

MONTSE GRASES

Montse, the clowns and the bottle-caps

On Sunday, 7 February 2021, Montse's biographer **Mariagrazia Melfi and her great friend, Pepa Castelló** held a Zoom conversation about Montse, attended by 150 people. It was part of the "Sacred Questions" project, a series of online colloquia on exemplary Christians and Christian life.

Mariagrazia, author of a short biography of Montse, presented some of the aspects she liked most about her, including her ordinariness. For example, when looking for signs of holiness in Montse's childhood, Mariagrazia was struck by Montse's mother's account of the day of her First Holy Communion. "When asked, 'What did you like the most?' Montse's answer was what you would expect from a 7-year-old: 'The clowns!'" After Mass, Montse's parents had organised a party, and invited some clowns to perform. They did not repeat the invitation on subsequent occasions, so that their children would not lose sight of the fact that the important thing about that day was Jesus.

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Montse's friend Pepa told some stories from Montse's life, in particular her trip to Rome, months before she died, to visit St Josemaría, the founder of Opus Dei. Montse had seen clearly that God was calling her to be a saint in Opus Dei. **Pepa remembers how moved St Josemaría was on meeting this daughter of his, who was so joyful in spite of her suffering.**

It was the first time Montse had travelled alone by plane, as her parents had eight children and could not afford to go with her. There was a terrible storm when they were about to land. When she met Pepa, who lived in Rome, she told her, quite naturally, as a teenager who was used to praying: "You can't imagine how scared I was! I made lots of acts of contrition because I thought I was going to die at any moment."

Another little story that reflects her simplicity was when, before returning to Spain, she was given a bag full of bottle-caps for her brother, who collected them. "She was so happy!" Pepa recalled fondly.

The speakers highlighted Montse's adolescent enthusiasm, her capacity for loving, and how she fell in love with God. And so, **very naturally, Montse put passion into her love and affection for her family, her friendships, her studies, her life project, the big and small challenges she met: with more and more love for God.** And when physical suffering came, suddenly and unexpectedly, her love matured into a solid love with underlying



Publications

[Zoom conversation about Montse Grases:](#)



[A summary of it](#)





Venerable

MONTSE GRASES

PRAYER

O God, you granted your servant Montse the grace of serene and cheerful dedication to your will with admirable simplicity in everyday life. Grant that I may lovingly offer to you all my daily activity and convert it into Christian service for others. Deign to glorify your servant Montse, and through her intercession grant me the favour I ask of you... (*here make your request*). Amen..

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use..

A possible eviction, and conditions fulfilled

My sister asked me to help her pray for a house, as their landlord was either going to evict them or raise the rent unreasonably. The conditions she set were: a house for the couple and their seven children aged between 11 and 24, located near the railway station to help most of them get to school, and a price within the range of two modest salaries. It was not going to be easy to find. Supported by my sister's faith, and her children's, I entrusted the matter to Montse, naming a specific street – the one with the Centre of the Work that Montse used to go to, as I had learned from my mother. A few weeks later, a house became available, just a few blocks down that very street. At first I didn't even realize it, as my sister just said it was in the right location for them, but when I saw the actual address, I gave heartfelt thanks to Montse. **J. S.**

News of the Cause

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints promulgated the Decree on the heroicity of Montse's virtues and her reputation for sanctity on 26 April 2016

Those who obtain favours through Montse Grases' intercession are requested to write to the Office for the Causes of Saints, Opus Dei Prelature, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL..

E-mail: ocs.uk@opusdei.org

or through the website www.montsegrases.org

This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to contribute towards its publication costs may send donations by direct transfer or by cheque/postal order to: Opus Dei Charitable Trust, Office for the Causes of Saints, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL. Email: ocs.uk@opusdei.org.

Direct transfer for donations should be made to Opus Dei Charitable Trust, Account Number: 81044834; Sort-Code: 40-05-33. Marked: Ref: Grases

Sudden recovery on Montse's birthday

Over several years we have (...) received several favours from Montse but this last one is the most striking. My wife was diagnosed with bile duct cancer in January 2020. (...) After several operations and receiving radiotherapy and chemotherapy, we were told that the treatment had not worked and that she would be given palliative care only. She was hospitalised for 18 days. (...) She arrived home in a very fragile state, and going by the explanations we had been given, there came a moment when we thought she was dying (...). Throughout this whole process my family and I were praying for her to Montse, and (...) that night, as I usually do, I prayed the prayer card and said to her, "Let whatever God wills be done, but help me." The next day, my wife woke up, clearly much better (...); the doctors themselves are amazed at her recovery. My family and I know that miracles do happen (...). What's more, when we were trying to find out how to send in this testimony for the Causes of Saints, we found that the day she woke up restored, after being at death's door, was 10th July, Montse's birthday. **D. C.**