

# The Servant of God **José María Hernández Garnica**

2021 Newsletter

**W**hen he completed his degree in Mining Engineering, Fr José María chose to pursue his profession in the same field as his father, electrical technology, and he worked at the Electra Company, a subsidiary of Hidroeléctrica Española.



## **A friend to his colleagues and an older brother**

The testimony of Antonio Cortés about that time says: *Many people who knew and dealt with D. José María Hernández Garnica have a good memory of him, despite the fact that he worked there for barely two years. He left a mark with his talent, good manners and being a good Christian (...). His fellow worker, Eduardo Pérez Somarriba, told his wife that at work he [José María] had a special charm. And she still remembers that they occasionally asked him to lunch at their house. His colleagues had a very good relationship with him, which led them to give him a present on the occasion of his priestly ordination.*<sup>1</sup>

On the occasion of his first Mass, the affection they showed him was a sign of their great appreciation for him. His family, friends and Electra employees were present. One of them wrote this moving letter: *The lowest and humblest subordinate, addressing you as his Manager at work yesterday and today as a director of the soul, requests that you accept these words of congratulation written in the ink of his tears, caused by the intense emotion produced by your decision to switch to the path of the priesthood...*<sup>2</sup>

His fellow graduates who were present at his ordination also gifted him with a chalice, paid for by all of them. *Then he celebrated Mass for us. We were very moved.*<sup>3</sup>

After his ordination, Fr José María travelled constantly through several countries for the development of the apostolates of Opus Dei. He was asked to promote the apostolic work with women.

Carmen Marco's testimony underlines the relationship, a mixture of friendship and fraternity: *I felt supported by an older brother to whom you could relate anything. If he could give it to you, he would; but if he said "no" it was because it was not appropriate and he would explain so that you were satisfied.*<sup>4</sup> And Amparo Martín says: *He taught unity and fraternity by example, to be very human, to be very close to other people, (...). I learnt from him to serve others without making any fuss, to give oneself in a natural way. I saw the spirit of Opus Dei become a reality; he was that example that one seeks to imitate, together with the fortitude of an older brother that makes the way easier...*<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Testimony of Antonio Cortés, AGP, JHG, T-01436.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from José Félix Saldaña, AGP, JHG, C-176.

<sup>3</sup> Testimony of Manuel Medina, AGP, JHG, T-01317.

<sup>4</sup> Testimony of Carmen Marco, AGP, JHG, T-032.

<sup>5</sup> Testimony of Amparo Martín, AGP, JHG, T-033.

## Favours

### Three more years

I consider myself to be in debt with Fr José María Hernández Garnica because I have been postponing giving this testimony for almost ten years. My wife María Luisa, suffering from hepatitis C, had to go into hospital periodically for a few days. On one of these occasions her state of health deteriorated so much that she went into a deep coma and the doctor told us that she was going to die imminently. In this situation she received the Anointing of the Sick. For my part, I entrusted her prompt recovery to Fr José María, if that was appropriate. To everybody's surprise she woke up, and a few days later she was able to return home. For three years we led a practically normal

life and a few months after leaving hospital we were even able to attend a granddaughter's First Communion in Italy. I also consider Fr José María's intervention providential in that, after those three years, when she was again admitted to hospital, she was able to receive the Sacraments fully aware, very much at peace and smiling. In the early hours of the morning of Saturday, 18th August after asking for water with vinegar, she went to sleep. We are convinced she woke up in Heaven.

J.T.C.

### Health of body and soul

After some routine tests which had revealed anaemia, my friend Paco was diagnosed with

cancer of the colon. His wife suffered from frequent bouts of depression, and I had entrusted her to Fr José María Hernández Garnica's intercession, saying the prayer card daily. Now I was praying for the two of them. Following the usual procedure, Paco had surgery. Everything turned out so well and so quickly that, when the doctor told him he could lead a completely normal life, his wife wept with joy. The cancer has served to unite them and to remove every trace of depression. I am grateful for this new favour from Fr José María and I continue to commend to him the needs of relatives and friends, being convinced of his happy and effective intercession.

J.G.T.

### PRAYER

Lord God, you wished to count on your servant and priest José María to spread the call to holiness in everyday life in many parts of the world. Help me to get to know and follow Jesus Christ closely in my ordinary work, so that I can convey to many souls the joy of responding to our Christian vocation. Deign to glorify your servant José María and grant me, through his intercession, 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 judgement of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.*

### Publications

- **José Carlos Martín de la Hoz:** *Abriendo horizontes*. Ed. Església de Santa Maria de Montalegre, Barcelona 2010.
- **José Carlos Martín de la Hoz:** *Roturando los caminos*. Ed. Palabra, Madrid 2012.
- **Documentary video** *José María Hernández Garnica. Through the paths of Europe* (27 min), Goya Producciones, Madrid 2008.
- **Hernández Garnica, José María:** in the *Diccionario de San Josemaría Escrivá*, ed. Monte Carmelo, Burgos 2013

This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give alms to help its publication may send donations by cheque to the address below or by bank transfer. Direct transfer for donations: Account Number: 81044834 | Sort-Code: 40-05-33  
Marked Ref: Garnica.

Those who have obtained favours through the intercession of the Servant of God Fr José María Hernández Garnica are asked to let us know by writing to us at the address shown on this page.

**News of the Cause** The *Positio* on the life, virtues and reputation for holiness has now been presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints

4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL

[ocs.uk@opusdei.org](mailto:ocs.uk@opusdei.org) [www.josemariahernandezgarnica.org](http://www.josemariahernandezgarnica.org)