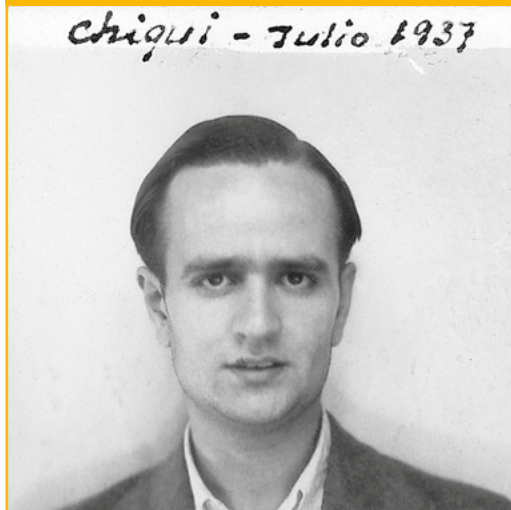




## Friends in their youth



*Photograph from a wartime identity card*

Fr José María was ordained to the priesthood with Alvaro del Portillo and Joseph Múzquiz on 25 June 1944. It is moving to see that where there is one saint, other saints arise, for goodness spreads by its very nature. St Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei was a father, teacher, model and guide of saints. The people, such as José María Hernández Garnica, who followed him along the path which God had pointed out to him, are models who are near to us, because they lived in the same circumstances as their contemporaries, accepting God's grace that calls everyone to sanctity.

Alvaro del Portillo's beatification took place in Madrid in September 2014. Alvaro was known to José María from childhood, as they were next door neighbours in Conde de Aranda Street in Madrid: one lived at number 14 and the other at number 12. They shared the same play area at the Pilar school, where they were studying. Their friendship grew while they prepared for the entrance examination to the Faculty of Mining Engineering: they both took and passed their exams on the same day. Alvaro, however, joined the Faculty of Civil Engineering, towards which he felt more inclined, while José María went in for Mining Engineering, as his family had interests in the Rodalquilar mines in Almería in southern Spain.

Both of them experienced crucial encounters

with God in July 1935. On the 7th, Alvaro attended a day of recollection. After the second meditation preached by St Josemaría, he received what he called a "knock-down grace", and decided to give his life to God in Opus Dei. From then on, his dealings with José María increased even further. During that month of the summer holiday, both would go to the Ferraz Street Residence daily. They spoke a great deal, especially during the long tram journey on their way back home. José María asked to be admitted to Opus Dei three weeks later, having made a triduum to the Holy Spirit on St Josemaría's advice.

One of the things that most struck José María was the way Alvaro had overcome his shyness so quickly, perhaps because he himself was also somewhat shy. One day he asked Alvaro directly whether he did not feel inhibited when he visited the Bishop of Madrid on behalf of St Josemaría, or had to deal with the religious, academic or civil authorities. Alvaro replied in all simplicity: "I recall the miraculous catch of fish and I try to do what St Peter did: *'in nomine tuo laxabo rete'* – in your name I will let down the net. I remember what the Father has told me and I recall that scene from the Gospel". The secret of these two young engineers' faithfulness was that they based everything on their personal prayer and on their work turned into prayer.

In the morning of 19 July 1936, José María and Alvaro both arrived quite early at the residence at 16 Ferraz Street, which had recently been set up. The Spanish civil war had just begun, and it was located opposite the Montaña Barracks, which was under attack at that moment. They had to leave in great haste, making their way through the highly charged crowds. St Josemaría had to do the same, fleeing in the workman's overalls that José María used to wear when carrying out repairs in the house. They dispersed in the city.

Towards the end of that month they met providentially and embraced one another. José María would never forget that Alvaro's lesson in maturity had strengthened him, and the other conversations they had had at the San Antón prison, where both happened to be incarcerated in December and January, a consequence of the harsh religious persecution.



I went to Mass at the Church of Montalegre [in Barcelona] when the mortal remains of Fr José María lie. Returning to my pew after receiving Communion, as I passed the place where he is buried, I asked him to resolve before the summer, problems with two banks which my wife and I have been fighting for four years. I used the prayercard after Mass, as I usually do, and they at last accepted our proposal for a 40% reduction. We are delighted with Fr José María's intervention.

**J.R. (by email)**

I asked Fr José María to help me as I had bought a small piece of furniture and it turned out to be too low for where it was needed. I entrusted the resolution of the problem to him. And it has turned out really well, for no one notices the piece added on. I know he has helped me, because the solution was not an easy one, and it has turned out well. As he liked carpentry work and repairs, these are the things I ask of him, and I do so frequently.

**A. G. (Gijón)**

I had spent quite some time working on an edition of a book, which has a lot of graphics and detailed drawing. Shortly before completing it, I had to break off for the summer holiday. When I took

it up again, the computer failed to boot. We tried to start it several times. Then, a little desperate, after six fruitless attempts, I realised that I had not asked Heaven for help. As it was the centenary of Fr José María's birth, I thought he would be more active, and I suggested using the prayercard. We did so, and as soon as we finished, we pushed the start button, the machine booted and I could finish off my work.

**J.C. (by email)**

As I was getting ready to catch a plane where the airline is known to be strict when it comes to boarding requirements, I realised that my identity card had expired. I happened to have a prayercard of Fr José María and I prayed to him so that I'd be able to board without a problem. I saw how each and every passenger was being asked for their identity card, how closely it was being examined before being returned to the owner. When it came to my turn, something distracted the person checking: I showed him the card without it leaving my hand, and I was able to board. I could not believe it! When I later went to the police to have the card renewed, they said I had been really lucky to be able to fly like that with this airline.

**R.S. (Barcelona)**

**The Servant of God**  
**José María Hernández Garnica**  
*Prayer for private devotion*

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 to the Father.

*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.*

*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..*

## Publications

**José Carlos Martín de la Hoz:** *Por los caminos de Europa*. Ed. Palabra, "Folletos Mundo Cristiano", nº 745, Madrid 2004.

**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.** *Por los caminos de Europa* (27 min), Goya Producciones, Madrid 2008.

### News of the Cause

The *Positio* on the life and virtues of Fr José María is currently being worked on.

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. We would be grateful if our readers would send us names and addresses of others who might be interested in receiving this Newsletter or the prayer card of Fr José María.

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