歲的成員，組成了一支絕佳的樂團。我們已去過六個城市，參加過許多演奏節目，並贏得兩座獎以表彰樂團的成就。我也很幸運能和孩子們的父母親合作，他們真的很好，支持我們所有的工作，並在幕後默默給予幫助。



我們樂團的全名是「兒童古樂直笛樂團」(Musica Antiqua Children's Recorder Consort)。雖然這並不是一份有薪工作，然而能夠指導這獨特的合奏組令我很愉快，而且從許多方面來說都感到非常值得。對於孩子們短短兩年內就達到如此成就，我感到十分驕傲，我也由衷地感謝聖施禮華為我們的代禱。

J.J.V., 渥太華 (加拿大)

關係重大的小恩惠



我經營了一家民宿。某個星期六晚上，來了一群人要在我的這條村辦派對，並且希望明天的早餐時間能晚一些。明天當然是指星期天囉，但問題來了，我們這裡星期天只有一台彌撒，時間是上午11點。所以我告訴他們因為彌撒的關係，早餐能否10點開始。剛好那個星期天又有很多客人會來，我得趕在下一批客人到來之前鋪好床，清理好浴室。而手臂之前在意外中受過傷，所以我做起事來又特別的慢。所以我把這一整天看來困難重重的流程都交託給聖施禮華。結果第一批客人下樓進早餐的時間比預期的早，讓我能早一點開始打掃，來得及參加彌撒。我時常想起主業團中強調的家

庭工作的重要，我瞭解這對聖施禮華來說是多重要的事。想起他，我每每都盡心盡力招待我的客人。聖施禮華啊，我真的很感謝你在這天給我的支持。

M.L.S., 法國

專題文章：電影《寬恕就是愛》

寄自羅馬

聖施禮華的繼承人講述《寬恕就是愛》這部電影

2011年3月27日導演羅蘭·約菲前往羅馬，在梵蒂岡呈獻關於聖施禮華的那部電影。它取材自西班牙內戰。出席欣賞電影的觀眾，部份是聖施禮華生前所認識的，他於1975年去世。



若瑟瑪利亞·施禮華與蔡浩偉，攝於羅馬 (1950)

現任主業社團監督: 蔡浩偉主教

「這部電影令我想起成千上萬的司鐸，從古至今，他們懷著喜樂去為靈魂及社會服務，而獻出自己的生命。」

《寬恕就是愛》導演: 羅蘭·約菲

「他（聖施禮華）說你不單只可以在聖堂找到天主，你亦可以在日常生活中找到祂，對於此事我是認真的。我覺得這是一件極美好的事。但是假如我們的日常生活正處於內戰中，那麼，天主祢在那裡呢？」



前聖座發言人: 納瓦羅

「在他（聖施禮華）去世前五年我與他同住。即使他年事已高，他那份幽默感仍然令我印象深刻而難忘。也許你會在影片裡找到他的這個特質。」

Giovanni Chelli樞機

「你可以在電影裡看到許多關於聖施禮華的精神，他有個堅毅的個性。我們是非常要好的朋友，當我每次前往羅馬時，他總是邀請我去 Viale Bruno Buozzi 與他午餐。我非常愛他，而我希望他現在也同樣地愛我。」

赫蘭斯樞機

「這是一個合時宜的訊息。因為它說明獲得真正平安的重要性，就是如何生活，以及如何去寬恕別人，因為這實在是非常重要的。」

《寬恕就是愛》是一部為教友及非教友而拍攝的電影，但沒有尋求改變關於戰爭衝突的任何看法。



With Gratitude to Bishop Alvaro del Portillo

He really was a father



September 15, 1975, soon after St Josemaría died and went to Heaven, Msgr. Alvaro del Portillo was chosen to succeed him by a general elective congress of Opus Dei.

On March 23, 1994, Msgr. Javier Echevarría summed up Don Alvaro's work at the head of Opus Dei as follows: "It has been a terrific time, a marvelous adventure, for many reasons. He aimed to witness to the

life of a saint, and he took up the challenge, if I can express it like that, and ran with it, with the same pace, style and fortitude as our Founder always showed."

Salvador Bernal, author of the book *Alvaro del Portillo: Bishop Prelate of Opus Dei*, knew Don Alvaro personally. His book describes some of the features of Don Alvaro's spiritual fatherhood.

Not long after being elected to govern Opus Dei, Don Alvaro was asked what the founder had meant to his life. He answered by quoting words attributed to Alexander the Great, who, when accused of loving Aristotle more than his own father (King Philip of Macedon), reportedly replied, "This is true. My parents have, indeed, brought me to earth, but Aristotle's teaching has brought me from earth to heaven."

In 1984, on Don Alvaro's name day (February 19), Father Flavio Capucci told him that he had looked up "Alvaro" in a well-known etymological dictionary of proper names, and found that it means "he who protects, watches over, and defends everyone." Don Alvaro replied that he himself was inclined to favor a derivation not from German but from Semitic roots, according to which it would mean "the son". "But this can be joined to the interpretation that you have suggested," he said. "Pray for this to be the truth: that I may be a good son and at the same time a good father who watches over the

other sons."

Father Capucci probably had those words in mind when he wrote in 1994 that "the profound unity between the founder and his successor, this flowing of paternity from the one to the other (so different in temperament, but so identical in spirit), this continuity of filiation that we have in our spirit – these things bear witness to realities which have no natural explanation."

No doubt it is thanks to Don Alvaro that Opus Dei, with the grace of God, has kept in all its vigor the spirit of filiation and fraternity of a Christian family (*The Way*, 955). Those bonds are anchored in the radically original charisma of Opus Dei. They were brought into being by the founder, but they are not dependent on his natural personality, warm as it was.

On the first anniversary of his election, Don Alvaro explained this very concisely. Monsignor Escrivá, he said, had two kinds of fatherhood. One was foundational, and hence his alone, since he was the only founder of Opus Dei. But the other kind, the spiritual one, "will always exist in the Work, until the end of time, because we are a family with supernatural bonds."

Ten years after his election, Don Alvaro expressed his gratitude for the entry of God's grace in his life and in that of Opus Dei in these words: "The spiritual fatherhood which was incarnated in a unique way in our most beloved founder was passed on to this poor man who is now your Father. Truly, *cor nostrum dilatatum est* – my heart has expanded to love you all, each and every one of you, with the love of a father and of a mother, as our Father asked that his successors would do" (2 Cor 6:11).



At the same time, the members of the Work had responded with obvious affection, which made him lift up his heart in thanksgiving also "because Opus Dei continues to be a beautiful family." Esther Torranzo tells a story about the visit that Don Alvaro made in 1989 to Kibondeni, a women's Opus Dei centre in Nairobi. Don Alvaro was

welcomed with a Masai song – accompanied by sixteen drums! – one verse of which went like this: “I left the house to go and see my father. When he began to speak, I asked him to be silent, because I wanted first to express my joy at seeing him.”

There are countless anecdotes testifying to the paternal, yet never paternalistic, attitude of Don Alvaro. He loved all the members of Opus Dei with the affection of any natural father or mother. And he had an amazingly good memory. Great problems of the Church or of the Work notwithstanding, he could remember all kinds of details – big and small – of the lives of his children. Through the letters which so many of them wrote directly and spontaneously to him, he kept up with their worries, sorrows, and joys. I was astonished at his ability to retain so much information. Often he asked very specific questions which none of us could answer.

Many times I saw him react in ways typical of a father or mother, for reasons of the heart which the head cannot explain. Usually this had to do with care or concern for sick people. But sometimes it had to do with situations which, objectively speaking, were of no significance. And sometimes he would get carried away by admiration of somebody’s virtues or talents. This was never without basis, but it could at times come across to strangers as being somewhat exaggerated. For instance, Ana Echaide, a member of the Academy of the Basque Language, recalls that at a get-together at Torreciudad in 1980, Don Alvaro, thinking of the help she gave in translating the founder’s writings into Basque, praised her as “the one who knows more Basque than anyone else in the world.”

On April 19, 1990, at Aralar Hall in Pamplona, Spain, we were awaiting the arrival of Don Alvaro, who was coming by car from Barcelona. Judging from his time of departure, we estimated that he would arrive at about one in the afternoon. But at about that time, when we were ready to welcome him, there was a telephone call notifying us that there would be a long delay. We soon found out why. He had stopped in Saragossa to visit a daughter of his



called Camino Sanciñena in the burns unit at Miguel Servet Hospital. She had been in a terrible accident at the end of January and was still in a very serious condition; practically her whole body was covered with burns. She was in an isolation ward – Don Alvaro had to talk to her on a telephone, and she could see him only through a window. But he told her that he had been praying for her ever since he heard, in Rome, about the accident, and that he was counting on her to advance the apostolic work going on all over the world by offering up her suffering. Four years later, when she was studying law at the University of Navarra, she wrote about this conversation in the school newsletter (*Diario de Navarra*, 4/5/94). “There are times,” she said, “when it is very hard to keep a positive outlook on life, and one of those is when your whole life has changed because of an accident... The Father told me that even though this is hard to understand, pain is actually a caress from God. He literally said that. And he said it with such conviction that it raised me to his level, the level of faith.”

I myself, of course, was sometimes the direct recipient of his affection. Don Alvaro could show such great affection in the simplest ways. He noticed little things that no one else did. One day, for instance, at the beginning of August 1988, I told everybody at the breakfast table what I intended to be a joke on myself – a proof of how sleepy I had obviously been that morning. When I’d started shaving, the hot water had gotten cut off and I had to lather up with cold water. When I finished, I turned on the hot water faucet to wash my face – I was on automatic pilot and expected the water to still be cold – and had to switch faucets again, because I almost got burned. I said all this thinking I had been confused, and had made a mistake, and that’s the way everyone took it. Everyone, that is, except Don Alvaro. Apparently not thinking this was one bit funny, he asked me what time it was that I shaved. I guessed as best I could, and answered that it was at about ten after seven. “It must have been me,” he said.

The next day, at breakfast, Don Alvaro wanted to know how the water had been that morning. When he heard that everything was fine, he said, “Then it really was me.” He had figured out that I was shaving at the very same time when, just one floor below me in this

turn-of-the-century house, he was filling up his bathtub with hot water, as his doctors had recommended. It never ceased to amaze me that from that day forward, he took his morning bath earlier so as not to interfere with my shaving.



Naturally, he had a similar concern for the relatives of all the members of the Work. Sometimes it happens, especially in countries with very few Christians, that members of Opus Dei have non-Catholic parents. Don Alvaro advised these men and women to love their parents very much, to respect them, and to venerate them. In February 1987, in Nagasaki, a woman asked

him what she could do for her Buddhist parents. His answer was, "If you have received the gift of the Catholic faith, this has definitely come about by the will of God. But your parents have smoothed the way for you by living true to their own beliefs. Perhaps without realizing it, they made you a religious person – a person capable of receiving the seed of faith. You cannot give your parents lectures. You should love them and treat them with great respect. What you can and should do is pray for them." And then he added, also for the benefit of a medical student who had asked him about the true source of happiness, "Make sure they see how happy you are, how content. Then they will ask themselves, 'Why is our daughter so much happier than she used to be?' They may even ask you. I pray to God that they will. And then you can say, 'It's because I am a Christian.' And backing this up will be the example you give by how hard you work, how dedicated you are, how ready you always are to be at their service, how much you love them and help them."

On the morning of September 15, 1978, in Segovia, my own father unexpectedly died. (...) I received a letter from Don Alvaro, dated September 16. It was a two-page letter in his unique expansive handwriting, with its long and elegant strokes. "... Stay serene," he wrote. "Help your loved ones to be at peace in the midst of this great sorrow., and don't fail to offer up the pain of it also for me. Stay very united with the intentions of my Mass. I, for my part, am always with you all – with you, your good mother, and everyone else in your family – with all my heart, and in a very special way at this time."

He never got used to hearing such news, even when it started coming so frequently because, as he himself put it, "there are so many of us now." Despite his complete abandonment into the hands of Divine Providence, his heart never grew numb. At the beginning of September 1991, just after the ordination of several new priests in Torreciudad, he spent a few days in Pamplona. On one of those days, upon returning (shortly before suppertime) from visiting some of the women patients, he heard that two Opus Dei women in the United States had died. After praying for them, he said, "After a great joy there always comes a great sorrow. What can we do? These are blows – or rather caresses – from God."

It was with this deep humanity that Don Alvaro fulfilled his canonical role. Over and above his different legal and pastoral capacities, he was, as indicated in the Statutes of the Prelature, a teacher and father who truly loved everyone in the heart of Christ. He formed and enkindled them with a burning charity, gladly wearing himself out for them. This was the mainspring of his life, the focus of each and every one of his days, the kernel of his work and prayer. From 1975 on, his heart just kept expanding; day by day he felt his affection grow.

Covadonga O'Shea once asked Don Javier Echevarría what had been the greatest lesson he ever learned from Don Alvaro. "Without a shadow of doubt," he answered, "docility and simplicity. I have never seen a person more ready to serve others than Don Alvaro was. If there was ever a person who knew how to love, and who succeeded in loving, according to the teachings of our founder, it was Don Alvaro del Portillo."

One did not need to be in the Work to be aware of all this. The writer Vittorio Messori, who had interviewed Don Alvaro just a few months before his death, wrote in the 3/23/94 issue of the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, "He really was a father, as they call him in Opus Dei. You felt like making your confession to him, instead of asking him questions."

Extracts from Don Alvaro del Portillo: *Bishop Prelate of Opus Dei*, by Salvador Bernal, Scepter Publishers, Princeton New Jersey, 1999, Chapter 15.

Time for Others

21-04-2012

Maria Carmen Cominges first met Dora in Rome in June of 1957. They worked together from 1965 until March of 1996.

“If there is a virtue which especially characterized Dora, it was diligence. She used her time very well. I can still hear her saying, ‘Since I have a few minutes, I am going to use them to do this or that.’ She was heroic right up until the end. She would always ask to be given more work, and when she began to lose some of her physical abilities—her sight, for example—she did simpler things, like darning socks or answering the telephone.

“She loved people in both a human and a supernatural way. She gave them her time: forming and teaching them professionally, and giving them the benefit of her experience. Occasionally she got angry and scolded—only when someone was careless or lazy at work—but her anger never lasted long, and people never felt hurt. I never knew her to be offended by anyone, or to bear a grudge.



Dora always prayed for the Pope

“She loved the Pope very much— whoever he was—and she always prayed for him and for the bishops. I remember how excited she was in December of 1978 to attend the Holy Mass celebrated by John Paul II and to receive Holy Communion from his hands.

“She tried not to call attention to herself and to pass unnoticed, and one time Saint Josemaria pointed this out to us. It was March 24, 1974. The founder of Opus Dei was visiting Albarosa for the first time, a Center of Opus Dei which had just opened

in Grottarossa, near Rome. All of us who lived in Albarosa had gathered together in order to be with him, **and at one point he**

noticed that Dora was missing. He asked us, ‘Where is that daughter of mine who always wants to remain hidden?’ Saint Josemaria took advantage of her momentary absence to praise her very affectionately.”

Maria Carmen Cominges
Valencia, Spain

The Quiet Piety of Dora

24-05-2012



*The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mentorella,
which Dora liked to visit.*

Amaia Mintegui met Dora in Rome, and lived with her until her death. She recalls that Dora “never made a show of her piety, but... she prayed the different parts of the Holy Rosary every day, often remaining for a long time on her knees before the Tabernacle. She had great devotion to the Blessed Virgin and she frequently asked others to accompany her on pilgrimages to Marian shrines in and near Rome.”

“She appeared very recollected when she received Holy Communion and when making a thanksgiving after Mass.... Many times she mentioned the great urgency she felt to pray for specific intentions which had been entrusted to her.”

Favors granted through the intercession of Dora del Hoyo

A Successful Meeting

An important shareholder's meeting was approaching and we were all very concerned about it— not only because of the importance of the issues on the agenda, but also because of the professional and personal impact each decision would have on many of us.



I asked Dora to help me run a good meeting, not only from a professional point of view but also from the point of view of human relations, to help me to maintain that kind and charitable tone often dispensed with in these sorts of meetings. When all was said and done, many difficult decisions were made, yet the people who were affected by those decisions were taken into consideration. Some days later these people showed themselves to be very appreciative of the care with which these matters were addressed.

I.L. (Spain)

From the Same Town as My Mother

My father had died a few months earlier, and my mother was becoming a bit forgetful. We were looking for a way to give her enough attention so that she could remain in her home, where she wanted to be, rather than move in with one of her children. We began to ask Dora to find a person who was completely trustworthy, who could give my mother the care and attention that she needed, and who was willing to stay overnight with her and take care of basic



housekeeping. At the same time it was important that her wages be within our financial means. We asked everyone who had ever worked for us in one way or another, but everyone was already employed. Throughout the month of August we asked Dora more and more insistently each day, for this problem had to be solved by September 1— when all of her children had to go back to work.

We spoke with a young woman who came for an interview, and it turned out that she came from the same town as my mother, and her grandmother had cared for my mother when she was a little girl. When my mother met her she was delighted that she was going to be her companion, being a very trustworthy person. At the same time her hours and salary were in line with what we had expected. We see the hand of Dora in this favor very clearly, and we are grateful for her intercession. Every day I ask her to continue to watch over this very delicate situation. I am convinced that Dora, with her vocation of serving and caring for others, watches over my mother and cares for her from Heaven.

R.A.M. (Spain)

Orders delivered

I run a small baking business from my home and was given a prayer card of Dora del Hoyo by my mother who is a member of the Work. I prayed to Dora daily asking for help in doing my baking work well and in getting orders.



One Monday or Tuesday during the Christmas season of 2011, I received an order for 26 cakes that were needed by Friday. I accepted the order knowing that I would be baking non-stop. I had previously only received small orders and had been working with only a small hand-held mixer to bake my cakes. After receiving the order for 26 cakes, I started texting friends and family asking to borrow a Kitchenaid or stand mixer, but no one could lend me one.

The next morning I woke up and prayed a prayer card to Dora asking for help. Immediately after I exited my room, I was informed by my mother that 4 women had offered to lend me their Kitchenaid mixers. I borrowed 2 mixers and with the help of my siblings, I baked the 26 cakes in two days have them ready by Thursday instead of Friday.

I have received many favors both small and big from Dora. She has answered my prayers in helping me get orders out of time and in making sure the quality of the work that I do is good. I am truly thankful for all the help she has given me and grateful for having been given a prayer card.

C. D. (Philippines)



Dora del Hoyo

Because of a book I read in prison

J. A.

September 17, 2012



I was 29 and had been in prison in Spain for two years after committing a crime. At that time I saw God as being very far from my life. I thought he was in heaven and I was on earth. The only thing I was clear about was that he did exist.

I had never heard of Saint Josemaria Escriva, until a nun, one of the Sisters of Charity, brought me a book called Friends of God. After reading it I can say that I was quite sure that God was not only in heaven but also on earth and within me.

As a child I received a good Catholic education, but when I was a teenager my friends would say, "God doesn't exist, don't be stupid, go for progress, get up to date..." And I let myself be led. Sometimes you need someone to come and speak plainly, and that's what Saint Josemaria did for me through that book.



I realized how far I had cut God out of my life and how I had cheated on him. I began to understand that God is not a just a number to call in emergencies, I discovered that I need to love him in good times and in bad, and keep him always by my side, because I can't do anything without him.

Thanks to that book, I set out along a path that I have never regretted. I began reading all Saint Josemaria's books and lent them to other people in prison – and they didn't give them back!



The World Youth Day Cross was carried through the prison. My heart was shaken to its depths, and there and then a dream was born, a fantastic plan to bring my sister, who was still living back in my country, to the World Youth Day in Madrid so we could both take part in it together. I was working in

the prison laundry and earning very little money, but I saved it all up and began to plan seriously.

At that point my sister was 20 and at university. She wouldn't be able to afford to come. My family broke up six years ago: my father deserted my mother and left her and my sister practically destitute. It is true that he paid for my sister's studies, but only after a lot of pressure.

With that goal, I put all my hope in the Lord, and after going without absolutely anything for a year, I managed to get the money together and sent it to her. She booked a place to come to the WYD in Madrid with the official delegation of the Bishops' Conference of our country.

When my dream seemed about to come true, I was refused permission to attend the WYD. I had done 4 years of my 6-year sentence, and had 3 months left before I was eligible for parole, when inexplicably the prison authorities, knowing that my sister was coming and that I'd saved up the money at the cost of great sacrifice, refused permission for no reason.



Two months before the WYD I was tearing my hair out. I'd written letters to the prison governor, the judge, the probation service... I explained my situation and how much I wanted to experience the WYD with my sister, after 4 years without seeing her or any of my family, since none of them are in Spain. I got no reply and was losing hope. The WYD was just around the corner and I was in despair.

At that point my sister began a novena to Saint Josemaria: 9 days of mortification, prayer and recollection, praying that I would get the permission I so desperately needed.

I was getting used to the idea that only my sister would be in Madrid in August; for me that was what mattered. But I couldn't help feeling frustrated inside that after so much effort and self-denial I wouldn't be able to be there with her and would have to content myself with seeing her for two hours through a window. Such a long journey just for that.



Then the miracle happened. The day after my sister finished the novena, the tenth day, I was told that the probation service had decided to authorize me to go out on parole for the six days of the WYD so that I could go to Madrid and meet my sister there.



I just couldn't believe it, but at last the date of the WYD arrived and I saw my sister again. The high point of that week was the youth encounter with the Pope at Cuatro Vientos. That night, I decided not to keep God waiting any longer; I decided to give my life to him, to live for him alone. To live in holiness, to sanctify my work,

and my studies, which I took up again; and to sanctify my life and other people's.

Saint Josemaria has taught me how to live: that man made me react and I owe him much of what I am. He formed me spiritually and taught me to cleanse myself interiorly, to forgive, to say sorry, to forgive myself, and he taught me that Jesus Christ is really our

friend, our Father, and that he loves us more than anyone. Before I met Jesus I had nothing and was nothing. Now I am happy, and thanks to him my life at last makes sense.

Now I have finished my sentence and come back to my country, a different person from what I was when I first went to prison. All of it is thanks to God, who took my life to rebuild it again. Now that I have given my life to him I am preparing to enter the seminary if that is God's Will.

Friends of God

Joan Levy Earle is an author and artist, who works as Associate Editor of the Canadian Messenger of the Sacred Heart magazine in Toronto. She writes about how the writings of St. Josemaria have helped her in her daily life.

July 19, 2012

All of my life I had never pursued financial success; whether it was during my years teaching young girls dance and baton twirling, spending time painting or freelance writing. Making money was never my main motivation during my creative pursuits; I was simply answering the call of my soul.

As I began to learn about Opus Dei, I finally understood that my way of thinking was alright as it followed that of St. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of this institution, who expected his followers to seek God's will and to serve Him first in their chosen profession.

Operating our family stationery-bookstore provided me the gift of friendship with Marie and Fred, and Jock, who introduced me to the writings of St. Josemaria Escriva. A year later, I attended a directed Opus Dei retreat at the Manoir du Beaujeu in Quebec with Mary.

Then, Virginia visited my home and some women friends gathered to watch an introductory video on Opus Dei. The next day, one friend

returned to my store and exclaimed: "Is that it? I enjoyed getting together last evening. Could we do this again?"

And so, on the feast of the presentation of Mary, Nov.21st, 2000, our women's group was founded. We called ourselves: Friends of God, borrowing the name from one of Escriva's books. We created a mission statement and decided to meet every other week for one hour.

Our statement read: "To find God's purpose for each of our lives; To hear His call to service in the workplace; To accept the vocation He has chosen in complete abandonment to providence and His Holy Will; To strengthen our faith life by encouraging one another; To share with one another our similar goals; To grow in Faith, Hope and Charity through the study of the Word and Blessed (now Saint) Josemaria Escriva's spirit in his writing and their application in our daily lives. Amen.

The format for these meetings was simple: an opening prayer to the Holy Spirit, a prayer to St. Josemaria Escriva for enlightenment, a decade of the rosary and then random readings from the three small meditation books of St. Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, *Forge* and *Furrow*. We discussed the chosen meditation and its effect on our lives, and when the hour was over, prayed a closing prayer and went our separate ways. We kept our group to a maximum of seven ladies, which allowed each of us a few minutes of personal expression. Anything discussed at the table was considered confidential.



The first group gave birth to a second group a few weeks later and so as the catalyst, it was an added bonus that once each week, I was able to participate in a women's faith reflection. We disbanded after eighteen months as we did not want to become a social group and we had started to become more acquainted and attached to each other. It was decided that our meetings had served their purpose by strengthening each other's faith lives. The fruits of those meetings later astounded all of us.

For myself, praying with these friends of God provided support when I was suddenly widowed just six months later. One member of the group lost a young son-in-law, another helped a daughter through cancer, another suffered the separation from her daughter, while several others felt more able to overcome their daily struggles. The inspiration of St. Josemaria's writings continued to inspire all of us as we went our separate ways.

Living in a small community did not give us the opportunity of sharing in an official co-operator's monthly reflection. Our formation as a Friends of God small group provided us with encouragement from one another, most of whom were daily communicants. One participant was a non-Catholic, well-versed in scripture and who eagerly joined in with the prayers to Our Lady.

For myself, St. Josemaria continues to guide and direct my path. His teaching never fails to correct me when I feel distracted and the joy of his smile, when I look at his face on a prayer card each day, reminds me that living in God's presence is the key to finding my way home to heaven.

Joan Levy Earle has written several booklets on the rosary, a book called Jack's Farm about her life as a widow and, Train Ride to Destiny, the story of her remarriage which was inspired by Our Lady. Her latest book: The Road Home.

Favors granted through the intercession of St Josemaria Escriva



St Josemaria Escriva

Very Old Music from the Very Young

I am writing this message on the very special day of June 26th in order to thank St. Josemaria Escrivá for his intercession before God and for the tremendous blessing with which I have been granted.

Two years ago I had a dream about beginning a performing music group for children which would specialize in recorder music of the 15th-18th centuries. Beginning such a group was challenging but my prayers to St. Josemaria were certainly heard and answered. Two years later we now have a splendid group of 12 young players aged 8 through 12 who have performed in six different cities, played numerous concert programmes and have won two awards for their musical achievements. I also am blessed with having an amazing and supportive group of their parents who are behind everything that we do.



Our group is known as the Musica Antiqua Children's Recorder Consort and although it is not a paying "job" for me the joy of directing this very unique ensemble has proved extremely rewarding in many other ways. I am extremely proud of what these young people have accomplished in just two short years and I sincerely thank St. Josemaria Escrivá for his intercession on our behalf.

J.J. V., Ontario (Canada)
July 17, 2012

A little favor that made a big difference to me



I run a bed-and-breakfast. One Saturday evening some people arrived for a party in my village, and asked if they could have breakfast late next morning. Now next morning was of course Sunday, and the problem was that we only have one Mass in our village, at 11 o'clock. So I asked them if they could have breakfast at 10 because of Mass. That Sunday I had more people arriving for my rooms, so I had to make the beds and clean the bathrooms before the next guests arrived. I had injured my arm in an accident and so I was working much

more slowly. So I entrusted Saint Josemaría with the organization of that whole day, which was looking really problematic. The first set of guests came down for breakfast even earlier than arranged, so I was able to start the cleaning early and get to Mass on time.

I often think of the importance given to work in the home in Opus Dei, and I know how important it was for Saint Josemaría. So I always do my very best for my guests, thinking of him. Thank you, Saint Josemaría, I really did appreciate your support that day.

M. L. S., France
July 16, 2012

Special Feature: There be Dragons

Successor of St. Josemaría speaks about the film "There Be Dragons"

From Rome

March 27, 2011. The director Roland Joffé traveled to Rome to present his film on St. Josemaría Escrivá at the Vatican. The film takes place during the Spanish Civil War. Among those in attendance, were those who knew St. Josemaría before he died in 1975.



Josemaría Escrivá with Javier Echevarría in Rome, 1950

Bishop Javier Echevarría, Prelate of Opus Dei

"This film served to remind me of the thousands of priests, from years past but also the current generation, they spend their lives with joy in the service of souls, in the service of society."

Roland Joffé, Director, "There Be Dragons"

"He said that you didn't only find God in church, you found God in everyday life, and I took that very seriously. I thought it was a very wonderful thing, but what happens if everyday life is a civil war? Where is God in a civil war?"



Joaquin Navarro-Valls, former Spokesperson of the Holy See

“The last five years of his life I lived with him. I remember, it was clear, even when he was an older person, his great sense of humor. And I would say this is one thing in the film that you can see.”

Card. Giovanni Chelli

“I think you see a large amount of what was the spirit of St. Josemaria Escriva. He had a very strong character, we were very, very good friends and when I came to Rome he would always invite me to Viale Bruno Buozzi to have lunch with him. I loved him very much and I hope that he also loves me now.”

Card. Julian Herranz

“It’s a very timely message, because it speaks to what is necessary to have true peace, which is how to live and to forgive, because this is something that’s necessary.”

“There Be Dragons,” is a movie for Catholics and non-Catholic alike, that doesn’t seek to change any opinions on the conflict of the war.