

## 新聞摘要

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主業團是羅馬天主教會內的一個屬人監督團  
由聖若瑟瑪利亞施禮華創辦。

## events

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Compiled by Opus Dei Information Office in East Asia  
由主業團東亞區資訊社編輯

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## 我怎樣和聖施禮華成了好朋友

廖惇孟

台灣，台中，2013

聖施禮華在裡面的簡短對答，快速直衝我的腦海，如果以中國功夫來講就是「拳拳到肉」

### 我怎樣和聖施禮華成了好朋友呢？

在2009於台中第一次與吳神父見面的時候，他送了一本聖施禮華的書《道路》，我禮貌地接受了這小本書，隨意翻了幾頁後發現聖施禮華意簡言駭不拖泥帶水，真是字字珠璣。裡面每一個字句，都值得探索與自省，更重要的是可讓我們在生活中活出聖施禮華的精神與識別聖神的啟示，學習在日常生活中尋求天主。透過《道路》這本書，我開始對這位聖人產生興趣，在蒐集相關聖施禮華的資訊時，我發現了一系列紀錄片。聖施禮華在裡面的簡短對答，快速直衝我的腦海，如果以中國功夫來講就是「拳拳到肉」，似乎他就站在我的面前談話，就像朋友的提醒、兄弟的陪伴，有時候像是父親的教導；他簡直就是我的良師益友。

某天我在網路上找到聖施禮華的網站，裏面有一個「聖施禮華求職九日敬禮」跳上了電腦螢幕，雖然我並沒有要求職，但是好奇心驅使我打開檔案一看，哇！簡直挖到寶，他說「工作是通往成聖的道路」，這不就是我心裏期盼的生活化修行最佳工具嗎！那時剛好有一位長期協助教會慈善工作的志工-梁玉鳳姊妹請我為他先生的眼睛健康還有家人盡快歸主祈禱，我想「福傳」和「為他人的需要祈禱」應該是每個基督徒的工作，那我就以聖施禮華的九日敬禮為基礎，再稍微加入個人意向來為梁姊妹的需要祈禱。我同時也邀請梁姊妹一起加入九日敬禮的祈禱，過了幾個星期後，她見證分享說雖然她先生的眼睛還沒有回復正常視力，但是先生過去對於太太的熱心服務偶有微詞，自從我們開始聖施禮華九日敬禮後，她的先生竟然不再抱怨，反而在外人面前肯定太太的慈善志工服事。回首當年林神父一句話無心插柳柳成蔭，筆者除認識了主業團，也接受邀請成為協助人及參加培育課程。



參考鏈結：[where-can-i-find-the-novena-for-work-and-the-novena-for-the-sick3f](http://where-can-i-find-the-novena-for-work-and-the-novena-for-the-sick3f)

## 偶然？

日本Cecilia Awano

2014年2月19日

Cecilia Awano Kim來自南韓，已居於日本近10年。

我來自南韓，婚後一直居於日本京都。我育有三名子女。長女光(ひかる)(日文解作「光」)，四歲；她的聖名是安娜瑪利亞(Anna Maria)。次子薰(かおる)(「薰香」)，他今年兩歲，他領洗時，我們給他取聖名施禮華。五個月前，我們可愛的幼女瑪利亞德肋撒(Maria Teresa)出生；她的日文名字是盈(みちる)(「豐盈」)。他們的名字並非隨意挑選的，而是跟我的生命有密切連繫，我的生命看似有一連串偶然發生的事情。或許，這些事根本不是偶然發生的。



我生於南韓的釜山，南韓是個基督徒較少的國家：總人口5000萬人中，約有1400萬基督徒。在這些基督徒中，逾900萬人——三分之二——屬於基督新教的各個教派，其餘三分之一是天主教徒，韓國天主教會非常生氣勃勃，皈依者眾多。

### 簡述韓國歷史

自天主教會首度獲准於韓國落地生根起，我的家族只有兩代人是基督徒，因為天主教在韓國的歷史尚淺。於1780年，一些年青的朝鮮知識份子、貴族子弟及權貴子弟對西方文化感到興趣，並發現了天主教。起初，他們只是感到好奇，但不久之後，他們的興趣變成深厚信仰。於1784年，當他們知道領洗的重要性後，便決定讓他們當中的李承薰(他正準備陪同肩負外交使命的父親前往中國)跟北京的天主教傳教士接觸，並請求領洗。

李於北京逗留了僅僅四十天，在如此短時間內，他展現了豐富的信仰知識，最後接受洗禮，取聖名伯多祿。

回到朝鮮後，他為朋友李燦施洗，李燦繼而為其他朋友施洗。這就是天主教會在我國的起源。朝鮮的例子在史上是獨一無二的，因為在一

個神父都沒有的情況下，由土生土長的平信徒向我們福傳。首批朝鮮基督徒之一的金範禹將他的房子改建為一所天主教聖堂。過了不久，正當天主教會開始發展時，政府嘗試打擊它，理由是朝鮮人只可以是儒教信徒，因為儒教是國教。於1789年，金範禹遭受酷刑並被流放，三年後，於1791年，首兩名朝鮮殉道者為基督犧牲性命。

與此同時，領洗人數迅速上升。於1801年，正祖大王的女兒繼位，發動了特別殘暴的迫害，有很多天主教徒逃往山上，他們在沒有神父下堅守信仰三十年(正如日本這裏多個世紀以來所發生的一樣)。在韓國，迫害持續了一百年，並有數以萬計的天主教徒殉道。

和平與宗教自由於1886年終於來到。在這段時期，我的外祖父母與全家人領洗。但是，這段和平時期並不持久，因為日本於1910年入侵韓國，政府再次對教會進行敵對監控。南韓於1945年獨立後，於第二次世界大戰結束時，基督徒才再次有信仰宗教的自由。



自韓國允許有天主教會以來，  
我的家族只有兩代人是基督徒。

### 我的信仰

以上全部說明了很多韓國天主教徒對信仰無知的原因，因為他們有很多年被迫將信仰默存心中，沒有人向他們教授教理或教導他們。我出生後不久便領洗，但是童年及青少年時期沒有人告訴過我任何事，也沒有人帶我上聖堂，更沒有人給予任何教理指導。

從小以來，我的遠大抱負就是學習多種語言。我學習了日語及英語。21歲那年，我前往英國進修英語。

在倫敦時，有一天我到機場送別一位回日本家鄉的日本朋友，偶然地，在那裡認識了一位叫卡門的西班牙女生，她前來送別一位回韓國的韓國朋友。我們開始聊天，笑着說我們的國籍及道別的組合，我對卡門說笑地說了一句，「不要為你的韓國朋友離開而感到難過，從今以後，我就是你的新韓國朋友！」我並不認真，但是我們確有交換電話號碼，最終我們成為朋友。

卡門有定期去倫敦漢普斯特的主業團中心萊克菲爾德。她有邀請我同往，不久後，我開始在那裏讀基督徒生活的課程。他們向我講述天主、信仰、聖善生活及**聖化工作**...

如果我要為人生那個階段起名，我會稱之為光（ひかる），就像我的長女一樣，因為我的人生直到當時為止有很多方面皆處於黑暗中，但是因著主業團而充滿了光明。在萊克菲爾德中心，我開始明白到，天主自我出生以來如何慈愛地眷顧著我，即使我無知，但祂一直在我不知不覺中引領我向善。

當我完成**聖理班**後，我初領聖體及領受堅振聖事。於1997年4月（我畢業前三個月），天主賜予我一生中最大的恩賜之一：主業團的聖召，包括日後組織家庭的渴望。我於倫敦完成學業後，前往日本進修日語，數年後回到首爾。我於首爾學習西班牙語，正如我之前所說，因為我喜歡語言。跟著住在西班牙阿利坎特一短時期後，我回到倫敦。

### 一見鍾情

2003年夏天某一天，我如常到巴比肯地鐵站乘車回家。於地鐵站的入口，地鐵圖前面有一位日本男生站著，正在尋找前往市中心一家大型書店的最近地鐵站。他找不到，我告訴了他。他感謝我，然後問我會否介意跟他一起前往書店，因為他在倫敦一個人也不認識，而且不太會講英語。

對於我不認識的人作出這種邀請，我一般都不會接受，但是他太有禮貌、彬彬有禮及舉止斯文，使我決定可以相信他，所以我說好。他的名字叫作達也，他真的很好。他告訴我，他已經取得京都大學的學士學位，居於瑞典，正在攻讀生物學博士學位。我們到達書店，他買了他的書，然後我們準備說再見。

他問：「你可不可以給我你的電郵？」我猶豫不決，但是認為單單一個電郵地址並不會給我帶來甚麼責任，所以我再次說好，然後將電郵給了他。

那次相遇給我留下美妙的感覺，就好像呼吸芬芳香氣一樣——日語的「薰（かおる）」。我們開始寫信給對方，電郵在英國與瑞典之間來來往往，我對於他的良好品格越感驚訝，說實話，我已經愛上了他。

他在其中一封電郵中告訴我，他認識了一個波蘭裔的天主教家庭，他們的生活方式使他留下深刻印象，甚至使他開始對天主教信仰產生興趣。達也曾經於京都的一所天主教學校讀書，聽說過一些關於耶穌基督的事，但是當時並不真正有興趣。要知道瑞典只有很少天主教徒——900萬的人口少於15萬人——而他居然認識了一個天主教家庭！

一封又一封的電郵，他告訴我，他是因為見到那個家庭實踐他們信仰的方式而歸向基督。另一個訊息之中，他告訴我，他正在上信仰課程。我給他寄了一本日文版的《道路》，他喜歡這本書。

我們從電郵轉到電話通話，很快就轉到視像對話（幸好如此，否則我們的友誼就會使我們陷於敗壞）。我們決定，我們需要盡快再次見面。這既不容易，又不便宜，因為英國跟瑞典並非像地圖上看起來那麼近。最終，我們於2004年1月（我們初次見面後半年）再次見面。這次是我們第二次「親自」面對面交談；直到那時為止，除了於地鐵站及書店的三個小時之外，我們的整段關係一直都是「網絡上」的。

### 我們於6月26日聖施禮華的慶日結婚

簡直無法相信；我以為這種事情——於地鐵站偶遇、一見鍾情，這一切——只會在電影中發生。但是這一切都是真實的，我於二月前往瑞典于默奧的聖堂出席他的洗禮。於2004年6月26日（聖施禮華的慶日），即我們相識一年後，我們於京都結婚。現在，我們二人都加入了主業團。

我很開心，所以我們的幼女瑪利亞德肋撒的日文名字是盈（みちる）「豐盈」。這是向天主獻上謝恩的舉動，因祂賜給了我們如此豐富的恩寵。

育有三名年齡如此接近的年幼子女意味著我要努力工作，這是真的；但是我從不間斷地為一切感謝天主，特別是一連串「偶然發生的事情」，這些事都是祂給我的無限恩寵。

譯自《Los cerezos en flor: relatos sobre la expansión del Opus Dei en Japón by J. M. Cejas, Madrid: Rialp, 2013》一書。

## 《道路》為我導航

SooGyoung Heo, Teresa,

韓國，首爾

2014年3月11日

我已不記得是七年或八年前的的事了，只記得那是我第一次看到天主教讀者文摘(每月發行的雜誌，也是印製《道路》的出版社)寄給我韓文版的《道路》時，自己立刻被書的內容深深吸引。



作者在序文內建議每次最好只看一段，好用來默想，但這書實在太好看了，使我欲罷不能。它的一字一句都反映出我在走的路。正因如此，使我了解自己該走的路。有時，一些句子會令我這麼想：「噢！這太極端了，這太過份了…怎能會有人如此做呢？…」但它就是這樣直截了當，毫不含混地告訴我們當行之路。我不能把這些訊息只留為己用。

所以，我購買了100本《道路》送給我遇到的人，特別送給來我診所看病的人。我又把它送給我的姊妹。當我的姪兒快要受洗時，我建議他取一個聖名：若瑟瑪利亞·施禮華。她採納了我的意見，這樣我便可以很近地碰到若瑟瑪利亞了。雖然在我周圍，我還未遇到另一位若瑟瑪利亞，但當我邀請朋友成為天主教徒，並送給他們聖施禮華的祈禱卡時，我滿懷期望另一位若瑟瑪利亞快快出現。

我每次訂購一百本《道路》送給人，已經訂了兩三次了。這其實一點也不夠。去年的冬天，我把這本小書送給一位退休的人，他過去常常上基督教的教會，我告訴他每次看一段就夠了。當我再遇到他時，我問他是否忍不住一口氣把書全部讀完(我想他會跟我一樣)，他竟然回答說，他每天最多只能看一段，無法更多。因為那些話語深深地觸動到他心靈深處，並讓他沉浸在默想中…他說雖然與他的收穫不相稱，但想聊表心意，於是他又買了十本《道路》送給我，好讓我轉贈他人。



能夠「遇到」聖施禮華真是一個福氣。他確切地向我指出天主的《道路》，既新穎又清晰。我認識了又可以跟人分享這條走近天主的道路…願感恩、讚美、光榮與崇敬藉由聖施禮華的代禱，歸於天主，及世之世。

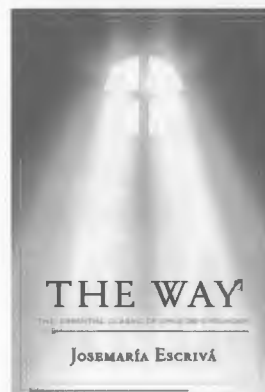
## 聖施禮華，《道路》，對我的意義

JG，上海，中國

有些時候，日子過得沒有像預期的好，但我知道，天主會用《道路》去指引我明天作改進。

那感覺，就好像跟靈修導師在晨早喝著咖啡一樣

聖施禮華的著作，《道路》，對我的生活有著非常正面的影響—我使這本書成為了我日常靈修生活重要的一部份。



通常我會在參與每天的彌撒後閱讀《道路》的其中一章節，感覺好像跟靈修導師在晨早喝著咖啡一樣。而我所閱讀的章節，往往會聯系到我日常生活中的某些事與物：可以是我日常生活所遇到的難題，又可以是在早上默想時與主所討論的事，或者是詮釋在彌撒中所朗讀的聖經。

這本書幫助我每日去準備自己，活出心中的信仰。它給了我信心，我知道我將能夠每天維持我生活的合一，我不需擔心漂流或迷失於雙重生活中。

為了確保我能夠維持生活的合一，一日中我會重覆閱讀同一章節。那感覺就像聖施禮華神父在與我一同復習一樣：我有否按照早上所立的定志與補贖修行？

最後，在黃昏的靈修默想前，我會再次閱讀那些章節，同時我會跟上主祈告，告知祂今天的一切與我如何按照早上所立的定志努力所得的效果。我知道，《道路》是天主指引我向正途的其中一種方式。

有些時候，日子過得沒有像預期的好，但我知道，天主會用《道路》去指引我明天作改進。不論是好的日子與不好的日子，我都同樣快樂，因為每天我都能從《道路》中獲得生命的指引。

## 歐華路蒙席快將獲冊封真福品

### 歐華路主教 —— 自1987年至今，是一位父親

MC, 香港  
3月2014年

我從初認識歐華路主教至他離世只有七年，但他對我子女般的慈愛、個人性的關懷，就好像相識了七十載。雖然他暫世旅程已結束，彼此的連繫並未終結反而增加。

我認識歐華路主教該從一張邀請卡開始。我被邀在1987年2月3日參加主業團首牧歐華路蒙席在香港一所學校舉行的聚會。當時我是一位協助人，帶同三個分別九歲、六歲和初生的兒子前往。聚會中見到在台上站著的是一位慈祥、和藹可親、笑容可掬的神父。他向我們問好，給我們勸言和鼓勵。我有幸被選派向歐華路蒙席發問，請教他怎樣去愛我的孩子多一些。他循循善誘，使我明白孩子是天主的恩賜，每一生命都是天主眼中的珍寶，養育孩子要信賴天主的眷顧。之後，我還請他祝福懷中的初生兒子。藉著他這次遠東之行所帶來的豐厚恩寵，同年五月我加入了主業團成為可婚成員。



那年聖誕節，我送了一張聖誕卡及全家福照片給歐華路蒙席。好一個出乎意料的驚喜，儘管他日理萬機，還要照顧成千上萬的人靈，竟然抽空給我回了一張聖誕卡，送上他的特別祝福，並多謝我的全家福照片可幫助他為我每一家庭成員祈禱，也提醒我們多為他祈禱。

連續三年，即1987，1988和1989我都收到歐華路蒙席的聖誕卡，每次主業團的諮議會秘書總會附上便條傳達他

的聖誕祝福和為他祈禱的要求。1991他晉升為主教。1993聖誕節我再次收到歐華路主教的聖誕卡，心裡特別欣慰。過了幾個月才知道這是在他最後的聖誕節，冥冥之中我收到了歐華路主教最後一張聖誕卡。



我從初認識歐華路主教至他離世只有七年，但他對我子女般的慈愛、個人性的關懷，就好像相識了七十載。雖然他暫世旅程已結束，彼此的連繫並未終結反而增加。事無大小，我都喜歡向歐華路主教求代禱。記得很久以前的一個晚上，小兒子肚痛難耐，輾轉不能入睡，吃了藥疼痛仍然持續。我向歐華路主教求助，還未唸完天主經、聖母經和聖三光榮經，小兒子已平安地呼呼入睡。我極力向家人及朋友介紹對歐華路主教的敬禮。一年前，媳婦要接受心臟手術，我著她帶同一張歐華路主教的祈禱卡及送給我的聖誕卡入院，多向他祈禱。媳婦把卡放在面書上，告訴朋友是婆母送的。她在互聯網宣傳歐華路主教的敬禮哩！感謝歐華路主教的代禱，她的手術順利，現在已安然無恙。

當年被歐華路主教祝福的嬰兒現在已廿七歲了。他在主業團中長大，因我常帶他一同參加培育活動。現時他是一位協助人，參加主業團舉辦的培育活動，在一所主業團成員辦理的學校任主日學義務導師，還不時幫助主業團的成員製作一些活動單張、邀請卡或小冊子等的軟件。他深知自己是被聖人祝福過的「聖髑」，也習慣不時會有朋友興高采烈地對他說：「我在歐華路主教訪問香港的聚會影碟中見到你，呱呱大哭的嬰兒！」

## 他總是笑容滿面，像位父親一樣

P. E.  
4月2014年

### 歐華路蒙席對中心負責家務管理人員像父親般的悉心照顧

主業團的監督，歐華路蒙席於1987年2月1日至6日訪問香港，我就是那時見到他的。與他隨行的，還有蔡浩偉神父和尤雅欽神父，他們下午抵港。隔天，監督到女中心為我們主持默想和舉行彌撒。此外，監督也想認識中心的每個人，所以彌撒後，我們去了客廳聚會。歐華路蒙席燦爛的笑容，彷彿讓我們每個人都神采飛揚，煥然一新。

那幾天，他們都在男中心用餐。而我有幸正在那裡管理家務。歐華路蒙席時常來跟我們這些工作人員聊天，有時在餐前，有時是餐後。他會跟我們說他當天的行程，希望我們為他祈禱，並為此意向奉獻我們的工作。

第一天的早餐結束後，監督到我們的工作部門來打招呼，問我們好不好。我們也同樣問他，及關心他睡的可好，我們還告訴他一些使徒工作的趣事。

2月2日是獻耶穌於聖殿慶日。監督告訴我們，早餐後他將去香港主教座堂朝聖，之後將與一些家庭會面，他希望這些時刻中都有我們祈禱的陪伴。午餐後，他過來告訴我們，他很愉快在中國做了第一次的朝聖，及與中國人的家庭在一起。

隔天，他說他要去澳門拜訪當地主教，也為將來澳門的使徒工作祈禱。那天下午他回來的時候，大家都看的出來他非常開心，告訴我們應該開始去澳門走訪。他還說晚餐後要去我們女子中心聚會。

結果歐華路蒙席比我們早到了，他一到，



就問我們這些工作人員回來沒有。她們說還沒，蒙席就說要等我們回來。我們稍後到了，我對他注重這件小事，而留下深刻的印象。

他鼓勵我們應盡快開始去澳門做使徒工作。其實，就是因為歐華路蒙席，澳門此後的使徒工作才得以開展。

他要去中國大陸的那天，再次邀請我們以祈禱跟隨他，希望會是一次豐收之行。因我是在廚房工作的，知道他有特殊的飲食，但我們總是把食物先準備好，所以能及時回到中心參加聚會。那天下午，我們準備了特別的一餐等他從中國大陸歸來，因為這是他在此最後的晚餐了。然而，時間過晚，所以他們決定在外頭用餐，歐華路蒙席真關心負責家務的人，他打電話來說他們會晚到，希望我們不要等到太晚才回去自己的中心。

隔天早餐後，他來廚房看我們。他為前一天晚上的事情道歉，他知道我們特地準備了晚餐，但他卻無法及時趕來。接著他說，昨天在外面餐廳喝了蛇湯，他跟尤雅欽神父都很喜歡，我們大笑不已。看得出來，監督對這次的中國大陸之行感到欣慰。

## 「當你在你的工作中找到天主時，祂會帶你到九霄雲中」

快將獲冊封真福品的主業團監督，可敬的歐華路曾經在1987年蒞臨香港

1987年2月1日，正值中華大地歡慶農曆新年之際，歐華路蒙席抵達香港，作為他首次在中国的牧民訪問。他在當地大力地鼓勵了主業團的信友自1981年便開始在中國做的使徒工作，到2月6日才離開香港。他留在香港的期間，正好碰到當地在一年之中最喜氣洋





洋，萬家結彩的時刻，是合家團聚的好日子。對於主業團的信友和協助人來說，監督的這次來訪是他們可以從他得到的最佳新年禮物。

2月2日，歐華路蒙席在女子的中心內舉行了他在中國的第一

台彌撒聖祭之後，便走訪了位於堅道的主教座堂，就如他在該次簡短的朝聖行程所說的：「為了這片浩大的地方，居住了十多億人，其中只有少數接受了基督之光的人，向無原罪聖母祈禱。」他在主教座堂的大門前拍了一些照片之後，在離開的途中，他在一個瞭望台稍作停留，從高處俯視香港，並祝福了這個城市。

翌日，他參加了一個在法國國際學校舉行的聚會。該聚會有約四百人參加，其中許多都不是基督徒。他在讚嘆香港的居民如何致力於以縱向發展房屋，以解決土地稀少的橫向問題之後，就邀請了到場的人去在日常生活的各種境況中找尋天主，以解決自己神修生活的平板呆滯：「當你在你的工作中找到天主時，祂會帶你到九霄雲中，給你得到平安和喜樂。」

2月4日，歐華路蒙席走訪澳門，並在2月5日前往廣州，在當地接見了廣州大學的多名教授，他們邀請了他前來訪問的，而歐華路蒙席是以他身為在歐洲和美洲數間大學的校監的名義應邀。

2月6日早晨，他在男子的中心內舉行了彌撒聖祭。他降福了他的兒子們，並為了他們在中國的使徒工作得到成果而祈禱。之後，他便離開及前往啟德機場，飛往台灣，他第一次亞洲牧民之旅的下一站。

## 我記憶中的歐華路主教是一個平安和恬靜的人

劉力樹，台灣

可敬的天主忠僕歐華路主教很快就會在天主教會內晉升為真福品。他在1987年往台灣作了一次牧民探訪。

1987年2月，歐華路蒙席訪問台北時，讓我體驗到他散發出的平安和恬靜。而如今，我在北市已居住了28年。在1985年7月5日，我初踏入斯土，正是歐華路主教加入主業團五十週年紀念日的前兩天。



我們感謝，是他忠心地跟隨我們的創辦人聖施禮華，為了表示我們對他的感恩和實現他的理念，我們在其他城市和許多地方建立中心且將主業團的精神播種到如聖施禮華所稱的「傳教地區」，而台灣就是其中之一。

1987年2月6日中午12時，面帶微笑的他踏出機艙門時，一點都沒有倦容或緊張，即使他剛從香港和菲律賓繁忙的兩週行程，風塵僕僕的抵達台北。在此之前二年，我們才開始覓得租來的公寓，萬沒想到太小的中心，無法提供主業團的監督主教住宿，只好另訂旅館給他和另外三位陪伴的神父。在旅館時，我在這位我認為是很神聖的神父身上體驗到同樣的恬靜。他寧靜的坐在客廳的扶手椅上，等候我們辦理入宿手續。他信賴我們能為他的兩天訪程做最好的安排。

當時的我有點疲累，但為了他的來訪，不是一直準備，就是擔心事與顧慮，或害怕歐華路蒙席已計劃好的行程受到影響或發生不可預見的差錯。幸好，當歐華路蒙席在我身邊時，這樣的顧慮就消失得無蹤無影了。記得有一次，跟他和其他神父乘電梯到他們所住的樓層時，僅僅站在他身旁而已，就使我深深的領受到這份平安和恬靜。似乎在他舉手投足之間，從他靈魂深處就已散發出平安與恬靜之氣。



回想起這位神聖的人物的造訪台北，而當時，城市中大多數的居民尚且不知基督福音為何時，平安與恬靜一直縈繞在我腦海中。

## 藉歐華路主教轉禱而獲得的恩惠

他就希望這麼做！

2014年1月17日

我和丈夫擁有一個美好的家庭，我們共有八個孩子，時常教導他們信靠天主、愛天主。

我的第六個孩子，在他十六歲的時候，開始了「精神叛逆期」。青少年時期的孩子對事事充滿懷疑困惑，但這段充滿危機的日子可以幫助他們成長，變得更成熟，對於信德方面的發展，也有助益，這些我都瞭解。然而，當兒子拒絕參加主日彌撒和辦告解的時候，我開始擔憂了。此時我向歐華路主教祈禱，希望他能幫助我兒回到天主的懷抱。幾個月後，兒子去辦了告解，並領了聖體。他現在不只每主日都喜樂地跟我們一起去彌撒，連週末去找朋友玩並留宿的時候，他還帶朋友一起去參加彌撒！

G.G. (阿根廷)



### 兩顆跳動的心



我跟丈夫結婚快六年了。我們結婚的時候都還很年輕，他23歲，我25歲。我們最渴望的事就是組織一個家庭。我們從一開始就願意接納所有天主送給我們的孩子。

一年過去了，又過一年，卻遲遲沒動靜。我們開始覺得可能有問題，因此去做了相關的檢驗，報告結果也是一切正常。我們不知道誰能幫忙，又該向哪位聖人祈禱。我們去了許多聖母的朝聖地，我們不斷要求同樣的事：「給我們一個孩子吧！請賜給我們一個孩子！」

經過許多祈求之後，我們的信德開始軟弱下來。我每天在彌撒中向上主祈求更多的信德，祂也給我了。我得到一張歐華路主教的祈禱卡，準備開始做九日敬禮。我知道上主希望我和丈夫團結一致，所以我也請了丈夫跟我一起祈禱。我們充滿信德地，向歐華路主教做九日敬禮。時候到了我們做了一次驗孕，反應是陰性的。兩天後是3月23日，（當時我們還不知道那是歐華路主教永息主懷的日子，）再做一次驗孕，反應竟然是陽性的，我們幾乎不敢相信。

開始時，我們以為是不是弄錯了。幾天後再去看醫生，才親眼看到這份從天而降的禮物，竟是雙倍我們原先所期望的。兩顆小小的心臟在跳動，是雙胞胎！

C.M.R. (西班牙)

### 找工作



我雖然有經濟學和企管的學位，卻還是找不到工作。我不斷申請、寄履歷、去各公司面試，但都徒勞無功。我把這情況跟我一個阿姨說，她送給我一些歐華路主教的祈禱卡，叫我也把它們送給別人用，並要懷著信德用它來祈禱。

我照做了，讓我感到驚訝的是，我的手機竟然馬上響起。朋友打來，說有個她認識的人急需一個可信賴的經理人。我立刻聯繫，跟對方面試。一個禮拜不到，我就已經開始上班了。我樂在工作，也希望為這項恩惠作證。我盡力跟每個人說這個故事，並且持續念祈禱卡。真的很感謝天主，在我煩亂的時候，賞賜給我這項恩惠：一份正當的工作。

L.G.P., Maracaibo (委內瑞拉)

## 付不出學費

一次又一次，我們的經濟情況實在負擔不起三個念羅馬大學孩子的學費。然而，當繳費期限將至，每每又有來自天上來的幫助。我們祈求歐華路主教作中保，每次誦念他的祈禱卡，因天主的恩寵，無論怎樣，都能籌夠學費。我們也藉歐華路主教的轉求而得到許多其他的恩惠，包括家庭的和樂與安詳，畢竟我們有六個人，要面對生活中成千上萬的誘惑。為這所有的一切，我感謝好天主，給了我們這樣一位不可思議的代禱者。

P.M., San Giovanni La Punta (義大利)



## 被困在科蘇湖

在義工服務期間的一個星期天，我們決定去科蘇湖游泳。我們大約15個人，一半的義工人數。我們自己駕小型巴士去湖邊。半小時後，我從水裡出來，發現車匙丟去了。那時是下午五時，科蘇湖很偏僻，要想重配一把鑰匙得需到150哩外的阿必尚 (Abidjan)。我們在湖裡找了45分鐘一無所獲。於是我請求歐華路主教的幫忙，儘管我不想用這類俗事打擾他，但我們都越來越擔心了。念完向他私人敬禮的禱文之後，我對他說：「助我脫困吧！」兩三分鐘之後，我們這團中年紀最小的雅尼克潛入水中，再浮出水面時手裡拿著鑰匙，臉上掛著笑容，說道：「我有向歐華路祈禱。」

Ajanon, Abidjan. (象牙海岸)

## 認識杜麗多一點

### 一份新的工作

ATWN, 香港  
2013年11月18日

感謝杜麗的轉禱，我和我的朋友都找到工作

我在2000年受洗，我是主業團的一個協助人。在香港的銀行工作近三十年之後，轉職到一間港資公司，在中國內地工作了兩年後，在2012年辭職了。因為我想有一段休息時間，所以我不太熱衷找工作。可是耽擱了一年之後，我變得有些着急，因為以我年屆五十餘和管理高層的履歷，發覺找工作並不容易，發出的無數電郵都石沉大海。

在這段時間中，幾次被邀請參加一個在澳門黑沙會議中心的避靜。可是我均婉拒了，心想我應該留在港，或許會收到見工的通知。

今年四月，我又被邀請了。那時候，我或許是接受現實，知道尋找工作是困難的，花幾天做避靜也應沒甚麼大礙。同時，我又邀請了一個已經失業多年的同學一起去參加避靜。

一如所料，我在避靜期間沒有收到任何見工的通知。在避靜中，我聽到關於杜麗Salvadora del Hoyo Alonso的事蹟，在客廳的一個刊物架



上，我看到了她的祈禱卡，和聖施禮華及歐華路主教的祈禱卡一併放著。於是我向他們祈求，幫助我和我的同學找到工作。和我們參加著同一個避靜的兄弟們也為我們二人祈禱。其中有一位安慰著我說，他有一些朋友曾經在參加完一次避靜後很快便找到工作。

避靜完畢後，我繼續發出求職申請，但都落空了。從四月份開始都無功而回，直到七月的一天，我在網上尋找工作。電腦螢幕上出現了一個銀行的招聘廣告。雖然我缺乏直接有關的經驗，我也姑且一試了。令我驚奇的是，我在八月份接到見工的通知，最後十月得到了聘用的消息。這份工作雖然不是最理想的，但是我知道以我目前情況來說，獲得工作已經是萬幸了。我感謝和讚頌上主，祂因為聖施禮華、歐華路主教和杜麗的轉禱，而賜了我這份工作。

而我的同學也獲得聘用了。他會在十二月開始上班。他多年失業，這樣的事真是一個奇蹟。

我們的天父是全能和永生的天主！我感謝聖施禮華，歐華路主教和杜麗的轉禱以及和我一起參加那次避靜的兄弟們的代禱。

## 藉杜麗轉禱而獲得的恩惠

### 近乎痴心妄想的事

我今年23歲，大學生。十月時，我向任職了兩年的公司辭職，並決定以我的儲蓄讀大學。由於我不會再有收入，而且由於經濟有點不穩定，所以我媽媽建議我找一份兼職。她向我談及杜麗，說杜麗給了她很多代禱恩惠，但是我當時真的不相信。（我是信徒，但是我認為這些事是近乎痴心妄想的。）



我將代禱卡留在我的房間內一個星期。不過，兩個星期過去，我的應徵申請（最少有200份）杳無音信，我遂決定每日以該代禱卡祈禱。上星期，我接到面試的電話，於星期四，我就獲得聘請了。我求職一個月後終於找到工作。我真的認為杜麗現在身處天國，而且會幫助任何請她代禱祈求恩惠的人。非常多謝你，杜麗！

### 開立帳戶



最近我搬到香港了，在我去開立個人帳戶時，我遇到了很多問題。針對外籍客戶的銀行規則一個月前改變了，我的西班牙同事提供給我的相關信息也不足夠。

我去了四次銀行，但沒有半點進展（每次他們都會讓我提供新的文件）。在我嘗試去另一個分行（提供的是同樣的文件），我開始向杜麗祈求。當我結束九天禱文後，銀行的工作人員通知我，她說已向她的主管提議，也許能為我開立一個帳戶。

E.J, 香港

3月13日2014年

## How I Became a Good Friend of St. Josemaría Escrivá

JTML, Taichung,  
Taiwan, 2013

*Like in Chinese Kung Fu, his replies struck my soul with a power like "a fist blow to where it hurts."*

### How did I become a friend with this saint?

The first time we met in 2009, in Taichung, Taiwan, Fr. Derrick gave me a small book called *The Way*, written by St. Josemaría. I politely accepted it but after reading through it, I found the words of this great saint concise and to the point, real pearls of wisdom. There is no beating around the bush. All the points are really an aid to meditation and self-examination. They enable us to integrate his spirit into our lives and discern what the Holy Spirit tells us. We learn how to find God in our lives.

*The Way* awakened in me a great interest in St. Josemaría. In looking for more information about him, I came across some films showing him answer questions during big gatherings of people. His replies were short and pithy, striking my soul with a power which in Chinese Kung Fu could be described as "a fist blow to where it hurts." It felt like he was speaking to me face to face, like a friend or a brother giving me counsel, a mentor or a father guiding me.

One day, reading through a website of St. Josemaría, a "Job Seeker's Novena to St. Josemaría" appeared on my monitor. I was not really looking for a job but out of curiosity, I clicked on the link and found myself reading his words: "Work is a path to sanctity." This was just what I had been searching for — a way to live out the ascetical life. It was about that time when I met Yufeng Wang, a long-standing church activities volunteer. She asked me to pray for the recovery of her husband's failing eyesight and for the conversion of her family. I came to the conclusion that spreading the Faith and praying for the needs of others were the duties of every Christian. So I did a novena to St. Josemaría for the needs of Mrs. Wang and added my own intentions. I invited Mrs. Wang to pray a novena too.

After a few weeks, she told me that her husband had not yet fully recovered his eyesight but that he had ceased to complain about her pro-active devotion to her Faith. On the outside, it was merely a case of Mrs. Wang's returning to the fervor of her church volunteer work. For me, it was the fruit of the conversation I had with Fr. Lin two years ago. I had learned more about Opus Dei, been appointed a cooperator, and now attend means of formation.

Link for Novena for Work: [where-can-i-find-the-novena-for-work-and-the-novena-for-the-sick3f](#)



## By Chance?

Cecilia Awano, Japan  
February 19, 2014

*Cecilia Awano Kim, from South Korea, has lived in Japan for nearly 10 years.*

I am from South Korea, and have lived in Kyoto, Japan, since my marriage. I have three children. The oldest is Hikaru (Japanese for "light"), four years old; her Christian name is Anna Maria. Then comes Kaoru ("perfume"). He is two, and when he was baptized we gave him the Christian name of Josemaría. And five months ago our lovely little daughter Maria Teresa was born; her Japanese name is Michiru, "abundance". Their names were not chosen at random. They are closely linked to my life, which has been, in appearance, a set of chance happenings. Or perhaps they did not happen by chance at all.



I was born in Busan in the south-eastern part of South Korea, a country where there are relatively few Christians: about fourteen million in a total population of fifty million. Out of these, over nine million — two thirds — belong to various Protestant denominations, and the remaining third are Catholics. The Catholic Church in Korea is very much alive and there are many conversions.

### A little Korean history

My family has been Christian for just two generations, since the time when the Church was first allowed to live in peace in Korea, because Catholicism in Korea is still very young. In 1780 some young Korean intellectuals, sons of the nobility and of high dignitaries, took an interest in the culture of the western world and discovered Catholicism. At the beginning they simply felt curiosity, but soon their interest turned into deep faith. And in 1784, when they learned the importance of baptism, they decided that one of them, Yi Sûng Hun, who was going to accompany his father on a diplomatic mission to China, would get in contact with a Catholic missionary in Beijing and ask to be baptized.

Yi spent just forty days in Beijing, but in that short time, after demonstrating ample knowledge of the Faith, he was baptized, taking the name Peter.

Returning to Korea, he baptized his friend Yi-Byock, who baptized other friends in his turn. And that was the beginning of the Church in my country. The case of Korea is unique in history, because we were evangelized by

native-born lay-people, without a single priest. One of the first Korean Christians, Kim Bôm-u, gave his house to be turned into a Catholic church. But soon after this, as soon as the Church started to grow, the government tried to destroy it, on the grounds that Koreans could only be Confucians, as that was the state religion. In 1789 Kim Bôm-u was tortured and exiled, and three years later, in 1791, the first two Korean martyrs gave their lives for Christ.

Meanwhile the number of baptisms was rising fast. In 1801, when the daughter of Emperor Chông-ho came to the throne, a particularly savage persecution was unleashed, and many Catholics fled to the mountains, where they persevered in the faith for thirty years with no priests (as happened here in Japan for many centuries). In Korea the persecution lasted for a hundred years, and more than ten thousand Catholics were martyred.



*Just two generations of my family were Christians, starting from when the Catholic Church was permitted in Korea.*

Peace and religious freedom came in 1886. During this period my maternal grandparents were baptized with their whole family. But this peaceful time did not last, because in 1910 Japan invaded Korea and the government again subjected the Church to hostile surveillance. Only after the independence of South Korea in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, were Christians again free to practise their faith.

### My faith

All of this explains the religious ignorance of so many Korean Catholics. For many years they were obliged to hold onto their faith in secret, with no-one to catechize or teach them. I was baptized soon after I was born, but during my childhood and adolescence I was told nothing, not taken to church, nor given any catechetical instruction.

Ever since I was small my great ambition was to learn many languages. Among others, I studied Japanese and English. When I was 21, I went to England to practise and improve my English.

While I was in London I went to the airport one day to see off a Japanese friend of mine who was going home to Japan. There, by chance, I met a Spanish girl called Carmen who had come to see off a Korean friend who was going back to Korea. We started talking and laughing about the combination of nationalities and farewells, and at one point I said jokingly to Carmen, "Don't feel sad that your Korean friend is leaving, from now

on I'll be your new Korean friend!" I wasn't serious, but we did exchange telephone numbers and we did end up being friends.

Carmen used to go regularly to Lakefield, an Opus Dei center in Hampstead in London. She invited me there, and soon I started attending classes on Christian living there. They talked to me about God, the Faith, sacramental living, and **the sanctification of work...**

If I had to give a name to that time in my life I would call it hikaru, like my eldest daughter, because thanks to Opus Dei many aspects of my life that had been in darkness up to then, were filled with light. In Lakefield I came to understand how lovingly God had been looking after me ever since I was born, and I saw that in spite of my ignorance He had been guiding me towards God, without my realizing.

When I finished studying **the Catechism** I made my First Holy Communion and was confirmed. In April 1997, three months before I graduated, God granted me one of the greatest gifts of my life: the vocation to Opus Dei, including the desire to form a family in the future. When I finished my studies in London I came to Japan to improve my Japanese, and a few years later went back to Seoul. There I started learning Spanish, because, as I said, I love languages. And after a short stay in Alicante, Spain, I returned to London.

### Love at first sight

One day in the summer of 2003 I went to Barbican Underground station as usual to go home. In the station entrance, standing in front of the Underground map, was a Japanese boy, looking for the nearest station to a large bookshop in the center of town. He couldn't find it, and I was able to tell him. He thanked me, and asked if I would mind going with him to the bookshop, because he didn't know anyone in London and couldn't speak much English.

I wouldn't normally accept an invitation like that from someone I didn't know, but he was so polite, respectful and well-mannered that I decided I could trust him, and so I said yes. His name was Tatsuya, and he was really nice. He told me that he had taken his first degree at the University of Kyoto and was now living in Sweden, working for a doctorate in biology. We reached the bookshop, he bought his book, and we prepared to say goodbye.

"Could you tell me your email?" he asked. I hesitated, but thought that a simple email address didn't commit me to anything, so I said yes again and gave it to him.

That encounter left me with a wonderful feeling, like breathing a delicious

perfume — kaoru in Japanese. We began writing to each other, and as the emails went back and forward between England and Sweden, I became more and more astonished at all his good qualities, and, to be honest, I fell in love with him.

In one of his emails he told me he'd met a Polish family who were Catholics, whose way of life impressed him so much that he had started to take an interest in the Catholic faith. Tatsuya had been at a Catholic school in Kyoto and had heard a bit about Jesus Christ, but hadn't really been interested then. And to think that in Sweden, where there are so few Catholics — fewer than 150,000 out of a population of nine million — he should have met a Catholic family!

Email by email, he told me about the way he was being led to Christ by seeing the way that family lived up to what they believed in. In another message he told me he was having classes of instruction in the Faith. I sent him a copy of *The Way* in Japanese, and he loved it.

From emailing we moved on to telephone calls, and very soon to skype (just as well, or our friendship would have ruined us). We decided we needed to meet again as soon as we could. It was neither easy nor cheap, because England and Sweden are not as close as they look on a map. In the end we met again in January 2004, half a year after our first meeting. It was only the second time we'd spoken face to face, "in the flesh"; up until then, except for those three hours in the Underground and the bookshop, our whole relationship had been "cybernetic".

### We got married on June 26, feast of St Josemaría

I just couldn't believe it; I thought that kind of thing — a chance meeting in the underground, love at first sight, and all that — only happened in films. But it was all true, so much so that in February I went to Sweden for his baptism in the church at Umeå. And on June 26 2004, the feast of St Josemaría, a year after we'd met, we were married in Kyoto. Now both of us are in Opus Dei.

I am so happy, and this is why our little daughter Maria Teresa's Japanese name is Michiru, abundance. It is an act of thanksgiving to God who has given us so many gifts.

It's true that having three small children so close together in age means a lot of hard work; but I never stop thanking God for everything, especially the set of "chance happenings" that were gifts of his providence to me.

(Translated from the book *"Los cerezos en flor: relatos sobre la expansión del Opus Dei en Japón"* by J. M. Cejas, Madrid: Rialp, 2013.)

## "The Way" showed me the way

SooGyoung Heo, Teresa,  
Seoul, Korea,  
March 11, 2014

I cannot remember if it was 7 or 8 years ago when I first read *"The Way"*, which was sent to me by the Catholic Digest, a Catholic monthly magazine edited by the same publishers that published *"The Way"* in Korean. I was captured by the book's contents at once.



Notwithstanding the foreword of the author advising us to read one point each time in order to meditate upon it, I could not stop. Each and every word was showing me the way I am walking in right now, and precisely because of that, it made me realize what was the way to go. From time to time, there were passages that made me think: "Wow, this is too extreme, this is too much....how can anyone do like this ...!", but it showed the way to go without hesitations and without making excuses. I could not keep such good messages and words only to myself.

So, I ordered 100 copies of the book and gave it to the people I met, especially the patients who came to my clinic. I also gave it to my sister, and when my nephew was going to be baptized, I suggested that his Christian name be: Josemaría Escrivá. She agreed to the idea and this is how I could meet Josemaría from a very close distance. I have not yet met other Josemarías around, but I am always expecting it, since I have been giving prayercards of St. Josemaría when I invite people to become Catholic.

I ordered 100 copies of the book two or three times and gave them away, but it is infinitely insufficient. Last winter, I gave a copy of the book to a retired man who had frequented a Christian church for some time in the past, telling him to read not more than one point per day. On the following occasion we met, I asked him whether he had read the whole thing in a row (thinking that what happened to me might have happened to him, too). He replied that he was not able to read more than one point per day, because those words touched him deep inside his soul and made him stay long immersed in thought... He also added that he wanted to pay back what I had done at least a little, even if it was nothing compared to all that he had received. So, he bought 10 copies of *"The Way"*, sent to me so I can give away more copies of this book.



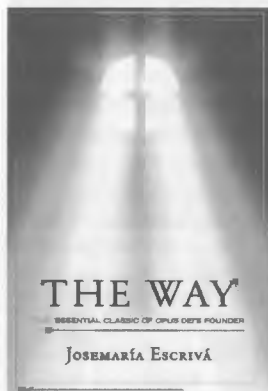
How happy I am that I could meet St. Josemaría who showed us the "way" of God firmly, with novelty as well as clarity, and that I could know and share the way to come closer to God... May God receive thanks, praise, glory and adoration through St. Josemaría Escrivá, now and forever.

## What St. Josemaría's *The Way* means to me

JG, Shanghai  
April 10, 2014

*On days that go poorly, I know God is using The Way to point me in the right direction to improve tomorrow.*

St. Josemaría Escrivá's *The Way* has had a large positive impact on my life — so much so that I have made the book a part of my daily spiritual reading.



I usually read one chapter of *The Way* each day right after I attend Holy Mass. It's like having a morning coffee with a spiritual director. The points always have a tie into something going on in my life that day. It could be a challenge I'm facing, something that I've discussed with God in my morning meditation or re-enforcing a point from the Scripture readings for that day's Mass.

The book prepares me for the day and to help live out the day from the heart of my faith. With that confidence I know that I will be able to maintain my unity of life each day. I don't have to worry about drifting off into a double life.

To make sure that I'm able to maintain my unity of life I go back and re-read the same chapter once or twice throughout the day. It's like having St. Josemaría checking in with me throughout the day. Am I working on the resolutions or planned mortification that I made during the morning reading?

At the end of the day, I go back and read it one more time before my evening meditation and I speak to God about how the day went and how well I did according to the resolutions I set on days that went well. I know *The Way* has been one way God has been able to send me in the right direction. On days that go poorly, I know God is using *The Way* to point me in the right direction to improve tomorrow. In both cases I'm happy to go back to *The Way* the next day for more spiritual insight.

## For the coming Beatification of Monsignor Alvaro del Portillo

### Bishop Alvaro, a father since 1987 until now

M. C., Hong Kong,  
March 2014

*I have known Bishop Alvaro for only 7 years in this world from 1987 to 1994 before he went to heaven, but with all his fraternal affection, personal cards and notes, I felt he had known me for 70 years. Though he finished his sojourn on earth, it does not end our close bond.*

The first time I got to know of the name of Msgr. Alvaro was in 1987 when I received the invitation card: A get-together with Msgr. Alvaro del Portillo, Prelate of Opus Dei on February 3, 1987 in Hong Kong. I was a new cooperator then. I brought along my three sons aged 9, 6 and a new born. In the get-together, I saw him on the stage as a kind and cheerful priest, greeting us and giving us words of guidance and encouragement. I was lucky enough to be arranged to ask him a question on how to love my children better. He made me understand that children are gifts from God, and every life is so precious in God's eyes and we can be rest assured of God's Providence. He also blessed my new born baby in my arms. Three months later, in May 1987, I joined Opus Dei, which is one of the fruits of his Oriental trip.



In the same year, I sent Msgr. Alvaro a Christmas card and a family photo. To my surprise, despite of his huge workload and the tens of thousands of souls that he had to take care of, he replied me with a Christmas card thanking me for the photo which helped him to pray more for each of my family member, and asked us to pray for him.

For three consecutive years, i.e. 1987, 1988 & 1989, I received the precious Christmas cards from Msgr. Alvaro, always with a note from the Central Advisory Secretary of Opus Dei extending a special

Christmas blessing to my family from Don Alvaro, and his request to pray for him and his intentions. And then four years later, in 1993, I was so glad to receive his Christmas card again. Later, I knew that this was his last Christmas on earth...



I have known Bishop Alvaro for 7 years in this world from 1987 to 1994 before he went to heaven, but with all his fraternal affection and personal cards and notes, I felt he had known me for 70 years. Though he finished his sojourn on earth, it does not end our close bond. I would say even closer as I started devotion to him and asked for his intercessions for big or small favors soon after he passed away. I remembered one night during bedtime, my youngest son felt pain in his tummy, the pain persisted although I had given him some medicine. I prayed to Bishop Alvaro for help, and I had not finished praying the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, that my son already fell asleep soundly and peacefully. I have spread the devotion to my family and friends too. One year ago my daughter-in-law had a heart operation. I gave her a prayer card and one of the Christmas cards from Bishop Alvaro to accompany her in the hospital. She posted them in the Facebook telling her friends these were from her mother-in-law, so, she was spreading the devotion to Msgr. Alvaro through the internet! Thanks to Bishop Alvaro's intercession, the operation was successful and she is safe and sound now.

The new born son in my arms blessed by Msgr. Alvaro in 1987 is now 27 years old. He grew up in the Work as I took him along whenever I attended the means of formation. Now, a cooperator, he attends the means of formation, helps teaching catechism in a school run by the members of the Work. He also helps the other members of the Work whenever they need to design some flyers, invitation cards or brochures on the computer for some of their apostolic initiatives. He knows very well he is a relic as he was blessed by a saint, and he got used to people approaching him every now and then telling him they had just saw him as a baby in the video of the get-together of Msgr. Alvaro during his visit in Hong Kong!

## I remembered him always so fatherly and with a serene smile

P. E.  
April 2014

*The fatherly details of Msgr. Alvaro for those working in the Administration of centres*

I met Msgr. Alvaro del Portillo, the Prelate of Opus Dei, during his trip to Hong Kong from February 1 – 6, 1987. He arrived with his priest-companions, Fr. Javier and Fr. Joaquin in the evening of February 1st. The next day he came to the center of the women to give a meditation and celebrate Holy Mass for us. After the Mass, we all gathered in the living room because he wanted to see all of us living in that center. Msgr. Alvaro's contagious smile seemed to lift us up and make us feel renewed.

During those days, they took most of their meals in the center of the men. I was then working in the Administration of that center, which means home management and housekeeping. Msgr. Alvaro would habitually come over to the Administration to greet us who were working there, either before or after meals. He would tell us about his activities of the day and would ask us to pray and offer all our work for that intention.

After breakfast on the first day, he came to the Administration to greet each one of us and asked how we were. We asked him in turn if he had slept well and told him briefly some anecdotes about the apostolate.

On February 2, feast of the Presentation of our Lord and of Our Lady of the Candles, he told us that after breakfast, he was going for a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Hong Kong and then meet some families. He asked us to accompany him in those moments. After lunch, he came over again to tell us how happy he was to make a first pilgrimage in China and to be with the Chinese families.



The following day, he told us that he was going to Macau to visit the local Bishop and to pray for the future apostolic work there. When he came back that evening, we saw him very happy about the trip and he told us that we should start making trips there. He also said that he was going to our centre after dinner and would see us there for a get-together.

Msgr. Alvaro arrived ahead of us. Upon arriving, he inquired if the staff of the Administration had arrived. When he was told that they were not there yet, he said that he would wait for them. We arrived soon after. I was personally impressed by this detail on his part. Among other things that he spoke to us about is the urgency to start the apostolic work in Macau. In fact, it was Msgr. Alvaro who opened the path for the future apostolate in that part of China.

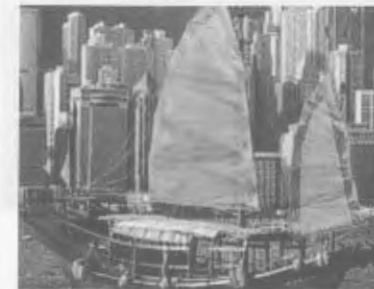
On the day that he was going to China, he asked us to accompany him with our prayers so that the trip be a fruitful one. My assignment was to be in the kitchen. He had a particular diet, but we always tried to prepare the meals in such a way that we could be present in the get-togethers for the women. On the evening of his trip to China, we prepared a special meal for all of them. It was going to be his last dinner at home. However, since it was getting very late and they were still on their way back, they decided to eat outside because Msgr. Alvaro was concerned for the Administration. He called up to inform us that they would be arriving quite late, so we did not have to wait for them and end up going home late to our own center.

The next day, he came over to the kitchen to see us after breakfast. He wanted to apologize for the previous night because he knew that we had prepared a special dinner for him but they were not able to arrive on time. He went on to tell us that at the restaurant where they had dinner, they were served snake soup. He commented that he liked it and so did Fr. Joaquin and we all had a good laugh about this. We could see that he was very happy to have been able to make a trip to mainland China.

## **“When you find God in your work, He will take you to the heights”**

*The 1987 visit to Hong Kong of the soon to be beatified Venerable Álvaro del Portillo, Prelate of Opus Dei*

Coinciding with Chinese New Year's celebrations of 1987, on the evening of February 1, 1987 Monsignor Álvaro del Portillo arrived in Hong Kong for his first pastoral visit in China, where he stayed until February 6, to foster the apostolate that the faithful of Opus Dei are doing in this country since 1981. He stayed



in Hong Kong amidst the cheerful and colorful environment of the city during this happy time of the year when people can have holidays to enjoy together with their families. For the faithful and Cooperators of Opus Dei, this visit of the Prelate was the best New Year's gift they could receive from him.

On February 2, after saying his first Mass in China in the women's centre, Monsignor del Portillo visited the Cathedral in Caine Road to “pray to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception for all the inhabitants of this vast territory, where more than one billion people live and where few of them have received Christ's light”, as he mentioned during the short pilgrimage to this church. After having some pictures taken in front of the Cathedral, he stopped in a lookout to view the city from above and from where he blessed Hong Kong.

On the following day, he had a get-together in the French International School auditorium with a group of 400 people, many of them non-Christians. After praising the diligence of the Hong Kong people who knew how to solve the horizontal problem of scarcity of land through a vertical development of buildings, he wanted people to solve their lack of relief in their spiritual lives by discovering God behind all the circumstances of ordinary life: “When you find God in your work, He will take you to the heights, giving you peace and joy”, he said.

On February 4, Monsignor del Portillo visited Macau and on February 5, Guangzhou, where he met the academic authorities of the University of Guangzhou who invited him as Chancellor of several universities in Europe and the Americas.



In the morning of February 6, he celebrated Holy Mass in the men's centre and after blessing his sons and praying for the apostolic fruits of their work in China, he left for Kai Tak airport from where he flew to Taiwan, his next stop during his first Asian pastoral visit.

### My memory of Msgr. del Portillo is peace and serenity

L.S. Lau, Taiwan

*The Venerable Servant of God Bishop Álvaro del Portillo will be beatified in the Catholic Church. He made a pastoral visit to Taiwan in early 1987.*

Msgr. Alvaro del Portillo exuded peace and serenity. I experienced this myself during his February 1987 visit to Taipei, the city where I have lived for more than 28 years now. I arrived here on July 5, 1985, two days before the 50th anniversary of Msgr. del Portillo's petition for admission into Opus Dei.



Starting Opus Dei in another city was our way of showing him our gratitude for his faithfulness to our Founder, St. Josemaría and of fulfilling his desire to bring the spirit of Opus Dei to places that can truly be called "mission lands." Taiwan is one such place.

When he came out from the plane at around 12 noon on February 6, 1987, he had a gentle smile. There was no trace of tiredness nor stress

even though he had just come from the Philippines where he had a hectic schedule for two weeks.

We could not accommodate him in our small center. We had just started two years earlier and we did not think that our rented apartment was the appropriate place for the Opus Dei Prelate to stay so we booked a hotel room for him and the three other priests who had accompanied him during this trip.

At the hotel, I noticed the same serenity in this man of God. He sat peacefully on an armchair in the lobby as we went through the check-in procedures. He trusted us to manage his schedule for the two days of his visit.

I felt a bit tired and hassled with all the preparations for his visit, and a little worried that things would not go as we had planned, causing unforeseen and annoying changes in the schedule of Msgr. del Portillo. But all my apprehensions were laid to rest whenever I found myself beside Msgr. del Portillo.

This happened when I took the lift with him and the other priests on the way to his hotel room. I had felt a deep sense of peace and calm by just standing beside him. It was a feeling I could not explain. It had seemed that he was transmitting as if by physical conduction this peace and serenity that came from inside his soul.

This is the memory that has remained with me whenever I recall the visit of this holy priest to Taipei, a city where many people do not even know about Christianity.



## Favors granted through the intercession of Bishop Alvaro

### Because he wants to!

Jan. 17, 2014

My husband and I have a beautiful family. We have eight children and have always tried to teach them to have faith in and love for God.

When my sixth child turned 16, he began a "spiritual rebellion." I know that adolescence is a time to question everything. And the period of crisis can help a person grow and mature, including in their faith. However I began to be concerned when my son refused to go to Sunday Mass and to confession. I started to pray to Don Alvaro, to help my son return to God. After a few months, my son went to confession and received communion. Now, he not only goes with us to Mass every Sunday without complaining, but when he stays with a friend for a weekend he brings him to Mass as well!

G.G. (Argentina)



### Two beating hearts



My husband and I have been married almost 6 years. We married fairly young: he was 23 and I was 25. Our greatest desire was to start a family. From the beginning we were willing to accept all the children that God wanted to send.

One year went by. Then another. And the children didn't come. We began to think that perhaps there was a problem. The relevant medical tests were carried out, but everything was in perfect order. We didn't know whom to turn to, which saint to pray to. We visited many shrines of our Lady. Our request was always the same: "Give us a child! Please grant us a child!"

After praying so much for a child, our faith began to weaken. I asked our Lord each day in Mass for more and more faith, and he gave it to me. With

Don Alvaro's prayer card in hand, I thought of beginning a novena. I knew that our Lord wanted my husband and I to be united so I asked my husband to pray it with me. We prayed the Novena to Don Alvaro with great faith. When the time came and we tested for the pregnancy, it was negative. Two days later, without knowing that it was March 23, the day that Don Alvaro went to be with our Lord forever, the test came back positive. We could hardly believe it.

At first we thought there was some mistake. A few days later we went to the doctor, and saw with our own eyes that the gift that had come to us from heaven was twice what we expected. There were two little beating hearts. We were expecting twins!

C.M.R. (Spain)

### Help in finding a job



Despite having degrees in Economics and Business Administration, I was unable to get a job. I submitted applications, sent out resumé's and had interviews with various companies, all to no avail. I told an aunt about my situation and she gave me some prayer cards of Don Álvaro del Portillo and told me to distribute them and to say the prayer with faith.

I did this, and to my surprise, my cell phone rang right away and a friend told me that somebody she knew urgently needed an administrator he could rely on. I immediately made the contact. We had an interview, and within a week I was working. I'm now very happy in my job and want to bear witness to the favor that I've received. I tell my story to anyone I can and continue to say the prayer on the card. I thank God very much for having given me this favor I was so anxious for: finding honest work.

L.G.P., Maracaibo (Venezuela)

### Impossible university bills

Again and again our financial situation made it impossible to pay the bills for our three children at the University of Rome. Often only an intervention from heaven enabled us to pay the bills when they came due. We put ourselves under the patronage of Don Álvaro, saying the prayer on his prayer card, and by God's grace we somehow got the money together each time. We have obtained many other favors through Don Álvaro's intercession, including peace and harmony in our family, six people always struggling with thousands of temptations. For all this I give thanks to the good God who has given us such a marvelous intercessor.

*P.M., San Giovanni La Punta (Italy)*



### Stranded at Lake Kossou



One Sunday during a service project at Lake Kossou, we decided to go swimming in the lake. There were about 15 of us in total, half of the participants, and we drove there in a mini bus. After half an hour I got out of the water and realized that I had lost the van keys. It was five in

the afternoon, the place we were staying was a long way away, and to get a copy of the key we would have to go to Abidjan, more than 150 miles away. We looked in the water for 45 minutes without finding anything. Then I asked Don Álvaro to help. Although I don't like to "bother" him with material things, we were getting very concerned. I told him, after saying the prayer for private devotion, "Get me out of this jam." Two or three minutes later, Yannick, the smallest member of our expedition, dove into the water and emerged with the keys in his hand and a smile on his face, saying: "I prayed to Don Álvaro."

*Ajanon, Abidjan (Ivory Coast)*

## Knowing more about Dora

### A New Job for Me

ATWN, Hong Kong,  
18 November 2013

*Thanks to the prayers of Dora del Hoyo, I and my friend found new jobs*

I was baptized in 2000 and I am a cooperator of Opus Dei. After working in banks in Hong Kong for nearly 30 years, I changed to a job with a Hong Kong corporation spending 2 years in China before resigning in early 2012. I wanted a break and was therefore not too anxious for a new job. However, after one year of idling, I became a bit desperate because at the age of 50 and my senior management profile, I realized that it was not easy to find a job. Emails after emails got no response.

During this time, I was invited several times to do a retreat in Hac Sa Centre in Macau. However, I turned them down thinking that perhaps I should keep myself available in case there is a call for a job interview.

Finally, in April this year, I was again extended an invitation. At this point, I have sort of resigned to the reality that jobs are hard to come by and that spending several days in a retreat should not be too risky. In the meantime, I invited a secondary school classmate of mine, who was jobless for a number of years to come with me to the retreat.



As expected, no calls for job interviews during the retreat. In the retreat, I heard about Salvadora del Hoyo Alonso. I found her prayer cards in a tray in the common room displayed together with those of our St. Josemaría Escrivá and Bishop Alvaro del Portillo. I prayed to them all asking them to help me find a job, and also one for my secondary school classmate. The other people in the retreat were so kind to pray for us as well. One of them comforted me by saying that he had examples of friends getting jobs soon after retreat.

After the retreat, I continued sending applications but to no avail. Nothing happened from April until a day in late July when I googled for jobs. A bank's job recruitment advertisement appeared on the screen. Although I thought I had no such directly related experience, I may just as well send in my application. To my surprise, I had the interview in August and eventually got the job offer in October. Though the job is not ideal, I know that given my situation I am fortunate to have a job. I give thanks and praise to the Lord for granting me the job through the intercessions of St Josemaría Escrivá, Bishop Alvaro, and Dora.

Furthermore, my secondary school classmate got an offer for a job as well. He will start work in December. After years of unemployment, this is a miracle.

God our Father, is the all-powerful and ever-living God! Thanks be to the intercessions of St. Josemaría Escrivá, Bishop Alvaro, and Dora as well as the prayers of those who did the retreat with me.

## Favors received through Dora del Hoyo

### Some things border on wishful thinking

I'm 23 and a college student. In October I left my job at a company where I had been working for the past two years, and decided to enroll in college with the money I had saved. Because I wouldn't have an income anymore and because the economy is a little shaky, my mother suggested that I look for a job that would be compatible with my studies. She talked to me about Dora and said that she had done her a lot of favors, but I really didn't believe it. (I am a believer, but I seemed that some of these things bordered on wishful thinking.)



For a week, I left the prayer card in my room. But after two weeks, when I hadn't received any replies to my job applications (at least 200), I decided to pray the prayer card every day. Last week I was called for an interview, and on Thursday I was hired. I finally have a job after one month of looking. I really think that Dora is in heaven and will help anyone who asks her for favors. Thank you very much, Dora.

### Opening an account



I recently moved to Hong Kong. When I went to open a personal bank account, I encountered a lot of problems. One month previously the banking regulations regarding foreign customers had been changed, and the information that my Spanish colleagues had given to me was insufficient.

After going to the bank four times without making any progress (each time they asked me for a new document), I went to another branch (with the same documents) and began to pray to Dora. As soon as I finished the novena, the bank clerk told me that she had talked to her supervisor and I would be able to open the account.

*E.J. Hong Kong  
March 13, 2014*