

MONTSE GRASES

80 white roses for Montse

White roses for Montse Grases' birthday. With this initiative many people who have devotion to Montse celebrated the 80th anniversary of her birth and thanked her for the favours received through her intercession.

In June, the idea began to take shape. The plan was to take white roses to the crypt of the chapel of Our Lady of Bonaigua, in Barcelona, Spain, where Montse's remains lie. Despite it being the end of the academic year and exam time for students, with restrictions due to the pandemic... it was worth celebrating the 10th of July in a special way.

Surely there would be people around the world who would like to thank her for so many favours received through her intercession. But because of the distance it would not be possible for them to do so with a visit in person. On the other hand, it would be easier for people living in Barcelona to visit the crypt to pray to her on her birthday. They could even bring her some flowers.

Eighty years, 80 white flowers

Fina, a friend of Montse's who now lives in

Murcia, but who for a time lived in Barcelona and is a member of the Committee of Friends of Montse Grases, shares how the white roses initiative came about: "It occurred to me that the young people who visit the chapel would like to make an offering of white flowers throughout the day. To be honest, it seemed crazy to me to get to as many as 80 roses. Who would be in the crypt in vacation time in July to place those flowers? I only knew of three people. But there is a lot of devotion to the Venerable Montse and there is the internet! We moved forward: first 8 white roses from friends' children arrived, then 15, and then more ... And when the chapel was opened on her birthday there were already 80 roses."

The Bonaigua Hall of Residence prepared a poster to publicise the initiative, as many young people who live in the hall, or take part in its activities are Montse's "friends", asked for her help: "I'm very happy to collaborate. And I ask her for many things", or "We will bring our rose!" were some of the spontaneous expressions of the university students when they heard about this plan.



A rose, a favour, a thank you

From very early in the morning, many people began passing through the chapel. Inside, as the crypt is small, two or three could be seen praying with much devotion. To the right of the chapel is the tomb of Montse and, next to it, the image of the Virgin Mary who received so many prayers in her life.

The first rose was from a gentleman on behalf of his family: "out of gratitude and devotion to Montse and out of affection for the Work". Shortly afterwards, a bouquet of roses arrived from Terralta, on behalf of college students from that centre of the Work who take part in formation activities. Little by little a prayerful atmosphere was created outside the crypt. In the afternoon, adults, teenagers, old people and children continued to arrive... A lot of silence and an atmosphere of recollection. The youngest ones put their hand on the slab, as if to connect, as a call for attention.



Tere is a student teacher: "I hardly know Opus Dei. I am delighted to see Montse's cheerfulness, what happened to her and her deep joy, her smile. Seeing the photos at the entrance to the crypt gives me great joy and I like to pray with her. I did not know that she would have turned 80 today."

Almudena is an architecture student and has also just got to know Opus Dei. With every visit, she has grown fond of Montse, because of the favours she has been granted, and she comments: "I am very excited to be here on her 80th birthday. I have asked her to work many miracles so that she will be canonised soon."

Amaka is from Nigeria. She has also been at the crypt to pray. She lives very close to Bonaigua, and this helps her to come and pray.

And finally, Mariangeles, who has come "to bring roses for two people, to thank Montse for two favours: I am bringing a rose on behalf of a nephew of mine who is a priest and every step he has taken I have entrusted to Montse's intercession. He sees that he owes his vocation to her. And another rose from a friend of mine, this time the mother of a girl who seemed incurable and for whom we have asked Montse for a lot. She is now in an incubator, but she will come out."

News of the Cause

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints promulgated the Decree on the heroicity of Montse's virtues and her reputation for sanctity seven years ago 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

www.montsegrases.org

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Direct transfer for donations should be made to Opus Dei Charitable Trust | Account Number: 81044834 | Sort-Code: 40-05-33 | Reference: Grases



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..

Favours through her intercession

Severe toothache

I had a complicated dental issue, from which I was not getting better and which was causing me more and more intense pain. At the same time, I was suffering from a severe bout of flu. These health issues overwhelmed me and made me lose patience, so I decided to go to Montse, because she knew a lot about physical pain: I asked her for my speedy recovery. I prayed the prayer on her prayer-card asking her for this. Each day I was surprised, because I began experiencing a great improvement, until everything was solved. **R.F. Venezuela**

Help for priests

I asked for the intercession of Montse, praying every day the prayer of her prayer-card so that a flat in Barcelona (Spain) could be sold, which my sister had left in her will to CARF (Foundation in Aid for the formation of priests in Rome). It was not easy, given the circumstances (pandemic, real estate crisis, long-distance errands, etc). Six months after the death of my sister – who loved Montse – each stage turned out well. **J.G.C. Venezuela**