

events

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新聞摘要

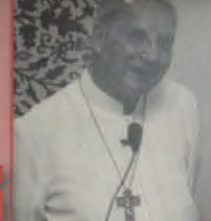
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永遠的祈禱者主業會監督蔡浩偉

勉教友作基督的聖體櫃克己相愛

2009/05/17

謝蓉倩 / 臺北報導

天主教主業會監督蔡浩偉主教四月二十一日由日本搭機抵臺，展開為四天的牧靈訪問。在馬拉松式的拜會演講中，他為每一個所見到的人祈禱，包括路人在內，他是位平易近人、永遠的祈禱者，更是位經常攜帶著耶穌的人。在拜會洪山川總主教時，特別感謝臺灣地區對主業會發展的支持，期能早日也同樣獲得大陸地區的支持。



主業會於一九八五年到臺灣發展，第一任監督歐華路主教曾於一九八七年探訪過臺灣；現任監督蔡浩偉主教此次是繼一九九六年後，第二次來到臺灣作牧靈探訪。

蔡浩偉主教此行特別拜會了老友洪山川總主教、狄剛主教和王愈榮主教，對於臺灣地區天主教會的發展極表感佩，同時也對大陸地區天主教會的情形表達高度的關愛之情。他指出，他將與主業會大家庭內所有的成員，不斷為大陸地區的發展祈禱，他特別邀請大陸地區的教友如同小孩般依賴信靠天主。

由於這位西班牙籍的主教是愛人如己的實踐者，抵臺當晚下午六時在主業會女生部文杉學舍及七時二十分在男生部城中學苑，與該會成員和學子分別舉行兩場聚會。蔡浩偉鼓勵所有的學子和成員，要成為一個祈禱的靈魂、多克己、要彼此相愛、要努力成聖，不要怕累。在行程緊湊、與時差不停對抗其實最累的應該是監督自己，但他一直面帶笑容，並降福大家。



特別值得一提的是，蔡主教對聖母極為熱愛，當他在拜訪文山區的河山學舍時，知道萬金聖母進駐臨近的木柵復活堂，特別前往禮敬聖母。走進復活堂時教友正在朝拜聖體，蔡浩偉馬上雙膝落地，跪伏在聖體前長達十分鐘之久。同時也跪在萬金聖母態像前長禱。熱愛聖體、依靠聖母的行儀讓在場教友無不動容。

最為眾人期待的，是四月二十三日晚上七時三十分在台北青少年育樂中心—台北國際會議廳舉行的聚會，七時不到三百多人即湧進。為了提醒世人，所有基督徒都是被召叫在日常生活中成聖的主旨，蔡浩偉更邀請教友成為基督的聖體櫃，作個祈禱的靈魂。特別是平信徒的恆常挑戰，是與所有心懷善願的人共同並肩推動和塑造出一個尊重人性的尊嚴文化，所以他強調，任何童叟無欺的工作，任何正直誠信的職業，若是能盡心盡力、以愛完成的，那麼那兒便一定有天主的臨在、可以尋獲天主，以及服務他人。蔡主教以極親和的方式演講，從每位發問者以「父親」稱呼，更不難肯定在主業會這個大家庭力行著彼此相愛。



由於金融風暴正襲捲著全世界，因此有人請教蔡浩偉主教痛苦的意義，苦人所苦的他強調，痛苦是每個人生命一部份，主業會創辦人聖施禮華曾花無數的時間心甘情願的在病榻前陪伴痛苦者，鼓勵人不要自我封閉，轉變痛苦為全心交托及普施聖愛的機會。他也仔細的說明痛苦與十字架的結合，並強調我們不可能與基督一直停留在大伯爾山上，大部分的時間我們是走在加爾瓦略山的路上，必須與家人同心相愛，克盡職份。

當天也是聖施禮華十歲開聖體的日子，蔡浩偉主教指出，當聖施禮華還是兒童的時候，就已經了解聖體聖事的重要，上主取了人性，走在我們走的路上，展現完全愛人，為叫我們活著，祂活在麵餅中，並與我們融為一體，所以我們要以使徒自許，散播愛與幫助，效法聖保祿的精神，照顧別人的需要，領過洗的人尤其有足夠的恩寵和力量，為別人服務犧牲，應成為攜帶著耶穌的人。

在1929年與施禮華神父的偶遇

辣法耳·龐菲特在1950年加入主業會成為 Associate 成員。多年後，他才知道那位他曾於1929年遇見過的年輕神父原來就是聖施禮華，當他提及到一件小事情時，是他，辣法耳清晰無誤地記得的事……

2009/05/10

辣法耳(Rafeal Poveda Longo)於1950年要求加入主業會成為非中心住宿的獨身會員(Associate)。他是最早期要求加入的其中一員。他在西班牙物料委員會任文員。作為一位主業會成員，他獻上一生悠長歲月忠誠慷慨地為天主及其他人服務。他於1992年逝世。

他的童年與主業會的初期歷史有點兒扯上關係：當他10歲那年，在1929年5月的某一天，他遇上了一位很年輕、和藹可親的司鐸。他在辣法耳的班房出現。這所學校位於依施貝爾街(Isabel La Catolica Street)，由大馬士使徒會(Damas Apostolicas)主辦。

很多年後，已經成為主業會成員的他竟然有一驚人發現，當他觀看主業會創辦人在布宜諾斯艾利斯與數千人會面的記錄片時，他發覺在1929年他遇上的那一位年輕神父其實就是聖施禮華。這是毫無疑問的，因為創辦人講述了一件簡單的小事，而辣法耳記得清清楚楚……

* * * * *

1929年5月10日是我的11歲生日，下午較早時份我們前往尼加士奧街(Nicasio Gallego Street)屬於大馬士使徒會(Damas Apostolicas)的聖堂。我們會合了其他在馬德里大馬士使徒會所主辦的學校就讀的男童，準備辦告解，因為我們將會在第二天初領聖體。

那所聖堂僅是一間小堂，地方不很大，有兩排長凳，一條中央通道及兩條較窄的側通道。在中堂的右邊有些拱門形式的空間，那裏有兩座告解亭。第一座告解亭就在現時的位置，在你進入聖堂後的右邊。第二座較近聖所，是現時路易斯(Luz Rodriguez Casanova)的墳墓所在之地。是她為我們準備初領聖體。若干年後她在聖德的芬芳中逝世。

我有一位已經初領聖體、也在這聖堂領受了好幾次修和聖事的朋友建議我到第二座告解亭的神父那裏辦告解，因為他既年輕又和藹可親。很可惜，那裏很多男孩已排着長長的隊等候辦告解。那天是我的生日，我希望盡快回家與我的朋友開生日茶會，所以我決定往第一位神父那裏，因為只有三數位孩子在排隊呢。

在第一個告解亭的神父是一位老年人、較笨拙、神情安靜。告罪後神父花了好一段時間給我忠告，但他的聲線很微弱，致使我很難聽得到他的話。他一邊說話，我則被他長袍上那排長長的像數不盡的鈕扣所吸引而分心。我感到好奇，究竟有多少顆鈕扣呢？於是開始逐顆數着。當我差不多數完的時候，被他發覺了並質問我正在做什麼。我向他直言。他一定很惱怒，開始責罵我，聲大如雷。

在另一個告解亭的同伴為我引起的騷動捧腹大笑。我四周一望，看見那另一位神父也探頭出來看看那些嘈雜聲音所為何事。那時我認出他就是那位在班羅斯地區(Colonia de los Pinos)教道理的年輕神父，也曾到過我們的學校解釋什麼是告解聖事。

那位較年老的神父生氣地着我跪在祭台前為我所作的事向天主道歉。我要留到所有人辦完告解、他也回復平靜的神情，他走過來微笑地問我懺悔了沒有。我當然說有，也很滿足可以回家。可惜我是最後一個離開聖堂，很遲才到達我的生日派對。我也因被所有同伴嘲笑而感覺不光彩。這經歷成為我童年受辱的回憶，也只埋在心坎裏而沒有告訴任何人。

* * * * *

時間飛逝，轉眼已過了50多年，在晴朗的某一天我觀看主業會創辦人於1974年在布宜諾斯艾利斯一個聚會的記錄片。在那聚會中他提及早年主業會的使徒工作，為數以千計準備初領聖體的孩子聽告解，然後他講了以下的故事：

「我常去聽孩子們的告解，也嘗試帶同一些年老的神父一道去，因為當照顧孩童時，年老的人會再次年輕起來。有一次，同行的是一位頗年老，看來令人肅然起敬的神父。他是一位學者，花了一生在著作、聽告解及講道上……可能因為此理由，他長出一個備受敬重的大肚臍。當時聽告解的小堂不很大，所以我們坐得很接近。

突然我聽到一些嘈雜的聲音。回頭一望，看見那位聖善慈祥的神父差不多失控地責罵着一位小男孩。我們聽完告解後，我問他：「剛才發生了什麼事？」他訴說了整件事情。我這位年老的朋友忘記了他在聽一個小男孩的告解，並開始給他很長及嚴肅的忠告。他一定說了很久，因為那位男孩——到底只是一位小孩子——已經感覺厭煩，望着神父那可敬的大肚臍，發現長袍上光閃開的鈕扣，便開始數它們：一、二……當那位仁慈的神父察覺此事後，便問他：『小伙子，你在做什麼？』而那男孩回答：『三十五！我在你袍上數到35顆鈕扣！』我那位素來慈祥的朋友便忍不住發起脾氣來，因為他沒有學習帶點兒童真。」

辣法耳繼續說：「我聽完後十分震驚，描述的情況是那麼清楚，配合得天衣無縫，沒可能是敘述着兩件不同的事情。我不期然把兒時對那位年輕神父的面容及舉動的深刻印象，與在聚會片子看到的主業會創辦人聯結一起。

這麼多年後，施禮華蒙席還能清楚地記得這小故事的細節，令我相信可能在那事件中他曾為那男孩祈禱。辣法耳的結論是：「我認為也許主業會創辦人那次的祈禱與我廿年後加入主業會的聖召有關係呢！」

創辦人早年在馬德里全地區密集的神職活動使我深受感動。他踏遍馬德里周圍邊遠貧瘠的地區：Tetuan, Dehesa de la Villa, Campo del Moro, Vallecas等，在貧民窟照顧病患者、幫助小孩、到醫院安慰在那裏受苦的病人，求他們把苦痛奉獻給天主要求他創辦的主業會作創會的基礎與力量。他所擁有的，正如他自己所述，只是「天主的恩寵、喜樂，並無其他。我既沒有德行也沒有金錢。而我須要做天主的工作(Opus Dei)。」

他花了無數時間在這方面的使徒工作上，並深信主業會得以發展「全賴那些醫院：在馬德里的普通科醫院，那裏擠滿貧病交迫的人，因病牀不敷應用而要躺在走廊上；在國王醫院全部都是結核病患者，在那些日子是不治之症……」

* * * * *

摘自「Antes, más y mejor」by Lázaro Linares, Rialp 出版，馬德里，2001, pp.43~49

聖施禮華的最後一役

胡立安·賀瑞斯Julian Herranz樞機主教親述聖施禮華於1975年6月26那日的最後一刻。

胡立安·賀瑞斯樞機主教出生於1930年3月31日，當他在1949年仍在攻讀醫學時，加入了主業會，並在1955年8月7日進鐸為主業會的神父；他持有教會法學位。

在1960年，他被羅馬教廷聖職人員訓導部徵召，也因此在1994年到2007年間，擔任宗座法典條文解釋委員會的主席，並於2003年晉升為樞機主教，被視為教會法的權威。他在2007年退休後，繼續擔任法典條文解釋宗座會議的榮譽主席。

2005年，在教宗若望保祿二世逝世後，賀瑞斯樞機主教發行了一本回憶錄“Outside the Walls of Jericho”《耶里哥城牆外》，記述了他和聖施禮華度過的歲月，以及在梵諦岡特別是和教宗若望保祿二世一起工作的日子。此文便摘自於此書。

在聖施禮華過世那時，賀瑞斯樞機主教住在主業會中心泰瑞園，毗連於聖施禮華住處——主業會在羅馬的總部。

6月26日那天，我依時在快要一點半時，從梵諦岡返回泰瑞園。當我一到達時，秘書長馬上通知我：

「請快上來，父親就要不久人世了。」

我的心頓了一下，邊祈禱邊快步上樓。當我來到二樓父親的房間時，歐華路主教正站在他的辦公室門口。他對我說：

「來、快來，你也是個醫生。」

我馬上進去，並發現父親身穿長袍，躺在地上，面容安祥，但是沒有了呼吸。

若瑟·路意斯·索利亞Jose Luis Soria是一位司鐸也是位醫生，他已為父親進行人工呼吸。而後我們交替著做，繼續著毫不間斷，同時也為父親做心臟按摩。



賀瑞斯Herranz樞機主教

我不知道到底發生了什麼，但是我猜想父親是心臟停跳，這也是後來他們告訴我的消息。我接受天主的旨意，然而請求祂不要這麼早就召回他。當我跪下時，我全心全意地請求天主用我的生命來交換父親的生命。我告訴天主我的命不值錢，父親的命卻對每一個人而言卻是很重要的——他的孩子、教會、整個人類。

若瑟·路意斯和我不停地為他做人工呼吸。一次、然後再一次、又一次……我們沉默不語、雙眼充滿熱淚，最後我們知道再繼續下去也是徒勞無功。一切死亡的跡象都逐一呈現了。

歐華路和蔡浩偉兩人一直以來都陪伴着父親、細心地照顧他，他們正式把這最悲痛的消息告訴聚集在隔壁房間的理事會委員。歐華路也打電話給女生中央諮詢會。在處理這兩個情況下，他都在有關孝敬和管理兩方面給了他們適切的忠告。

我們也隨即將父親的遺體轉移到和平之后小聖堂。

幾小時後，我穿着司鐸祭服，在父親的遺體面前祈禱時，很多溫暖的回憶湧上心來。記得1953年聖誕節，父親在客廳壁爐邊取暖時，對我們吐露了內心話。

他說他要寫一本關於一隻驢子的書，那隻他很能感同身受的聖經動物，因為牠在白冷城帶給耶穌很多溫暖，並凱旋地將祂帶進耶路撒冷。牠是一隻通常被人們忽視的動物，但是父親將牠作為我們的榜樣——謙卑而工作耐勞、忠貞地為和平和愛而奮戰，這些特質就是主業會的孩子們和所有的基督徒們所受召要傳播到全世界的。他說如果有時間寫這本書他會替它取名為《水車邊的驢子生平冒險記》。

然而，天主卻在父親還未完成這本書之前把他召去了。不過從他的談話中所留下的字句(有些還經過他親筆校正)，他們為父親曾要求把這些場面雕刻在聖神降臨堂(Pentecostes)的座椅背後的小驢子場景加以註解。那一幕幕都是他這一生的象徵。在“驢子神學”中許多令人讚嘆不已的場景中，有一幕是這樣寫着：

「小驢子想要活到聖誕節，再一次用牠的呼吸溫暖聖嬰。雖事與願違，但在某種程度上，牠亦在場，因為在那晚的大喜訊裏，天使來了，並用牠的皮，製成鈴鼓和小鼓。」

驢子的故事有個美好的結局：牠是在工作時死去的，並在死後讓自己身體被加以利用，牠的皮被製成鼓：「大鼓用在戰場上，小鼓用來歌頌天主之子。」

父親就是如此般地逝世。

我的相機與父親的雙手

那是一九七五年的六月。「我再次拿起我的相機，聚焦在他的雙手。那雙手是如此富于表情。那是我替他拍的最後一張照片。」

海倫娜 Helena Serrano 是來自 Cordoba，西班牙。她在羅馬居住與工作已超過二十多年之久，一直都與聖施禮華非常接近。在那段日子中，在神父的鼓勵下，她培養了對攝影這方面的才華，並以她所照的相片，記載了主業會的一段歷史。

妳是從何時開始攝影的工作？

我在一九五四年抵達羅馬，主要是為了學業，同時也在羅馬的主業會總部幫忙做一些事情。在那兒，我遇見來自不同國度和背景的主業會會員。聖施禮華都一直往前看，因為他知道他所從事的這個事業會持續一段很長很長的時間，只要這世上還有男男女女要響應天主的聖召。他意識到在未來世紀加入主業會的成員會想要知道早期成員的長相與生活方式。

一個真正的寶藏

雖然他不愛照像，我還是替聖施禮華亞拍了許多照片。他經常用他那既慈祥又堅決的聲音對我說：「我的女兒，請不要再為我照相了，為我祈禱吧！」或者他會說：「饒饒我吧，海倫娜！去拍別人，讓我得點安寧。」不過，歐華路神父鼓勵他去面對這一切，得要對他的兒女公平點，因為他們想更深切地認識他。也因此，我們得以擁有他許多的快照。這些照片，加上他在西班牙、葡萄牙、以及許多其他拉丁美洲國家傳教聚會時所錄下的影片，是一個真正的寶藏。在我們這個注重媒體交流的社會中，這些影像幫助人們了解天主傳達給他的精神，因為他們可以看到他是多麼自然而然地傳道。

「我們一起說cheese」

多數的照片都是日常生活中拍的。只有少許是特地擺好姿勢才拍。這些照片描述了他臉上表露的慈愛，或他在仔細凝聽的模樣……和他的微笑。聖施禮



海倫娜

華一生都充滿著歡樂，因為他知道他是天主的愛子。他身旁的人也被他這份歡愉所感染。有一張照片被我命名為「捧腹大笑」。那時他正與幾位女兒在一起，我剛好帶著相機來到，他馬上說：「現在我們一起說cheese」（對相機微笑的意思）。他的說法如此詼諧，大家立刻捧腹大笑。

「你要我扮演偽君子嗎？」

許多照片是在聖施禮華祈禱時拍的——在彌撒時、或在聖母像前、或在親吻十字架時、或跪在聖體櫃前、或手握玫瑰念珠……我可以說我從來沒有見他在這些有鏡頭的情況下而分心，而相機就直接把他對上主或聖母全神關注的神情留存下來。



在一九七二年六月一日那天，我決定拍下他親吻一座小型聖母像的片刻。他經過房子的這部分時經常都會這樣做。當他看見我拿着我的相機有所準備時，他問我：「海倫娜妳在這兒做什麼？」，我向他解釋我的來意，他便說：「妳要我扮演偽君子……擺親吻雕像的姿勢好讓你拍照嗎？」他遲疑了一下，又說：「我不做偽君子，因為我要給它一個真心誠意的吻——一個真心的熱吻。」

許多其他的照片都顯示出聖施禮華的誠心。例如，他在聖誕節時溫柔地親吻耶穌聖嬰像，或懷抱在臂膀上輕輕地搖擺及對他述說著綿綿細語。

妳在一九七五年六月拍了聖施禮華最後的一張照片…

我永遠忘不了一九七五年六月二十六日中午那天，我跪在聖施禮華遺體旁。我瞬間間想起我的相機，卻又沒有拍照的欲望。如果不是歐華路神父要我這麼做，我是不會拍了那些照片。安娜 Ana Lorente 和我把那幾天的情況都拍攝下來。六月二十七日當天，下葬儀式剛要開始，我意識到我為父親（聖施禮華）拍照的義務已告一段落。忽然間，有人向我提議：「海倫娜，他的手。」我再次拿起我的相機，集中在他的雙手，那雙手是多麼地富于表情。那是我替他拍的最後一張照片。

四月二十二日晚上全家人再次與主業會監督蔡浩偉主教會面

2009/04/22

林豪

從一九九六年至今全家人第二次在台北與監督會面，雖然這次家父未能與我們在一起，相信他正在天堂看著我們。下午由母親帶領大哥、妹妹全家七人及我們家三人總共十二個人，六點半到達城中學苑，全家皆有備而來請求監督為我們每個人的心願祈禱。



六點四十分監督準時進入客廳，我一一介紹家人後，監督開始對我們說話（由主任劉力樹翻譯）：「我很高興而且感謝天主，雖然我們看起來很不一樣，但是我們仍是屬於一個大家庭，我很想講中文但我還是用我的母語對你們說話，請你們多為我祈禱，祈禱非常重要，我們要與基督結合在一起，活出基督，我一直再回想聖施禮華，他在生前就一直在想現在的我們，所以現在我們才能在一起。」

他從一九二八年就愛了我們，他多次告訴我們，他一直在等我們，不斷地為我們祈禱，好回應天主，很重要的是要為主業會所有的成員祈禱，同時也要為那些將來要加入主業會的人祈禱。

你們應該在新約中讀到，有一次耶穌為門徒們的信德祈禱，同時也為未來的教友門祈禱，因此也包括了我們所有的人，你們的生活為台灣這片土地有很大的價值，為全世界也極為重要，我們不要忘記天主揀選了我們，要利用我們讓全世界的人都認識祂，為此我們生命是很重的，我們應該成為會與天主交談的人，前教宗若望保祿二世說：『我沒有辦法來台灣，但我很愛台灣。』

聖施禮華是一位日常生活中的聖人，在天主面前沒有任何情況或事情是沒有價值的，作家長的要能培養幽默感，要不斷地陪伴你的妻子、兒女；作丈夫的有時候因工作出門在外無法陪伴家人，而耶穌在任何時間都會在我們的身邊陪伴著我們。

為了增進彼此之間的愛，我們每天彼此互相協助，使每個人都能找到屬於自

己的道路，聖施禮華每天都很樂意地我們答覆的問題，因為他不認為身邊的人在打擾他，我們都是他的證人，他的生活是這樣的，一般人遇到問題時，就來找他談話，以為他每天都很空閒，其實為了愛他可以為別人奉獻時間。

你們要彼此相愛，我很想與你們見面，特別是在明天晚上的座談，記得有一個亞洲人拒絕了會員對他的邀請，但在四、五個月之後他出了車禍，住在醫院裡，在這樣緊急的情況下，他想到要請醫護人員打電話與中心聯絡；因此你們若有正直的意向，所做的事一定有收穫。

以這樣的方式，台灣將會成為一個很愛天主的地方，明天是我們創辦人初領聖體的日子，我還記得很清楚，他向天主說：『我每一次領聖體時，就好像我第一次領聖體一樣，直到我吐出最後的一口氣為止。』一個懂得如何愛人的人，會瞭解他的意思，我坦白地告訴你們，我很希望能在每一個國家與我的孩子及朋友們共度時光，因為我愛你們；我想你們也和我一樣，很希望與自己所愛的人共享時光。

我們要祈求天主讓我們成為基督的聖體糧，使基督能居住在我們的靈魂內，而遇到愛祂的人。你們可以看到在主業會中心，我們以有限的資源，將聖體糧裝飾的最好，聖施禮華曾說：『我們的靈魂要成為裝滿很多美德的聖體糧。』在明天我們要特別祈求聖施禮華的代禱，讓我們成為基督的聖體糧，這是一個我們理智無法瞭解的奧秘，我們全能的天主卻居住在一個狹小的聖體糧中，祂的肉體、寶血及一切都在聖體內，且渴望進入我們的靈魂，為我們能得到祂，而能夠將祂介紹給別人，做好使徒工作。

你們要重視祈禱且尊重別人的自由，將你們的祈禱分享給別人，我很高興見到你們，為我而言，你們的臨在有如天主的臨在，我要感謝天主也感謝聖施禮華，他是一個信德堅強的人，天主讓他在1928年看見主業會，他在當時見到我們也為我們祈禱；不要懷疑，要有堅定的信德，他在當時就說：『我已為我未來的子女們祈禱了。』

願天主降福你們，請你們也為我祈禱，使我能成為一位好牧人，好領導主業會，與聖施禮華及他的繼承人歐華路主教一樣忠實，現在我要送給你們每人一串玫瑰念珠，小孩子們則有糖果，你們要好好唸玫瑰經，向聖母祈禱，也為我祈禱，聖母是最好的媽媽，現在我降福你們，願天主降臨我們的心中，在你們的喜樂及在你們的家人當中，因父及子及聖神，阿們。」

我們也送給監督預先準備好的小禮物，好讓監督帶回羅馬，作為永久的紀念。

我心將永留中國

以下為與聖十字司鐸會，秋逸安神父(Fr. Esteben Aranaz)訪談的內容。邱神父在服務了台灣和中國大陸從事司鐸工作六年後，將返回西班牙。

在中國內地，北京的北部，一位西班牙神父正在一間老舊的製冰工廠裡教授彌撒。大約是清晨兩點左右，學生們聚精會神地學習吸收神父所教授的天主教要理。他們知道今天過後，不知要過多久才回再有機會聽到了。



為地下教會修士們上課

下課後，他們紛紛返回家中，隔一天一如其他人一般上班工作。只有他們自己和小群信友們知道他們是被中國迫害的教會修士們。至於他們的老師，邱逸安神父，則會繼續拿起他的吉他，扮演他“觀光音樂家”的角色。

在他的中國之行中，有許多“演奏會”在的著他：為修士們上課、長避靜、為一小群人舉行彌撒、探訪神父們。「這都幾乎是在晚上舉行，當公安們沒在監看的時候。害怕嗎？連邊都沾不上。不，我從來沒害怕過。」

秋逸安神父是隸屬於聖十字司鐸會的教區神父。聖十字司鐸會是由聖施禮華所創辦的，並合一於主業會。他已住在台灣六年了，並經常

到中國大陸。而今，他將要返回西班牙，接下他的教區塔拉索那(Tarazona)的大鐸院院長一職。

您為何千里迢迢從塔拉索那來到台灣呢？

吾主一點一滴地提示給我。我們不時會接到一位從我們教區去到一所台灣隱修院修女的消息，很清楚在台灣仍有許多人還不認識基督。

1999年的聖誕節，我邀請一位年輕的中國朋友來我的堂區，他在西班牙合法居留和工作的簽證有些麻煩。小楊並非天主教徒但是他真誠、慷慨的個性讓我們間的友誼輕而易舉地建立了起來。

平安夜那天我們在教堂裡，他幫忙張羅著我舉行子夜彌撒所需要的東西。當他見到小耶穌像時，他告訴我小耶穌“告訴他”三件事：「第一，他是從天堂來的，並不像我們；第二，因為他很小，他有個非常愛他的媽媽；第三，他張開著他的雙臂，因為他愛所有的人。」

在那之前我還在考慮該如何向他解釋聖誕節的意義，然而現在看來，所有解釋

已不需要了。他那簡單樸實卻又深遠的話深深感動了我，我不禁燃起念頭：「耶穌，在中國有多少人認識你啊！」也從那時起，在我心中便感難安，想去中國。

在2000年教宗若望保祿二世勉勵我們去「Duc in altum!划向深處！」，我便認真的考慮起去中國的可行性。這句話一直不斷縈繞在我腦海，除此之外同時我也深受主業會監督為了第三個千年的開始所寫的信而深受感動，他激勵他的兒女們在使徒工作上設下「更大膽的目標」。

可是你不已經是位神父了嗎？

是的，但是那仍舊不足，我必須要下定決心。因此在去羅馬的一趟旅程中，我在聖方濟·沙勿略的遺囑前祈禱，這位聖人曾捨棄了一切前往亞洲。我請求吾主：「請給我一個清楚的徵兆，如果你想要我去中國，這不是個簡單的決定。」

當我剛踏出教堂時，一位從亞洲來的修女在街上和我打招呼：「請為我的國家，中國，祈禱。」我嚇呆了，回答她：「修女，你不知道我是多麼深切地為中國祈禱著。」這是個我一直在等待，再明顯不過的徵兆了。我再也沒有理由裹足不前了。

當我告訴我的主教時，他百分之百地全力支持我，說道：「我怎能拒絕一項對普世教會的服務」，而我對他懷有無限感激。

您如何著手開始呢？

一開始是相當棘手的。頭兩年我每天的生活是舉行彌撒、苦讀中文，還有做好我的生活計畫，像是玫瑰經和祈禱。我從彌撒中得到很多，了解到那為何時每天生活的高峰。也因為我不能做其他事，我不斷為那些我還能溝通的人們祈禱再祈禱。

您是否曾覺得孤單呢？

不，我從未覺得孤單過。身為一位聖十字司鐸會的會員，我可以去主業會在台北的中心，接受靈修指導和培育。在那兒，我找到足夠的力量，讓我不灰心意冷。此外，我還有我家庭和許多朋友們的祈禱，作為我精神上的支柱。



舉行聖體降福



攝於偉大的亞洲傳教士
聖方濟像前

最終，經過那兩年後，台北的樞機主教指派給我一間有著120位教友的堂區—聖母顯靈聖牌堂(那也是聖施禮華相當鍾愛的)。我當時問主教：「我要協助哪位神父呢？」他回答：「你會是那唯一的神父」。我感到一股強烈地渴望想開始工作。

我第一次的中文講道實在是場大災難！但是，感謝天主，教友們都很體諒包容我，也幫了我很多。

請否請您簡述台灣人的信仰？

你要了解在台灣，一個有著兩千三百多萬人口的國家中，只有大約1%是天主教徒，雖是如此，他們為身為天主教徒而自豪，並且對於教會有著強烈地歸屬感。

我在那裡的幾年中，領洗了32個人。我以深厚的愛，憶及一位58歲患有癌症的先生。他全家人都是天主教徒，但是他始終都不信主。一天他們要我去醫院：「他想要領洗。」我記得我問到他關於信仰的真理：「你相信天主父、天主子嗎？…」他堅定地回答我並緊抓著我的十字架：「是的，我相信！」當我要離去前，他問我是否可以留著我的十字架，他說：「這是我現在唯一的安慰」，之後不久他就在平安中去世了。

在我探訪病患者時，我經常想起聖施禮華在他準備著主業會的基礎時，便是在馬德里的醫院間探訪那些將不久於人世的病患們。我現在對台北的所有醫院瞭如指掌！在那兒我曾經為病危者傅油、授洗，甚至為他們主持婚配！

您如何和非教友們解釋天主教信仰？

普遍來說，台灣人相當尊敬他人的信仰，所以是很容易和他們談論這話題。在過去三年裡，我們就在這城市的鬧區舉辦過基督聖體遊行。堂區教友們準備了一張有著各色稻禾花樣的地毯，這是一個為群眾解釋聖體的好機會。

當聖誕節的腳步逼近時，我想要在個公共場合設置基督誕生的景象，這項傳統是向人訴說基督的佳機。在台灣一間大銀行鄰近於我們教堂，這棟大樓的入口處有個小花園—這是再好不過的絕佳地點了。我邀請兩位教友們陪同我去拜訪負責人，在進門前，我們先唸了聖母經，保佑一切都能順利進行。那天也正是12月12日，瓜達露佩聖母慶日。

最後我們不僅順利地與負責的人相談甚歡，他隨即答應我們的請求，此外還願意支付架起此佈景的一切費用。



與台灣的教區教友
一同參與聖體慶

這項傳統讓許多台灣人驚艷，自那時起，每年都會架起這耶穌誕生的佈景。這真的是個傳播信仰的良機。

但是您的原意是去中國大陸

我也真的去了中國！我的中文在學到相當程度後，我聯絡上當地被迫害或是所稱的地下教會，並有機會去探訪他們。我甚至去拜訪了住在長城北邊的基督徒們。



聖母顯靈聖牌的中文傳單，簡介聖
施禮華對聖母的崇敬

在認識他們以後，我敢說我從未見過有比那些在中國遭受迫害的教友們有著更堅定信仰的人了。那是被十字架淨化過、經歷過痛苦磨難的信仰。他們教了我許多，例如，當我們一大清早在一人的家中舉行彌撒時，這些人的虔敬之情著實令人動容。對他們而言，彌撒真是份珍貴的寶藏。

一位曾被關在獄中，如今被軟禁的主教告訴我：「為了讓教會能在中國發展。有三項重要的事：我們千萬不要害怕、要忠貞不已，還有我們身為神父的要接受完好的培育。至於其他的事都會水到渠成的。」

這位主教開了一所孤兒院，裡頭住有著72位在街上被找到，被遺棄和患病的孩童們。中國的神父們絕大多數都非常地英勇。

該如何幫助在中國的教會？

藉著祈禱。

僅是如此而已嗎？

不過只為教會祈禱是不夠的，我們還需要為中國的掌權者祈禱，所以他們也能皈依。除此之外，金錢方面的援助，也能幫助中國的神父們前來歐洲接受培育。我也幫忙支持著「光明」基金會，他們為地下教會的修士們提供書籍。最近，我們順利地送給他們中文初版的聖多瑪斯·阿奎那神學大全，還有其他著作。

您下一步的計畫呢？

我在西班牙所屬教區的主教成立了一所修院，並指派我為院長。所以我將會回去塔拉索那，在那裡繼續服務教會。但是，雖然我離開了中國，心卻永留與此。



行經台北大街小巷

天主需要我！

葛羅莉亞·奧詩瑞雅 (Gloria Osezua) 希望在信仰方面能付出更多的奉獻，但又不想要抵觸自己身為人妻、為母和職業婦女的身份和角色，因而她開始接觸了主業會。

非洲尼日利亞

還未認識主業會以前，我只在星期天上教堂，平日若看到教友進堂，我會問他們：「今天是甚麼慶日？」當年我只要求自己盡到最基本的基督徒責任：在星期天或一些特別的慶日才參加感恩祭，這樣的情況持續到我生命中發生了巨變，我的心態才開始轉變。

我的大女兒八個月大時，尚未學會走路就不幸染上小兒麻痺，遇到這樣的事雖感到不幸，但也因這經歷讓我的生命再見光明。當醫生告訴我：我的女兒或許不能再走路了！這打擊使我對生命有了深刻的省思，這一刻我才覺醒到天主的臨在，是祂掌管人的終向和命運。我在這樣的情況下奮戰了三年，最後我的女兒竟能走路了，天主的慈恩透過這件事給我的生命帶來一道新的曙光。

女兒的痊癒帶給我莫大的喜悅，為了感恩我渴望為天主作一些特別的奉獻，我嘗試加入堂區的神恩團體，可是他們的靈修方法跟我的意向並不一致，所以就沒有繼續了，我繼而加入聖母軍，但卻仍是無法達到我個人所期望的內在生活挑戰和成就感。

我和當時仍在大學中就讀的弟弟，總是有聊不完和辯不斷的話題，每次見面都聊至夜深，他知道我渴望為天主服務，但又苦無門路。有一次他放假回家，告訴我一個他認為我一定感興趣的消息，也是他自己親身經驗到的一個專務教人祈禱的新團體，那是我第一次聽到有關於「主業會」的事。

假期過後，他留下一本「道路」的書要我閱讀，但我一直沒有打開，直至他第二次返家時，他為我細讀書中有關人的個性的章節，另我訝異的是我覺得作者好像特意在對我說話一樣。自始點燃了我的心火，渴望認識更多，這種渴求與日俱增，有一天，弟弟終於為我找到主業會位於蘇戶理拉 (Surulere) 浪峰女中心 (Warecrest) 的地址。

第二天我立刻驅車往愛得沙·巴橋亞街 (Adisa Bashuz Street)。我挨家逐戶叩門不下六七家後才終於找到中心的門口，應門的是尼日利亞主業會一位資深會員鍾·吉馬丁女士 (Joan Gilmartin)，直到今天，我們都是很要好的朋友。

當時吉馬丁女士問我幾個問題：「誰介紹妳來這中心？」「妳最近一次辦和好聖事是在什麼時候？」……，當下我便知道我找到地方了。



葛羅莉亞·奧詩瑞雅，丈夫和六個子女

吉馬丁女士帶我參觀小聖堂，給我一本介紹「如何準備和好聖事」的綠色小冊子，她請我作妥當和好聖事的準備後可隨時返回中心，四天後我再次造訪中心，並且作了徹底的和好聖事，這也是我長久以來所作的第一次和好聖事，之後我便開始接受主業會的培育，我知道，我不再會是從前的我了。

我的第一個挑戰來自我的丈夫，他當時還不能瞭解我對天主的情懷，於是他用盡方法，阻撓我繼續主業會的培育，和參與中心的活動。我不斷祈禱以避免跟他針鋒相對，互相爭拗的場面，期待他的轉化。主業會的教導就是要我們為妻者對丈夫，恆常忍耐，保持忠愛，如同主愛了我們一樣。我因為基督的緣故，原諒他的無理，這份愛和包容，終於將他贏回來了。他自己不但同意接受培育，也重新學習唸玫瑰經，如今他甚至也成為主業會的一員。

在認識主業之前，我將事業放在第一位，其他的一切，包括家庭就是次要的了。在信仰經驗不斷加深的同時，主業會幫助我將生命中的事件的優先順序作了重新的排序。我明白應該把家人放在第一位：丈夫居首，然後是子女，我也知道天主更依賴我從家人開始，引領更多人歸向祂。既為妻子，那愛主之情就要先彰顯在愛丈夫和愛兒女身上。但作為一個職業婦女，同時要兼顧事業和家庭實在不可能，後來我跟丈夫商討並取得他的同意，支持我辭去工作，以便騰出更多時間給我的家庭。

辭去工作後，全職家庭主婦的第一星期，就讓我體會到之前我所失去的：第一天，二女兒放學回家一進門便給我一個擁抱，告訴我：「媽，我一下車想到你已在家等我放學，我就飛奔入屋找你！」我真的好感動，雖然我對辭去的工作仍感不捨，但想到這決定可帶給家人更大的喜樂，那個人的犧牲也就微不足道了，這也是主業會給我的教導。

未認識主業會之前，對生命和慷慨抱持著不同的觀點，自以為對生命已夠開放了，所以當時有三個兒女，我想這也算是「慷慨」了。但主業會糾正了我的心態，所謂的對生命開放是要視子女為天主的恩賜，要「慷慨」的回應表達對天主的服從，如今我有六個可愛的兒女，我為此每日感恩。

我以前總以為與主共融是神父或神職人員專有的，但主業會讓我瞭解「成聖」是天主對每一個人的召叫，平信徒只要生活中有聖德的計劃，那麼人人都可走上一條在日常工作及履行基督徒普通職務中追求聖德的道路。我習慣一覺醒來便祈禱，將每日的祈禱事工、喜樂、憂苦全獻於祂。此外，在一天當中我也抽時間，短短幾分鐘也好，藉著祈禱告訴天主，我有甚麼得失。為祂賜給我的一切成功，我感謝祂；為錯失，我也感謝祂藉著失敗來教導、指引我。

主業會創辦人曾說過：「聖母瑪利亞是我永恆的助佑，她時刻俯聽我。」我每天唸玫瑰經，經由她向聖子轉求並俯聽我的祈禱；每天參與彌撒，為與主相遇並迎接祂到我心中給我力量；靈魂常有失落，那我又會藉著和好聖事跟主說一聲「對不起！」這一切都再再的幫助我與主契合。要保持這日新又新的關係或許不容易，但主業會教導我不要害怕，跌倒了可以隨時重新開始。

我不能細數或一言道出主業會如何影響我的生命，但我一定要指出，主業會對我的一切教導在我生命起了重大作用和影響，我感謝天主，祂使我堪當經歷這一切；我也感激天主的召叫，並祈求祂賜我恩寵，使我忠信到底。

手足情深

「雛雀群飛，齊心拍翼」，對這西班牙大家庭的最貼切的寫照，家中的十五位兄弟姊妹在「友伴同行」的制度下建立了和諧的家庭生活。



蘿莎 (Rosa Pich)、若瑟瑪利亞 (Josemaria Postigo) 夫婦和他們的十五位子女，一家人居住鄰近巴賽隆納的沙里亞市 (Sania)。

問：你如何在同一時間集合全部的孩子到飯廳？

蘿莎：這不難，我的孩子們都非常喜歡晚餐的時刻，因為這是我們家人每天聚在一起的唯一時間。他們總是迫不及待的想告訴其他的人在學校內所遇到的挑戰，和分享一些趣聞。

問：你如何安排他們唸書和溫習功課、外出、或到公園遊玩的活動？

蘿莎：我家有一個制度，年長要負責照顧年幼的弟妹，也就是說，年長的一個要挑選一個較年幼的弟妹，並且用心看顧他／她。這個作法起初運行得不太順利，直到有一天，9歲的德蕾莎在每一個人的房門貼上一張小便條，上面寫著「雛雀群飛，齊心拍翼」，自此這就成了我們家的座右銘，每一個人上下一心。

問：有人幫你打掃、煮飯、洗衣、或幫你的孩子溫習功課嗎？

蘿莎：早上我的孩子們上學後，我就外出工作半天，趕在午飯前返家。整個下午我就有時間照顧我的孩子，除此之外，有一位女傭每天來我家幫忙做飯、洗衣及處理家中大小事情。我家的洗衣機只是普通容量，不過每天都要洗三籃子的衣物，我家唯一不同的地方是有比普通大一點的廚具。我認為若計劃得好，吃得簡單，我花在弄飯的時間，不會比一個普通小家庭多。

問：要撫養這麼大的家庭，開支一定不少，你們是否很富裕？

蘿莎：我們僅靠我先生和我兩個人的收入，我會到便宜的超級市場購物，也不講究品牌。孩子們睡的是有三層或四層的床。我想最重要的是一家人開心地一起生活，孩子也非常滿意這種生活方式。

問：你如何安排時間和你的孩子談心，為他們排難解紛？

蘿莎：身為父母，我們有一個共識，家庭教育最重要的目的就是傳遞正確的價值觀，培養個人德行和養成良好的生活習慣。我們也重視子女的內在靈修生命，以天主臨在恆常祈禱在家中每天都會實行一些克己奉獻。個人默想幫助我在繁忙生活中不斷反省，和釐清那些事情對我、和我的家人是最為迫切。我也認為人父母者親自培育子女是非常重要的事，這件事我一定不假手他人，至於其他的事我都盡量分工，反正我從不要求家裏一塵不染，也不事事求完美。

問：你的家庭成員這麼多，家裡可以享有片刻安寧嗎？

蘿莎：女兒今年有一位家中有兩個兄弟姐妹的10年級朋友，竟然告訴我在我家作功課比她自己家裡更安靜。孩子們很多時候不是上學，就是在庭院嬉戲，遇到考試時，他們都覺得要安靜，不要妨礙別人溫習功課，說話輕得像在圖書館裡一樣，當然他們不會在走廊奔跑，各人都遵守溫習規則。

問：你們的家白天的情況如何？

蘿莎：平日上班的日子，我習慣早上7點先去教堂參與感恩祭，孩子們全都要上學，年長兄姊負責打點弟妹上學的一切事情。我的上班時間在8時15分。下班前，我先載其中一個孩子去買麵包，這家麵包店大約在兩條街之外，每天他負責拿12條麵包回家供家人作早點，每個七歲以上的孩子便要負責這項小工作。若他賴床，或想推卸責任而買不到麵包，就會害的其他兄弟姊妹餓著肚子去上學，這樣他們很快便學會承擔責任，此外，女傭也會早上來我家工作。

問：你們全家出遊時，你不怕孩子走失嗎？

蘿莎：當然怕，所以我給他們穿同一款式的衣服，若有小孩子走失，便很容易被認出那是15個孩子中的一員。

問：什麼因素讓你決定要生這麼多兒女？

蘿莎：我和丈夫都來自大家庭，他有13個兄弟姊妹，而我則有15個。第一個孩子生下來時便發現心臟有問題，醫生告訴我她可能活不過3歲，幸好隨着醫學的進步，孩子的病得到更好的照顧現在她還是活得好好的。

第二個孩子生下後，又遇上相似問題，他出生後不久便夭折，第三個小孩也遭遇同樣的不幸，一而再，再而三的同樣的事情一再發生，旁人便開始勸我不要再懷孩子了。為我而言，孩子是上天的恩賜，更好說是天主給人的禮物，最後我和丈夫決定不去憂慮這樣的事情，子女無論在世多久，或是一生下便夭折，他們總是天主的兒女，那麼就讓他們存在吧，也總好過阻止他們存在！

問：今天很多父母就連兩個孩子都嫌多，對此你有什麼看法？

蘿莎：這點真的要看這些父母，他們的成長和培育的過程；還要看當時的社會風氣，人們對生育的看法；再有可能是出於人的無知，說到底他們其實不知道自己所失去的其實是更多的。為每個孩子而言，手足愈多，他們愈快樂。大家庭中成長的孩子易培養良好的習慣和德行，這為他們是終生受用的，從小他們要學習在兄弟姊妹的執拗中如何好好相處，又在「小團體」中學會跟他人分享、合作等，長大後他更容易處理不同的人際關係。想想只有一個孩子的家庭便很難提供這麼多面性的培育。看看現在跨國企業也不是一個人說了就算了，公司是以團隊的方式來運作的，若一個人從小便掌握與人共事的技巧，就算遇到不如意的事，也會設法解決並繼續和他人合作下去。

很多時老師會告訴我的孩子在學校，成為其他同學的領袖。在朋友家玩時，他們朋友的父母親也發覺我的孩子很容易適應環境，我想在家中他們早已習慣團隊生活，也學會如何體察別人的需要，很自然的他們在校便會主動照顧其他同學，而不會只顧著自己。

問：在這次訪問的最後，你們對這種模式的家庭生活滿意嗎？

蘿莎：外人看我們好像忙得不可開交，其實我們真的覺得沒甚麼，一方面我們夫婦倆都重視友情，我們樂意時常開放自己的家給朋友、鄰居；作為妻子，我甘願為丈夫付出我自己，這愛的果實給我們帶來很多子女，而他們也同樣享受友情，樂意帶朋友回家。我們的家變得愈來愈有生氣，各人努力為別人服務，因而忘卻己念，大家庭中生活看似沒有充足的時間留給自己，不過到最後你會體會到「施比受更快樂」的意義。

這篇由蘿莎 (Rosa Pich) 和費柏里莉歐 (Fabrizio Assandri) 撰寫的文章出版於 *mercatornet.com*。這篇文章最早刊登於 *Spanish雜誌 Catalunya Christiana* 雜誌，如果你對這篇文章有興趣可以上 *mercatornet.com* 的網站，網址為：

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聖施禮華代禱奇蹟

這是一項奇蹟，我深信這一定是聖施禮華代禱的奇蹟！同時，這奇蹟使我的信念更堅定不疑

(里馬，秘魯) 力卡度·艾古達奴回憶當時在滂沱大雨，冰雹交加的夜晚，他所體驗到聖施禮華代禱的力量！當天，他從里馬出發，開了六小時的行程後，在行經卡路達巴斯高(秘魯最高的城市之一，約海拔4380米)的銀鑛場時遇險…。

我當時因公駕車從里馬沿公路往Huanuco，行約七小時的車程。當我駛經卡路達巴斯高的那天晚上天空黑暗無比，天氣異常惡劣，大雨挾著冰雹下個不停，而且天候十分寒冷，但我也無法找到一處可將車停下暫避風雨的地方。

當我駛經一個急彎時，遇到了土石流，挾著急速的水流和殘斷的枝葉，路面泥濘不堪，我煞了車，但又不能將它掉頭，只得蹣跚前進，想開到一處看似穩固的地方，車子卻被困住，動彈不得，怎樣也無法啟動。我眼巴巴的環視那駭人的雨勢和一片漆黑的四周，心中擔憂徬徨不已！

荒郊野外，四下無人，我根本不可能借到繩索把車拖出重圍，於是我比平日更殷切地祈求，並請施禮華蒙席為我代禱。

就在那時，四周漆黑幾乎沒有一絲微光下，出現了一位外表平凡的仁兄，向我揮手示意，我設法向他的方向推進，他給我一條鐵鍊，我們不顧高及腰間的泥濘和冒着滑下懸崖的危險，合力將鐵鍊鉤在我的車底。

我不斷地祈禱！

這仁兄拖著鐵鍊，扣到一輛不知從那裏來的貨車，拖出我深陷泥濘中的車子，也將我從極度徬徨的無助中釋放出來！向他表示我的感謝之意後，我繼續開著毀損不堪的車艱辛地前進。

第二天早上，我將那損壞了的車送修。

兩天後雨勢停了，我沿原路返回里馬，我停在山泥傾瀉區域，看見一輛毀損不堪的汽車，圍觀的人都說道：「沒有人能夠捱過那天晚上！」

我告訴他們，我全靠一位善心的貨車司機的幫助，才能僥倖通過。他們卻回答道：「先生，那是不可能發生的！沒有一個人能夠捱得過去，而且道路仍未打通，他們現在正在掘開另一條通道呢。」

但我確實是在一位仁兄的幫助下而通過的！他從那裏來？他究竟是誰？這一定是聖施禮華代禱的奇蹟，我的信念更堅定不移！

力卡度·艾古達奴
2009年1月12日

聖禮華搜尋能者

今天早晨在我上班途中，我發現要進車庫的遙控器不見了。我瘋狂找遍了車內卻怎麼也找不著，於是我決定循著昨晚停車的途徑再找一次，心想很可能是掉在車外。當我開車經過這些地點時我祈求聖安東尼的代禱，此外也用聖施禮華的祈禱卡(我也請我的女朋友瑞秋也一起祈禱)，好讓我能找到，畢竟如果得要再配一付新的，對我而言實在不便宜。我第一個停車的地點是我認為最有可能掉在那兒的地方，但是我搜遍了各處就是不見它蹤影。失望之際，我返回車內準備繼續去另一個昨晚我停車的地方--然後發現那遙控器竟然就躺在駕駛座上！我不確定這是不是透過超自然力量介入(我絕對肯定能在昨晚和今天早上發現它就在那裡，但是它並不在那)，不過我肯定聖施禮華一定幫了不少忙。謝謝您，父親！

J.P. 馬來西亞
2009年5月8日

網站大收穫

我身為世界旅行家已有55年了，在2008年時我退休了。我很遺憾未能在我的仍舊工作時就認識主業會，那肯定會幫助我更能了解這工作的世界。我是透過網路發現主業社團的。之前聽說過主業會的部份原因是那時有關丹布朗的《達文西密碼》的報導。在好奇心驅使之下，我瀏覽了你們的網站。我很驚嘆聖施禮華對使徒工作的投入，以及他基督徒任務的獨創性--去和基督一起生活並藉著每天去發現天主。數月前，我訂閱了主業會網站上的電子訊息信，這帶給了我希望並再度點燃我的信仰。我為教宗祈禱著。

Alain Marblez, 法國
2009年3月1日

保住了祖母的腿

我寫此文章為要見證透過聖施禮華所得的恩惠。不久前我的祖母安莉奎塔在右腿上長了些既大又疼痛的潰瘍傷口。她為此經歷了很長一段時間的痛苦，醫生說唯一的辦法就是要截斷她的腳。之後，有人在路上給了我哥哥一張聖施禮華祈禱卡，我開始用那祈禱卡祈禱並請求這位聖人治好那些潰瘍傷口。在大概兩個月後，那傷口痊癒了，祖母的腳也保住了。為此恩惠我衷心感激聖施禮華，我希望我的見證能被你們採用。祝福你們也非常感謝你們。

Jose Luis de Luna Almanza, 墨西哥
2009年1月13日

A Man of Constant Prayer

An article published in Chinese in the Taiwan Catholic Weekly on the Prelate's recent pastoral trip. He encouraged the faithful to be a Tabernacle for Christ, and to love one another

May 20, 2009

Translated from Taiwan Catholic Weekly, published 3 May 2009.

The Prelate of Opus Dei, a part of the Catholic Church, flew to Taiwan from Japan on April 21 for a four-day pastoral visit. In a marathon round of visits and preaching, he prayed for every person he met, including passersby. He is very approachable: a person who prays constantly and who, above all, is a bearer of Christ.



Opus Dei started its apostolic work in Taiwan in 1985. The first successor of the Founder, Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, had visited Taiwan in 1987. The present Prelate, Javier Echevarría, was making his second pastoral visit to Taiwan after his first in 1996.

On this trip, Bishop Echevarría made time to see his old friends Archbishop John Hung, Archbishop Joseph Ti Kong and Bishop Joseph Wong. He told them of his admiration for the development of the Catholic Church in Taiwan. At the same time, he expressed deep concern for the Catholic Church in Mainland China. He said that he and all the members of the large family of Opus Dei were praying unceasingly for the future development of China. He especially invited the faithful on the Mainland to trust in God, as children trust.

This Bishop lives the teaching of loving one another to the letter. On the same evening he arrived to Taipei, he held get-togethers with the women students from Wen Shan Residence and with the men from Cheng Jung Study Center. He urged all the students and members to be prayerful souls, to have self-dominion, to love one another, to strive for sanctity without fear of becoming tired. With his tight schedule and the jetlag, perhaps the person most exhausted should have been himself, but he was always smiling and bestowing his blessings upon those he met.

Bishop Echevarría has a deep devotion to our Lady. While visiting He Shan Residence in the Wen Shan District, when he learned that a pilgrim image of Our Lady of Wan-Jing was present in the nearby Church of the Resurrection, he wanted to venerate our Lady. When he arrived, Benediction was being celebrated with the

church full of faithful. Bishop Echevarría immediately fell on his knees and knelt before the Blessed Sacrament for 10 minutes. He also prayed before the statue of Our Lady of Wan-Jing for a long time. The love he has for the Blessed Sacrament as well as for our Lady touched everyone present.

Many people were eagerly awaiting the general get-together, held at the International Conference Hall of the Taipei Youth Center at 7:30 p.m. on April 23rd. Even before seven, the Hall was crowded with more than 300 persons. Bishop Echevarría reminded everyone of their divine calling to pursue sanctity in the middle of their ordinary life, urging them to be a Tabernacle for Christ and souls of prayer. The constant challenge for the lay faithful, he said, is to work together with all people of good will towards promoting and developing a culture which respects human dignity. He stressed that when any honest job or upright profession is carried out whole-heartedly, with all one's strength and love, God is made present: one can find God there and serve the others. His manner of speaking is very amiable, and from the way those asking questions addressed him as "Father," it was not difficult to see that in the big family of Opus Dei, people truly love one another.

With reference to the financial tsunami that has hit the world, someone asked Bishop Echevarría about "the meaning of suffering." He expressed his solidarity with those who suffered, and also emphasized that suffering is part of everyone's life. The Founder of Opus Dei, St. Josemaría Escrivá, had spent countless hours willingly by the bedsides of those who were suffering, accompanying them. Bishop Echevarría encouraged everyone not to close in on themselves, but to convert all suffering into occasions to trust whole-heartedly and to share in God's love. He also spoke in detail about the inseparable union between suffering and the Cross, reminding us that it was not possible to always remain with Christ on Mount Tabor; most of the time, we have to be on the road to Calvary. Loving our family members and fulfilling our duties brings us the Cross.

That same day, April 23rd, was the anniversary of St. Josemaría's first Holy Communion when he was 10 years old. Bishop Echevarría pointed out that when St. Josemaría was still a child, he already realized the importance of the Eucharistic Sacrament: God assumed human nature. He walked the paths of the earth and manifested his selfless Love so that we may live. He remains in the Bread and we become one Body in Him. Therefore, we should consider ourselves as followers who have to spread His love and His help, imitating the spirit of St. Paul, and looking after the needs of the others. Those who are baptized have the special grace and strength to serve with a spirit of sacrifice, thus becoming Christ-bearers, the Prelate said in conclusion.

A Chance Encounter with Father Josemaria, 1929

Rafael Poveda joined Opus Dei as an Associate in 1950. Years later he realized that a young priest he'd met in 1929 was actually St Josemaria, when he recounted a simple little event that he, Rafael, remembered perfectly...

Rafael Poveda Longo was one of the first people to ask for admission in Opus Dei as an Associate, in 1950. He worked as a clerk on a Supplies Committee in Spain, and died in Madrid in 1992, after long years of faithfulness and generous dedication to God and other people as a member of Opus Dei.

His childhood had one small point of contact with the history of the early years of Opus Dei: when he was ten, he met a very young, friendly priest who appeared in his classroom one day in May 1929, at the school run by the Damas Apostolicas in Isabel La Catolica Street.

Many years later, now a member of Opus Dei, he made a surprising discovery. Watching a film of a meeting with the Founder of Opus Dei and several thousand people in Buenos Aires, he realized that the young priest he'd met in 1929 was actually St Josemaria. There could be no doubt about it, because the Founder recounted a simple little event that he, Rafael, remembered perfectly...

"May 10, 1929 was my eleventh birthday. Early in the afternoon we went to the Church that the Damas Apostolicas had in Nicasio Gallego Street. We joined a group of boys from the various schools run by the Damas Apostolicas in Madrid, who had all come for Confession as we were making our First Holy Communion the following day.

That church was simply a chapel, not very big, and had two rows of benches with a central aisle and two narrower side-aisles. To the right of the nave, in some spaces framed by arches, there were two confessionals. The first was in the same place it is now, on the right just as you go in, and the second was nearer the sanctuary, where the tomb of Luz Rodriguez Casanova is now. It was she who was preparing us for our First Holy Communion; she died some years later in the odor of sanctity.

One of my friends, who'd already made his First Communion and had been to Confession several times in that church, recommended me to go to the priest who was in the second confessional, who was young and approachable. Unfortunately there was a long queue of boys waiting to go to Confession there, and as it was my birthday and I wanted to get straight home for a birthday tea with my friends, I decided to go to Confession with the first priest, because there were only three or four kids queuing up there.

The priest in the first confessional was an elderly, rather ponderous, peaceful-looking man. I began my Confession, and after I'd finished the priest spent a fair amount of time giving me advice, but in such a quiet voice that I could hardly hear him. As he went on, I was distracted by the row of buttons on his cassock, which seemed endless. Then I started wondering how many buttons there were, and began to count them. I'd almost got to the end when the priest realized and asked me what I was doing. I told him, quite simply. And he must have been really annoyed, because he started scolding me in a voice that seemed to me quite thunderous.

Then I could hear my companions, at the other confessional, all laughing at the commotion I'd caused. When I looked round I saw that the other priest was also looking out to see what the noise was about. Then I recognized him – he was the young priest who gave catechism classes in the district called Colonia de los Pinos, and who had come to our school to explain what Confession was.

The older priest, very crossly, told me to go and kneel before the altar and say sorry to our Lord for what I'd done. And there I stayed till Confessions were over, when, his peaceable expression restored, he came over to ask me with a smile whether I'd repented. I said yes, and went home satisfied, though disappointed because I was the last to leave the church and I was going to be late for my birthday party, and also feeling a little humiliated because of all my companions laughing at me. That episode remained as a memory of a little childhood humiliation, and I never even told anyone about it.

More than 50 years went by, and one fine day I saw a film of a get-together that the founder of Opus Dei had in Buenos Aires in 1974. During that get-together he talked about the apostolate he had done during the early years of Opus Dei, hearing the Confessions of thousands of children who were preparing for their First Holy Communion, and then he told the following story:

'I used to go and hear children's Confessions, and I tried to take some elderly priest along with me, because by looking after children, older people become young again. Once there came with me a priest who was quite elderly and venerable looking. He was a scholar who had spent his life writing, hearing Confessions, and preaching... Perhaps for that reason he had also developed quite a venerable paunch. The chapel where we were hearing Confessions was not very big, so that we were quite near one another.

Suddenly I heard some noise. I looked round and saw that priest – a very holy and gentle man – was almost beside himself, scolding a little boy. When we finished, I asked him, "What happened?" And he told me. That elderly friend of mine forgot that he was hearing a young

boy's Confession and started to talk to him at length, giving him some serious advice. He must have gone on for some time because the boy, who was after all just a child, got bored looking at the priest's venerable stomach, saw the shiny buttons on the cassock and began to count them: one, two,... When the good priest realized, he said, "Little boy, what are you doing?" And the boy answered, "Thirty-five! I've counted thirty-five buttons on you!" And my friend, gentle and holy as he was, lost his temper because he had not learned to become a bit of a child himself.'

"When I heard that," continued Rafael, "it gave me quite a jolt. The circumstances were so clear, matched so perfectly, that it couldn't possibly relate to two different events. Then I connected that young priest's face and movements that had engraved themselves on my memory as a child, with the Founder of Opus Dei as he can be seen in the filmed get-togethers."

"The fact that so many years later Msgr. Escrivá remembered that little story in such detail makes me think that he very probably prayed for the boy at the center of the incident. And I think," Rafael concluded, "that perhaps that prayer of the Founder of Opus Dei had quite a bit to do with my calling to Opus Dei twenty years later."

"I was always struck by our Founder's intense priestly activity throughout Madrid during those early years of Opus Dei. He visited poor areas in the outlying districts all around Madrid: Tetuán, Dehesa de la Villa, Campo del Moro, Vallecas, etc., looking after the sick in their slums, helping the kids and going to hospitals to console those suffering there, seeking in the offering up of their afflictions, the foundations and strength of the Work that God was asking him for. All he had, as he himself said, was 'God's grace, cheerfulness and nothing else. I had neither virtues nor money. And I had to do Opus Dei.'"

"He spent thousands of hours on this apostolate, and was convinced that he was only able to take Opus Dei forward 'because of the hospitals: that General Hospital in Madrid, crowded with people who were sick and desperately poor, lying in the corridors because there weren't enough beds; that King's Hospital, where there was nothing but tuberculosis, and in those days it was incurable...'"

Extracts from *Antes, más y mejor* by Lázaro Linares, published by Rialp, Madrid, 2001, pp. 43-49.

Father Josemaria's last moments on the 26th of June

A personal account of St. Josemaría's last moments on 26th June, 1975 by Cardinal Julián Herranz

Cardinal Julian Herranz was born on 31st March 1930. He joined Opus Dei in 1949 while studying medicine, and was ordained priest for Opus Dei on 7th Aug 1955; he holds a degree in Canon Law.

In 1960, he was called to serve in the Roman Curia regarding the discipline of the clergy. He subsequently served as President of the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts from 1994 to 2007, and was created and proclaimed Cardinal in 2003. He is considered one of the foremost experts on Canon Law. He retired in 2007 and continues to be Emeritus President of the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts.



Cardinal Herranz

In 2005, after the passing of Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Herranz published his memoirs of the years spent with St Josemaria and in the Vatican, especially when he worked with Pope John Paul II, in a book entitled "Outside the Walls of Jericho". This article is an abstract from this book.

At the time of St Josemaria's passing, Cardinal Herranz was living in the centre of Opus Dei at Villa Tevere, adjacent to the apartments used by St Josemaria at the headquarters in Rome.

On the 26th of June, I returned from the Vatican to Villa Tevere at the usual hour, a little before half past one in the afternoon. As soon as I arrived, the General Secretary alerted me:

"Come up at once. The Father is dying."

My heart skipped a beat, and praying, I went up quickly. When I arrived at the second floor of the Father's apartments, Villa Vecchia, Don Alvaro, who, in that moment, was standing outside the door of his office, told me:

"Come, come, because you, too, are a doctor."

I entered immediately and found the Father, in his cassock, stretched out on the floor, with his face serene, but not breathing.

Jose Luis Soria, a priest and a doctor, had been giving him artificial resuscitation a few moments ago. We did this alternating between the two of us. We continued, giving the Father cardiac massage as well.

I did not know what had happened, but I supposed that the Father had suffered a

cardiac arrest, which was what they later told me. I accepted the will of God, but I asked God not to take him so soon. As I was kneeling down, I asked our Lord with all my heart to accept an exchange: my life for the Father's life. My life is worth little, I told Him. His life is necessary for everybody – his children, the Church, the whole of humanity.

And so, there we were, Jose Luis and I, for a long time, giving artificial resuscitation. Once, then again and again... in silence, with tears in our eyes, until we realized finally that it was useless to continue. All the clinical signs of death were there.

Don Alvaro and Javier Echevarría, who had accompanied and attended lovingly to the Father all these moments, formally communicated this saddest of news to the members of the General Council who were gathered in the adjacent room. He also telephoned the women of the Central Advisory. In both cases, he also gave them the opportune advice of filial piety and of government.

We immediately transferred the body of the Father to the Oratory of Our Lady of Peace.

Some hours later, I was praying before the Father's body, dressed in the vestments of a priest. Among many other warm memories, what came to my mind was something that the Father had confided to us, one Christmas day in 1953, close to the fire of the chimney of the living room.

He told us that he wanted to write a book about a donkey, that biblical animal that he liked to identify with so much, because it had given warmth to Jesus in Bethlehem and because it had carried Him in triumph into Jerusalem. An animal that men don't usually esteem but which the Father had set as an example for us – an example of humility, of endurance in work, and of fidelity in that battle of peace and love that his children in Opus Dei and all Christians are called to spread throughout the world. If he had had time to write that book, he told us he would entitle it "The Life and Adventure of the Donkey at the Water Wheel".

God took the Father to Himself before he could complete the book. But some passages remain, collected from his conversations, of which some bear corrections in his own hand. They commented on the scenes of the donkeys which he has asked to be carved as a bas-relief decoration on the back of the seats in the Oratory of Pentecost. Those scenes are a symbol of his life. Among the many marvels of the "theology of the donkey", one reads:

"The donkey would like to have lived until Christmas to warm the Child once more with its breath. Yet in a way it was present, in the great joy of that night, for angels came and made from its hide tambourines and little drums."

The story of the donkey has a happy ending: it dies working. And then it lets them take it apart, skin it and make drums: "big ones for war and little ones for singing to the God-Child."

That was how the Father died.

"I Took Up My Camera One Last Time and Focused On His Hands..."

It was June 1975. "I took up my camera one last time and focused on his hands, which were so expressive. That was the last photo of him that I took."

Helena Serrano is from Cordoba, Spain. She lived and worked in Rome for over twenty years, very close to St Josemaría. During that time, with his encouragement, she developed a special aptitude for photography, and recorded part of the history of Opus Dei with her photographs.



Helena Serrano

How did you start to work as a photographer?

I arrived in Rome in 1954, for the start of several years of study, while at the same time helping in some of the many tasks that had to be done in the Opus Dei headquarters in Rome. There I met people in Opus Dei who came from all sorts of different countries and backgrounds, so it was rich in diversity. Saint Josemaría was looking to the future, because he knew that the project he was engaged on was going to have to last for as long as there are men and women on earth to be reminded about the universal call to holiness. So he realized that the people who joined Opus Dei in future centuries would like to know what the very first members were like and how they lived.

A real treasure

I also took lots of photos of St Josemaría himself, although he didn't like being photographed. Quite often, he said to me in his characteristic tone, loving but firm, "My daughter, don't take any more of me – pray for me!" Or else he'd say, "Come on, Helena, be kind...! Take photos of the others, and leave me in peace." But Don Alvaro del Portillo would encourage him to face up to it, telling him to do so out of fairness to his daughters and sons, who needed to know him really well. And so we have very many snapshots of him. And all those photos, together with the hours of film taken during the gatherings with Saint Josemaría on his catechetical trips through Spain, Portugal, and several countries in Latin America, make up a real treasure. In an image-focused culture like ours people are helped to understand the spirit God gave him by seeing how naturally he preached what he practiced.

"Now we'll have to say cheese!"

Most of these photos were taken in different everyday situations. There are very

few of what you could call set-pieces. The photos show the look of affection on his face, or how attentively he listened to someone who was talking to him... and always that smile of his. Saint Josemaría was joyful all his life because he knew he was a son of God, and he passed on his infectious cheerfulness to the people around him. You could see it in his face, and the photos also show how he passed it on to other people. There's one that I call 'Bursting out laughing'. He was there with several of his daughters, and when I appeared with my camera he said, "Now we'll have to say cheese!" in such a funny way that everyone burst out laughing.



St. Josemaría kissing our Lady of Loreto

"And do you want me to play the hypocrite?"

There are also lots of photos of Saint Josemaría praying – at Mass, or before a picture or statue of our Lady, or kissing a crucifix, or kneeling in front of the Tabernacle, with his rosary in his hands... I can say for a fact that I never saw him get distracted on any of these occasions, and the camera quite simply recorded the way he attended exclusively to God or our Lady.

On January 6, 1972, I decided to photograph the moment when, as he always did on coming to that part of the house, he stopped to kiss a little statue of Our Lady of Loreto. When he saw me with my camera at the ready, he asked me, "Helena, what are you doing here?" I replied that I wanted to take a photo of him kissing the statue. He said, "And do you want me to play the hypocrite... to put on a show of kissing the statue so that you can take a photograph?" He hesitated a moment, but then said, "I won't be a hypocrite, because I'm going to give it a real kiss – a true kiss!"

There are other photos that show Saint Josemaría's devotion very clearly, for example when he tenderly kissed the figure of the new-born Baby Jesus at Christmas, or took it into his arms and rocked it and said loving things to it.

You took the last photographs of Saint Josemaría in June 1975...

I'll never forget the moment when I knelt before the mortal remains of Saint Josemaría, at mid-day on June 26, 1975. I thought for a moment about my camera, but didn't feel able to take any photos. I wouldn't have taken the photos I did, had I not been asked to do so by Don Alvaro del Portillo. Ana Lorente and I photographed the events of those days. On June 27, shortly before the burial, I realized that my filial duty of taking photographs of the Father had come to an end. Then someone suggested, "Helena – his hands." I took up my camera one last time and focused on his hands, which were so expressive. That was the last photo of him that I took.

"I've never seen a stronger faith than that among persecuted Catholics in China"

An interview with Fr. Esteban Aranaz, a member of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, who is returning from six years of priestly work in Taiwan and on the Chinese mainland.

2009/04/06

In the interior of China, north of Beijing, a Spanish priest is giving theology classes in an old ice plant. It's 2 a.m. The students drink in his lessons on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. They know it will be a long time before they hear something like this again. After class, they will all return home and the next day go to work like everyone else. Only they and a small group of faithful know that they are seminarians in China's persecuted Church. As for the teacher, Esteban Aranaz, he will pick up his guitar and continue his role as "visiting musician."

On his trip through China, many "concerts" are awaiting him: classes for seminarians, retreats, Masses for small groups, visits to priests. "Almost always at night, when the police aren't watching. Fear? That's irrelevant. No, I've never been afraid."

Esteban Aranaz is a diocesan priest who belongs to the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, an association founded by St. Josemaría Escrivá and united to Opus Dei. For six years he lived in Taiwan and often traveled to the Mainland. Now, he is returning to Spain to be Rector of the Major Seminary of his diocese, Tarazona.

Why did you move from Tarazona to Taiwan?

Our Lord gave me hints little by little. We received news from a nun from our diocese who was living in a cloistered convent in Taiwan. It was clear that so many people there did not yet know Christ.

At Christmas in 1999, I invited a young Chinese friend to my parish. His legal and employment situation in Spain was not very good. Yan was not a Christian but his sincere and generous temperament made our friendship easy.

On Christmas Eve we were in church, where he was helping me prepare for midnight Mass. When he saw the figure of the Child Jesus, he told me that the Child "was telling him" three things: "First, that he comes from heaven, and is not as we are; second, since he is little, he has a Mother who loves him a lot; third, his arms are open because he loves everyone."

I had been wondering how I could explain the meaning of Christmas to him, but it wasn't necessary. His simple but deep words moved me and I thought: "How many people in China don't know you, Jesus." From that moment a great restlessness to go to China was born in my heart.



Giving classes to seminarians from the "underground" Church.

I began to give it serious consideration in 2000 when John Paul II urged us: "*Duc in altum!* Put out into the deep!" Those words constantly resounded in my head. At the same time, I was moved by the letter the Prelate of Opus Dei wrote for the start of the third millennium, challenging his sons and daughters to "set more daring goals" in their apostolate.

But you were already a priest...

Yes, but that still didn't seem enough. I had to make up my mind. So on a trip to Rome, I prayed before a relic of St. Francis Xavier, a saint who left everything to go to Asia. I asked our Lord: "Give me a clear sign if you want me to go to China. It's not an easy decision."

I had just left the church when a nun from Asia greeted me on the street and said, "Please pray for my country, China." I froze on the spot and replied, "You have no idea how much I do, sister." It was the sign I was waiting for. There was no going back on my words.

When I told my Bishop, he gave me his complete support: "I can't refuse a service for the universal Church," he said, and I've been eternally grateful.

How did you get started?

It was hard, certainly. For the first two years, my days came down to celebrating Mass, studying Chinese, and fulfilling my norms of piety such as the Rosary and prayer. I got a lot out of the Mass, for I came to understand how it was the high point of each day. Since I couldn't do anything else, I prayed and prayed for those people with whom I couldn't yet communicate.

Did you suffer much from loneliness?

No, I've never felt alone. As a member of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, I could go to a center of Opus Dei in Taipei to receive the means of formation and spiritual direction. There I found the strength needed not to become discouraged. I also had the prayers of my family and many friends as spiritual support.

Finally, after those first two years, the archbishop of Taipei entrusted me with a parish of 120 persons, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (a devotion St. Josemaría liked a lot). "Whom will I assist?" I asked. "You'll be the only priest," he replied. I felt a great eagerness to start working.

The first homilies in Chinese were a disaster! But thank God, the faithful were very understanding and helped me out a lot.

How is the faith of the Taiwanese?

You must understand that in Taiwan, a country of 23 million people, only 1% of the population is Catholic. But they are very proud of being Catholics and have a lively sense of belonging to the Church.

In my time there, we had 32 conversions. I recall with special affection a 58-year-old



Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament.

man with cancer. His family was Catholic, but he had always remained a pagan. They called me from the hospital: "He wants to be baptized." I remember asking him about the truths of the faith: "Do you believe in God the Father? Do you believe in God the Son?...". And he responded firmly while grasping my crucifix: "Yes, I believe!" When I was about to leave he asked if he could keep the crucifix: "This is my only consolation now," he said. He died soon after in great peace.

On my visits to the sick, I often thought about St. Josemaría as he prepared for the foundation of Opus Dei by visiting the dying in Madrid's hospitals. I know all the hospitals in Taipei very well! There I've anointed the dying, baptized and even married people!

How do you explain the Catholic faith to non-believers?

The Taiwanese in general are very respectful of the faith, so it's easy to talk about it. For the past three years, we've had a Corpus Christi procession through the central part of the city. Parishioners prepare a patterned carpet of multi-colored rice. It's an opportunity to explain the Eucharist to people.

When Christmas was approaching, I wanted to set up a Nativity scene in a public place. This tradition provides a good chance to speak about Christ. One of the main banks in Taiwan is adjacent to the parish church. The entrance to this skyscraper has a small garden—it was the perfect place. I asked two of the faithful to accompany me when I spoke with the person in charge. Before going in, we prayed a Hail Mary that all would go well. It was December 12, feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

As it turned out, not only were we able to speak with the building administrator, but he immediately gave us permission, and even more, paid for it to be set up!

This religious tradition was quite surprising to many people. But ever since then, the Nativity scene has been set up there each year. It's a wonderful teaching opportunity.

But your original intention was to go to mainland China.

And I was able to go! After learning Chinese well enough, I got in touch with some communities of the persecuted—or "underground"—Church and was able to visit them. I even had a chance to visit some Christians who live north of the Great Wall.

After getting to know them, I can say that I've never seen a stronger faith than that



In front of St. Francis Xavier, great missionary to Asia.



Eucharistic procession with faithful from the parish in Taiwan.

among the persecuted Catholics in China. It's a faith purified by the Cross, by suffering. They've taught me so much. For example, when we celebrated early morning Eucharist in someone's home, the piety of those people was so moving. For them, the Mass is truly a treasure.

A bishop who has been in prison and is now under house arrest told me: "For the Church to go forward in China, I have three concerns: that we never be afraid, that we are faithful, and that our priests are well formed. Everything else will take care of itself."

That bishop got an orphanage going for 72 abandoned and sick children who had been found on the street. Chinese priests in general are heroic.

How can the Church in China be helped?

With prayer.

That's all?

But it's not enough to pray for the Church; we also need to pray for the authorities in China, that they convert. In addition, money is needed to help Chinese priests who can come to Europe to receive training. I also help support the Guan Ming ("Clarity") Foundation, which provides books for the underground seminarians. Recently we've been able to send them the first Chinese translation of the complete works of St. Thomas Aquinas—the *Summa Theologiae* and other writings.

And now?

The Bishop of my diocese in Spain opened a seminary and named me Rector. So I'm back in Tarazona to continue serving the Church here. But although I've left China, my heart is still there.



Leaflet in Chinese on the Miraculous Medal that speaks about St. Josemaría's devotion to the Virgin Mary under this title.



Leaflet in Chinese on the Miraculous Medal that speaks about St. Josemaría's devotion to the Virgin Mary under this title.



Through the streets of Taipei.

"Opus Dei taught me that God is counting on me"

Gloria Osezua met the Work in response to her search for a greater self-giving in her Christian life, compatible with being a wife, mother and worker.

2009/03/08

Gloria Osezua, Lagos, Nigeria

Before I met the Work, I was a Sunday, Sunday Christian. Whenever I saw anyone going to church on an ordinary day I would always ask the question, "What feast day is it today?" My idea was to do the minimum which was to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

This was my style until something very catastrophic happened in my life that opened my eyes to the other side of midnight. My first daughter was struck by polio at the age of eight months before she could walk. I was told thereafter that she may not be able to walk again. This had a profound effect on me. It was then I remembered that God is alive and that only He could decide with finality the fate of any human being. I wrestled with this situation for three years before my daughter could walk. This great favour I received from God brought a new dawn to my life.

I was overwhelmed with joy. From then on I felt this desire to do something special for God to show my gratitude. In my search to fulfil this desire I tried joining the charismatic group in my parish but soon found out that their spirituality did not quite agree with my disposition and I never went back to their meetings. Next, I tried joining the legion of Mary but even that did not give me the challenge and fulfilment I was longing for.

I used to have very long chats and debates that would go into the night with my younger brother who was then a student at the University of Nsukka whenever he was around. He was also aware of my recent desire to serve God better and did not know how



*Charles and Gloria Osezua
with their six children*

She asked me a few questions like, "Who introduced you to the centre?", and "when was your last confession?", and I instantly knew I was in the right place.

to go about it. One holiday he came back from school with a message that he had found something he believed I would be interested in. He gave me a brief on this new experience he has had himself with a new organization in the Catholic Church that teaches you how to pray. This was the first time I heard about Opus Dei.

At the end of the holiday he went back to school leaving me with a copy of "The Way" which for some strange reason I did not open until his next holiday. He read to me some points in "The Way" dealing with character and I felt as if the writer was addressing a number of those points to me. This started an unquenchable hunger in my soul. The desire to know more, hear more, increased as the days went by, until my brother was able to get me the address of the women's Centre -Wavecrest- in Surulere.

The next day I took a drive to Adisa Bashua (Street) in search of this centre and I must have knocked on more than half a dozen doors on that street before I finally knocked at the right gate.

I was met at the door by one of the oldest members of the Work here in Nigeria, Ms Joan Gilmartin who became a good friend and continues to be up to now.

She asked me a few questions like, "Who introduced you to the centre?", and "when was your last confession?", and I instantly knew I was in the right place. She showed me to the chapel, gave me a green pamphlet, "How to prepare for confession", and told me to come back when I was ready. Four days later, I was back for my first confession after a long time. My formation began thereafter and I knew that I was never going to be the same again.

My first challenge after meeting the Work was contending with my husband, who did not understand my new found love, and was ready to put every obstacle in my way, to prevent me from going for my formation, or having anything to do with the centre. Instead of being confrontational and creating a scene, I learnt to pray a lot for his conversion. Opus Dei taught me to be patient and loving to my husband as God is to me. Therefore I was able to always forgive him and excuse his conduct, and through such affectionate tolerance, I was able to win him over for Christ. He agreed to go to the men's centre for his own formation; learnt to pray the Holy rosary all over again, and today, he is a member of the Work.

Before I met the Work, my career took the front seat in my life, and every other thing was secondary including my family. But as I grew spiritually, Opus Dei helped me to reorder my priorities, I was able to understand that my husband and my children come first (in that order), and that God is counting on me to bring souls to Him, starting with

Opus Dei helped me to reorder my priorities, I was able to understand that my husband and my children come first (in that order), and that God is counting on me to bring souls to Him, starting with those in my family

those in my family. I also learnt from Opus Dei that I'm meant to love God through my husband and children. With my paid employment, I found out very quickly that this was not going to happen, as I would not be able to give the desired attention to my family. Consequently, I discussed this with my husband, who was now able to appreciate my viewpoint, and it was agreed that I should quit my outside job, so as to give more time to my growing family.

My first week at home gave me an insight into what I had been missing. My second daughter came home from school filled with so much joy, hugged me and told me this, "mummy, I got down from the car at the gate and remembered you where at home to receive me. I couldn't walk so I ran to meet you". I was touched. Although I missed my Job at the time, the fact that my sacrifice brought happiness to the family- which is what Opus Dei teaches- made it worth the while.

Before I met the Work I had a different opinion about being generous and being open to life, so I had three children and believed that that was okay. But Opus Dei has taught me that being open to life, is part of living generosity and obedience to God. Now I have six wonderful children for which I am grateful to God every day.

I used to believe that being in communion with God, was something meant for the priests and religious, but Opus Dei has helped to realize that holiness is a universal call from God, and with the plan of life, sanctity has been put within my reach. Now, I wake up in the morning, offering my day to God, my fears and aspiration. I am able to maintain this relationship by setting aside some minutes during the day to have conversation with my father God, telling him about my successes and my failures; thanking him for the successes, and also for the lessons the failures taught me. "Our mother of perpetual help is always there for me", said the founder of Opus Dei, so I go to her everyday, by praying the Holy rosary, as I need her to put in a good word for me with her Son for my intentions. I draw strength every day from the Holy Mass, because I meet and receive our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. When I mess up- which I do quite often I go to our Lord in the sacrament of reconciliation to say I am sorry. Keeping this relationship alive has not been easy, but Opus Dei has also taught me to know I can always begin again when I do fall.

I cannot enumerate the totality of the effect of Opus Dei in my life, but it suffices to say that it has had a tremendous impact on my life. I thank God for finding me worthy of this experience. I also thank Him for my vocation, and pray for the grace to be faithful to the end.

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Birds of a Feather

The need for a buddy system among many siblings provided the motto for a Spanish family. Fabrizio Assandri talked to Rosa Pich, mother of 15.

2009/04/19



Rosa Pich and Josemaria Postigo live with their 15 children in a house in the Sarrià neighbourhood of Barcelona

How can all your children hear you at one time, for example, when you all sit down to eat dinner?

The only moment when we are all together is around the dining room table. The kids are very happy being all together as each one talks about on the challenges of the school day and the amusing experiences that took place.

How do you manage things like study time, trips outside the house, going to the park?

Our basic system is for an older brother or sister to look after the ones younger than them - each of the older children picks a younger brother or sister to mind. In the beginning this system did not function well until Teresa, my nine-year-old daughter, taped a note on to the door of each bedroom. The sign read: "Birds of a feather flock together." This became our family motto.

But who helps you do all the cooking, answer questions that arise in the children's studies and clean everyone's clothes?

I work outside the home, but I only work half a day. In that way I return home for lunch, and spend the afternoon taking care of the kids. They are

all at school in the morning anyway. We do have domestic help, there is one person who comes each day to help with the cleaning, cooking and other tasks around the house. My washing machine is normal size, but we run it three times a day. However the kitchen utensils are bigger than the average. I don't think I spend any more time in the kitchen than if I had a family of two or three children. All you have to do is organise well and make things as simple as possible.

Supporting this number of children must cost a lot of money... Are you very rich?

We live off the money my husband and I earn. I always shop in the cheapest supermarkets, buying generic brands. The children all sleep in bunk beds, stacked three or four high. The children are very happy this way, the important thing is that they live together, have a great time and they are happy.

Isn't it hard being parents of so many children, taking care of their little problems, listening to each one?

You have to have your mind well structured, especially to pass on to the kids the most important things: good values, virtues, good habits...It also helps having a spiritual life: praying in the presence of God, having some acts of devotion during the day. Meditative prayer especially helps me to concentrate on what is absolutely necessary. The most important thing is the formation of the children, everything else that can be delegated to someone else, I try to delegate. For me, what's essential is not for the house to be immaculate and dust free. Everything doesn't have to be absolutely perfect.

Are you telling me that there are any moments of peace in your house?

It surprised me when a friend of my daughter's, who has only two siblings and is in Year 10, told me she can study here better than at home. Most of the time, the children are at school, or playing out in the yard. But when exam time comes up all the kids know that they should be more quiet, speak as if they were in the library. They are not to run down the hallway and try to respect the time for study.

What is the normal daytime routine in your home?

On weekdays, I leave the house at 7:00 am to get to Mass. My work begins at 8:15. All the children go off to school, the older ones taking care that their younger brother and sisters are organized for the school day. The lady who

helps out comes in the morning to work here. When I drive to work I leave one of my boys off at the bakery, two blocks away, to pick up twelve loaves of bread, which he carries back home. This job I give to them when they turn seven. And they know that if they do not get up in time, or don't want to do the job, all of their siblings will end up without breakfast.. They soon learn to have a little responsibility.

Sometimes people ask: Aren't you afraid of losing one of the children on excursions? Oh, yes. This is why I dress them all the same. If one child got lost everyone knew it was a child of the woman with 15 kids.

Why did you decide to have so many children?

Both my husband and myself come from large families. He has 13 siblings; I have 15. When we had our first child, the doctors said she would die before her third birthday, due to some heart problem. Afterwards, however, with the advance of medical science, they were able to correct the difficulty. Now she is fine. My second child was born with a similar heart problem and died soon after birth. Sadly, the same thing happened with the third birth. Lots of people told us not to have any more children since the circulatory problem seemed to occur so often. I always looked on a child as a gift for all time, a gift from God really. My husband and I came to the conclusion that we would not worry if any of them died so soon after birth. They are all children of God in any case. And having existence is better than not existing at all.

Why do you think that most couples nowadays feel having two children is a lot?

It depends upon the formation they have received, the atmosphere around them, what is in fashion and sometimes ignorance. They just do not know what they are missing. If they want their children to be truly happy the more brothers and sisters they have ensures a greater joy to each one. I feel that a large family produces many benefits in the habits and virtues one learns for the whole of one's life. From a young age, the children learn how to survive their little battles with each other, how to work as a team, how to share things, and so many other matters they would never learn as an only child. Today, even multinational corporations are not led by a single individual, but by a team. If a person has learned from a young age how to get along, how to have little spats, make up afterwards and still continue working together, then it is easier when you are grown up to do the same.

In fact, some of the teachers of my children have told me that they tend to be leaders among their peers. They go out a lot to their friends' houses, and

the mothers tell me they adapt to different circumstances very quickly. Here we do everything as a team and the children learn how to be concerned for their classmates in school, none of them ever gets overly preoccupied with themselves.

In conclusion, are you satisfied with this kind of family life?

It does seem like a lot of work, but for my husband and me it does not seem too much. We aim to have the home open to our friends and neighbours almost all the time, since we treasure those friendships. I believe the most important thing is to give yourself to your husband and the fruit of this love leads to a lot of kids. Then these children all have friends they bring home. This creates a wholesome environment where each one tries to do something for others and struggles to overcome selfishness. With a large family, you have very little time for yourself, and, finally, you realize that you are more happy giving than receiving.

This article by Rosa Pich and Fabrizio Assandri was published on mercatornet.com under a Creative Commons Licence, it first appeared in the Spanish magazine Catalunya Christiana.

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Favors granted through Saint Josemaría Escrivá

Saved from a landslide

"It was a miracle through St Josemaria's intercession. I have no doubt of it, and it has strengthened my faith."

Lima, Peru — Ricardo Escudero recounts the night of rain and hail in which he experienced the intercession of St Josemaria when his car was entrenched in a landslide. He had already driven some 295 km from Lima for more than 6 hours when he encountered trouble on the mountainous highway after passing the silver mines at Cerro de Pasco, one of the highest cities in Peru in the central highlands at 4380m.

I was driving down the motorway from Lima to Huanuco, about a seven-hour trip. The night was very dark and as I came through Cerro de Pasco it was raining and hailing very hard, and extremely cold. I had to get to my destination for a work-related matter. Coming down towards Huanuco, the rain got still heavier, but there was nowhere I could stop.

As I came round a sharp bend in the road I hit a landslide. The road was covered in earth, water and tree-branches. I braked, but could not reverse. I tried to drive forward, over what looked like the firmest part, but the car stopped and I couldn't move it. The water and mud, the rain and darkness had me really worried.

There was nobody I could ask to tow me off with a rope. I prayed harder than I've ever prayed before, and asked for the intercession of Monsignor Escriva.

In the middle of the night, where there was hardly a glimmer of light, an ordinary-looking guy appeared, waving and beckoning to me. I made my way over to him, and he held out a long chain, which between the two of us we managed to attach to the bottom of the car. We were wading in mud up to our waists and in constant danger of being swept over the cliff.

I didn't stop praying for an instant!

This guy pulled the chain to a truck which had appeared out of nowhere. The truck hauled my car out of the landslide, freeing me from my anguish. I thanked the guy for his kind help, and drove on with great difficulty as the car was going very badly.

When the sun came up in the morning I saw that my car was badly damaged and took it to be repaired.

I returned to Lima by the same route two days later. The rain had stopped, and I stopped near the landslide, and saw a wrecked car.

There were some people looking at it, and they were saying, "No one could get through that night."

I told them that I'd gotten through with the help of a truck-driver.

They replied, "That's impossible, Mister. Nobody got through, and the road is still impassable. They're digging out a path right now."

But I had gotten through because some good guy helped me. Where did he appear from? Who was he? It was a miracle through St Josemaria's intercession. I have no doubt of it, and it has strengthened my faith.

*Ricardo Escudero, Peru
January 12, 2009*

Saint Josemaria had a part to play

This morning, on the way to work I realised that the device that I need to get into the carpark was missing. Frantically, I searched the car but could not find it. I decided to retrace my steps to the places where I parked the car last night, thinking that it is possible that the device might have dropped out of the car. While driving to these places I prayed for the intercession of St. Anthony and also the prayer card to Saint Josemaria (and also asked my girlfriend Rachel to pray) that I would find it, as it would be very expensive for me to get a new device. The first place I stopped by was to me the most likely place where I might have dropped it, but having searched the place thoroughly, I could not find it. Somewhat disappointed, I went back into the car to move on to the other places I parked my car last night - and there the device was on the driver's seat! I'm not sure if it was through supernatural intervention (I had ample opportunity to spot the device on the seat last night and this morning and did not) but I am sure that Saint Josemaria had a part to play in it. So, thank you Father!

J. P., Malaysia
May 8, 2009

I looked at the website out of curiosity

I was a globe-trotter for 55 years. I stopped work in 2008. I'm real sorry I didn't hear about Opus Dei before, while I was working! It certainly would have helped me understand the world of work better. Now I discovered the Prelature on the internet. I had heard about the Work, partly through the publicity around the Dan Brown book *The Da Vinci Code*. I looked at your website out of curiosity. I was struck by Saint Josemaria's apostolic commitment and the originality of his Christian mission, to live with Christ and find God through everyday life. Some months ago I subscribed to the e-mail newsletters. They give me hope and revive my faith. I am praying for the Holy Father.

Alain Marblez, France
March 1, 2009

My grandmother's leg was saved

I am just writing to give testimony of a grace obtained through St Josemaria Escriva. Not long ago my grandmother Enriqueta had some large, very painful ulcers on her right leg caused by her diabetes. She suffered with these for a long time and the doctors said the only solution was to amputate her leg. Then someone gave my elder brother a prayer-card of St Josemaria in the street. All of us, my grandmother, my mom, my brothers and sisters and I, began to pray and ask the saint to heal the ulcers. About two months ago, the ulcers healed over and her leg was saved. Heartfelt thanks to St Josemaria Escriva for the favor obtained. I hope that my testimony is accepted. Greetings and many thanks.

Jose Luis de Luna Almanza, Mexico
January 13, 2009