

events

is a news dossier

compiled periodically by

the Information Office of Opus Dei for Southeast Asia.

Founded by Saint Josemaría Escrivá, the Prelature of Opus Dei
is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church

新聞摘要

主業會東南亞區資訊社所編輯之期刊
主業會是羅馬天主教會內的一個自治社團
由聖若瑟瑪利亞施禮華創辦

Opus Dei Information Office in Southeast Asia 主業會東南亞區資訊社

7 Shiu Fai Terrace,
2B United Mansion, Hong Kong
香港肇輝台七號騰黃閣2B
Tel/電話 (852) 257 273 31
Fax/傳真 (852) 257 324 70

website: www.opusdei.org

2



events

新聞摘要

2nd issue 2010 / 二零一零年第二期

Compiled by Opus Dei Information Office in Southeast Asia
由主業會東南亞區資訊社編輯

Table of Contents 目錄

司鐸年

「昌平，作為神父是一件美麗又偉大的事。」 1

以司鐸的身份為俄羅斯服務 3

一級方程式神父 6

如鹿切慕溪水 8

見證

80年後, 韓國探險啟程 10

福音的「特別效果」 12

天主安排給我的訓練改變了我 15

一位在拉斯維加斯表演的雜技員 17

經聖施禮華代禱獲賜之恩惠 19

On the Year of the Priests

"To be a priest is something beautiful and great." 22

From Engineering to the Priesthood 24

"Many people are thirsting for God" 26

To serve Russia as a Catholic priest 28

Personal Testimonies

80 years later, the adventure begins in Korea 32

The Gospel with "special effects" 35

My biggest change is my greatest gain 38

An Acrobat in Las Vegas 40

Favours granted through the intercession of
St. Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer 42

「昌平，作為神父是一件美麗又偉大的事。」

木村昌平神父於2003年5月31日由蔡浩偉主教按立為主業會司鐸。他談及自己皈依的故事。

2009/12/21

昌平是木村家的長子。他名字的意思是「山林村莊來的祥和之人」。他母親在他八歲時信奉天主教。四年後，昌平也領受了洗禮。2003年5月，他的父親及親友從日本前赴羅馬出席他的授予聖秩禮，同行還有堂區司鐸井上神父(Fr. Inoue)和茨木堂區(Ibaragi Parish)的信友。

以下我們引述他於2003年接受聖職授予後訪談時的節錄。

「當我得知茨木堂區的信友出席了 my 的授予聖秩禮時，我非常感動。在十六和十七世紀時，茨木區有很多地下天主教徒被迫害。我想如果我說我的基督徒聖召有部份應該歸功於他們時，這並非誇大其詞。」

你能否告訴我們，甚麼事情曾影響你走聖召的道路？

我十二歲時受洗，這該歸功於很多人，首先是我的父母。我的母親比我早四年皈依天主教，她勤唸玫瑰經，我記得她對Guadalupe聖母有很多虔誠敬禮。她也請來一位神父來給我上教理課。

我父親是一個熱愛自由的非凡人物。他雖然沒有宗教信仰，並且對我的皈依也不甚高興，但他卻時常在一些親友面前為我的自由辯護，因為他們視我的皈依為一種背叛。我的皈依是一件嚴重的事，尤其甚者我是家中的長子。然而，父親始終支持我：「由他去吧，如果他想受洗，他必會接受洗禮。」他這份對自由的欽敬是重要的因素。

對你學習教理的歲月，你記得些什麼嗎？

堂區司鐸，聖母聖心會 (Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) 的 Gustaf Banbael de Scheut 神父，每星期六都會來我家給我講授教理。要是他不能來，一些我在堂區見過的修女們便會過來。以日本這國家的距離而言，堂區離我家算是很遠，他們在那三年間的不斷的堅持就更毫不簡單。我將永遠都感激他們。

十三歲時，我家遷到大阪的另一處。我在那裡認識了一位慈幼會司鐸，Josef Heriban神父。他是一個安詳又慈愛的人，整個人都散發着平和之氣。我清楚地記得這位比利時籍神父，因為他曾幫助我很多並給我寶貴的意見。有一次，他送我一本書，這本書深深地吸引了我。我藉它發現了我的專業使命——成為教師。

此書是聖人John Bosco（鮑思高）的傳記。它激發我要虔誠，更重要的是它鼓勵我獻身教育事業，這也是我在往後的日子於大學裏選修西洋哲學的原因。我就在大學裏通過一位朋友認識了主業會，並看到天主在召叫我加入主業會。

在那些年頭，有甚麼事情給你最深刻的印象？

日本有許多稱得上是聖德典範的司鐸，他們給了我深刻的印象，因為他們在艱苦的情況下工作。Banbael神父也不例外。我也見過其他像他一樣的神父。他們不催促我，也不執意要我往甚麼方向前進；相反的，我自覺是被吸引著。這就是我說他們是聖人的原因：他們是愛與犧牲的芳表；這芳表深深地吸引著我。

你的親朋戚友如何接受你要接受聖秩職務的消息？

大體上還好，因為在日本，投身服務他人的職業是很受人尊敬的；例如教師。我收到三位朋友的祝賀信，一位是天主教徒，其他兩位是自由思想者。他們明白我所做的是為服務他人，因為一位好的司鐸不為自己保留甚麼。基督就是我們的模範。

除此之外，我真高興我的父親出席了聖秩授予禮；我沒想過到會出席。我也感激我的弟妹排除萬難地成行。在日本，要休假是很艱難的，你必須補償所丟失的每一分鐘。

你也可以想像，我們都惦念著母親的臨在。她於十年前逝世。她渴望我成為司鐸，也為此祈禱。她讓我完全自由地決定我想做的是什麼，但是我記得她很多時會對我說：「昌平，作為一個神父是件美麗又偉大的事。」

以司鐸的身份為俄羅斯服務

Alexy Yandushev-Rumiantsev 神父於2007年進鐸司祭職，當他接受這段訪談時，還是一名執事，他談到他是如何因閱讀一本俄羅斯無神論的期刊，感受到它的絃外之音，而發現基督宗教。



Alexy Yandushev-Rumiantsev,
俄羅斯的一名天主教修士

Alexy出生在聖彼得堡（當時仍稱列寧格勒）的一個東正教家庭，他並未在家中接受宗教方面的培育，但是他學會五種語言，並攻讀工程學位，後來還得到神學及哲學學位。他還想學葡萄牙語，因為這是法蒂瑪地區所使用的語言。在進鐸後，他計畫帶他的堂區教友們去拜訪與俄羅斯近代史緊密相連的瑪利亞朝聖地。

您是如何發現成為基督徒，還有之後成為神父的召喚？

那是個很長的故事。我信仰東正教的父母親，並不是非常虔誠。我出生的1973年，父親剛找到一份在超級市場的工作，他很害怕讓我領洗，因為在我的國家的那個年代，這可能會危害整個家庭。任何人想要領洗，都必須要申請一種護照，而那份資料，會被交到政府當局和秘密警察手中。在考慮事態嚴重性後，他們決定不讓我受洗。

也就是說您的家人並非忠實履行信仰義務的教友？

沒錯，我的父母親相信天主，但是他們沒有為我的宗教培育做任何特別的付出。他們維持一些傳統，一年中會去教堂幾次、家中放置一些聖像，不過也就僅止於此。

您是如何對宗教產生興趣的？

全靠自己。十二歲時，我開始思考信仰方面的問題，我相信「某人」--不是某種東西，是我可以相信、信任的。有一天，我看到一本「科學與宗教」期刊，是由俄羅斯無神論協會出版的。沒有人會讀這類期刊，但是我對這標題很感興趣，這看起來是我唯一能多學宗教方面東西的唯一方法，於是我訂了這期刊，並在五年期間，找出這字裡行間的絃外之音。

無神論是如何宣導的？

基本上所有的傳播媒介都不斷攻擊宗教，重點是要使人民相信教堂只是在保存一個古老的神話，是毫無科學根據的神話，好能因此控制人民思想，並謀取錢財。

您所說的「找出字裡行間的絃外之音」是什麼意思呢？



「任何人想要領洗，都必須要申請一種護照，而那份資料，會被交到政府當局和秘密警察手中。」

是宗教引起我的興趣，並非無神論。那些攻擊宗教的文章引述聖經內容，並會談及教會和耶穌基督，因為我沒有其他的資源，只好利用那些文章。我開始這樣想，如果對某件事或某個人有蜚言蜚語，那可能是因為那件事或那個人並不是真的那麼差勁。而主業會的流言可能也是如此。有一回，我看了一本書，它也強烈批判了馬爾他騎士(Knights of Malta)。作者指責主業會是一個危險的組織，不過他也描述了主業會的創辦過程和寫出主業會「領導者」的居住地址，因此，我決定寫信給主業會，索取更多相關資料。不過這是在我成為天主教之後所發生的事了。

回顧過去，我知道上主沿途引領著我。我知道我不能談論這些事，因此沒有向任何人提起，但是，我對宗教的興趣日益增加。十五歲時，我告訴父親，我想領洗，加入東正教。他沒有反對，甚至聯絡一位朋友，一個在列寧格勒當技術員的東正教司祭，如此一來，我就可以秘密地受洗。

您是如何進入天主教會的？

正因為有人詆毀她，我決定查個水落石出。我從電話不裡找到聖彼得堡天主教團的地址，但是教堂總是關著的，經過幾次嘗試，我終於見到了天主教團的人，不過他懷疑我可能是一個年輕的KGB間諜(在那個年代有很多間諜)，可是當他發現我時常來教堂，就決定和我會面。在彌撒後，我跟著他穿過幾棟建築物，到了一個離教堂很遠的地方，在那裡能方便我們說話。那是1989年，政治動盪的年代。經過一段時間的陶成，我請求完全加入天主教會。

為什麼選擇天主教呢？

人們對我談起「教會」時，總是用複數名詞，但是我只想知道，哪一個才是真正的教會。我在聖經中尋找答案，發現耶穌只創立一個教會，並未了她的團結祈禱。我也發現基督，親自任命聖伯多祿，為那唯一教會之首。如果教宗是伯多祿的繼承人，其他自然依此遵循。

之後發生什麼事？

中學畢業後，我報名列寧格勒大學，在修完工程學位後，接著在聖多瑪斯亞

奎那天主教專科學大學，研究教會史和哲學。我終於能愉快地沉浸在不停地品德陶成中，而就在那時，我和主業會取得聯繫。我對主業會所受到的惡意攻擊感到驚訝不已。

您的第一印象是什麼？

是很好的印象。我認識了一些「不做宣導」的人，他們意識到基督教徒的生活是簡單但也是深奧的。在俄羅斯我們真正需要去認識工作的福音，並從平凡生活中去認識天主，將一切事做好。我很肯定主業會能給予我的同胞們大力的協助，持續不斷的基督徒培育是很吸引人的主意，我們需要它。

您是怎樣決定要進入神學院？

「在俄羅斯，我們真正需要去認識工作的福音，並從平凡生活中去認識天主，將一切事情做好。」

雖然我並未和任何人談起，但是在我的腦海裡已經考慮了一段時間。我想我可能缺乏能力或所需要的條件去做出這重大的承諾，我已經修完可成並在工作了。我甚至在國外的國際哲學學院(International Academy of Philosophy)花了一年，研究列支敦斯登(Liechtenstein)國家的現象。有一天，一位神父在沒有事先告知我的情況下，問我：「你想當一位神父嗎？」我隨即的回答是不，但是那天晚上我輾轉難眠。我回去和那位神父談一談，並誠懇地告訴他我考慮過這件事，但是覺得自己沒有資格，也不夠堅強去成為一位神父。他告訴我天主自會提供力量。因此，在2000年底，我進入了神學院。如果一切順利，我明年就會成為一名司鐸了。

今日俄羅斯的宗教信仰情況如何？

共產黨在1989年垮台後，我們開始經驗真正的精神靈修春天。今天這現象完全地真實體現；當最初的激情一過，留下的會是那些真正有承諾的人。不過總體來說，我們必須承認有很多人對「對天主的事」產生了真正的興趣。

您現在的夢想是什麼？

希望能以司鐸的身份為俄羅斯服務。



「我開始這樣想，如果對某件事或某個人有蜚言蜚語，那可能是因為那件事或那個人並不是真的那麼差勁。」



在柏林圍牆倒下後，許多人開始對「天主的事」展現出真正的興趣

一級方程式神父

荷西·拉蒙·阿爾巴於九月六日在托勒斯特，由主業會監督手中領受了司鐸職。

2010/01/25

Jose Ramon Alba 是主業會的獨身信友 (Associate)。他曾是位熱衷於汽車的工程師。去年九月，他領受了聖秩聖事成為一位司鐸。此訪談是在他領受鐸職不久後進行的。

他們說您是個一級方程式賽車的狂熱愛好者，您還很喜歡駕車馳騁。您對車子的酷愛是什麼時候產生的呢？



在我還是小孩子時，有一次我幫身為機械工的父親換我們家「小鐵罐」的冷卻器（小鐵罐是我們家對家裡那輛車子的暱稱）。為了這事我花了相當多的時間，並且開始對汽車領域世界產生興趣。我還記得我父親帶我去蒙特惠克觀看世界一級方程式賽車比賽：那是一次難忘的經驗。

作為一位首先在西門子(Siemens)，之後在西雅特(SEAT)駐德國公司工作，然後還是西雅特利昂和阿爾特亞管理部的工程師，這些專業經驗有助於您的司鐸職責嗎？

是的，自然會有幫助的。我在工程學的訓練，使我能有邏輯性地思考，甚至下意識地在許多其它的方面也能如此思考。但更重要的是，司鐸是另一個基督：天主通過司鐸這工具來行動，並且依靠他的個性、才智及個人經驗。

您能不能舉一個特別的經驗？

在我們德國的辦公室，有一個給我印象深刻的格言：「熱愛到最後一個細節」。我在上撒羅中學時曾經學到這個；它是從聖施禮華的教導中來的：「我們必須在每天的瑣事中尋找天主」。我很高興能在德國人的嚴謹精確本

性，和我在Hospitalet de Llobregat學校所接受的教育中發現到這種和諧關係。

您在西雅特是一位董事，而現在，在45歲之齡，您被任命為神父。在現今這時代，這不是項容易理解的決定...

正是當我沉浸在緊張的專業生活中，我看到了天主對我成為司鐸的召喚。要完全明白這個決定，必須要有信德。天主親自召喚每個人，僅僅回應這個召喚已經使人十分快樂。在我人生的過程中，都有著它的關聯延續性：在我年輕時，我看到天主召喚我在主業會中的使命，我也決定去回應這召喚。對我來說，目前的司鐸職實現了那個同樣的召喚，以同樣的方式延續新的道路。現在，我可以為教會服務，並且以一種嶄新且必要的方式帶領人們更接近天主：舉行聖事和宣講福音。我每天都為我的聖召而感謝天主。

當您的同事們知道您正準備成為司鐸時，他們有什麼反應？

這肯定激起了他們個人的反思，並成為更接近天主以及基督生活的起因。有人想到：「我呢？我又應該做什麼？」

最初，每個人的反應都是很驚訝的，因為從專業上來說，我已經有了一個很明確的道路。不過自始自終，他們都給予了我幫助和我一起合作。事實上，大約有30個同事參加了我的任命儀式。我必須感謝他們在我這些學習和準備成為司鐸的年間給我的支持。



如鹿切慕溪水

葛雷格李奧神父憑著擔任塞維亞教區的司鐸經驗，深信很多人正渴求著天主

2010/02/08

32歲的葛雷格李奧神父是塞維亞市橄欖聖母堂和聖若瑟工人主保堂的司鐸；他的牧職範圍涉及至19個鄉鎮，有超過四萬名信眾，他們是群思想淳樸、性格開朗的勞工界朋友，都是來自西班牙那一區。我們是在一個距離他的教堂不遠、公寓林立的小公園內進行這次訪問。

您是如何發現您的司鐸聖召呢？

我的雙親是虔誠的基督徒，從小他們便教導我要信賴天主，與祂傾談時要簡率。我們全家都參加主日彌撒聖祭，我也在塞維亞的修道院當過輔祭。

後來我漸漸長大，雖然仍有參與主日彌撒，但我與天主的關係漸趨冷淡。很奇怪地，我雖然很少祈禱，卻很重視和欣賞在信仰上言行的一致性，我認為那是一種美德。我對任何言行不一致的信仰都會惹惱我，這難以解釋的反應有時是會發生在熱血青年人身上的。



完成中學階段後，我便在大學繼續攻讀法律。與一般大學生無異，我享受與朋友三五成群地結伴相遊、談天說地，話題包括上課內容、教授們、職業志向、政治、友誼、運動、享受生活的渴望…但在第一年我已經對這種生活感到厭倦了；我發現我要尋找的快樂，並不能在這種夜夜笙歌的派對，或是在這種膚淺的空談裏所能得到的，因為在這些過後，你的內心仍然是感到空虛和失落…

我在青少年時對任何不一致的言行所引起的憎恨感，確實讓我困擾不已，然而這卻帶領我一步步地走向天主。我的一位朋友曾向我提及主業會，不過那時我對主業會的印象是較為陌生，而且大部份都是負面的！在未認識它的精神前，我一直認為它只屬於那些精英或權貴人仕的。

在我讀大學的第二年時，我幾乎每天都去主業會在塞維亞的中心Plaza de

Cuba，這是個大學生的培訓中心。我深深地被他們那種開朗和幽默，以及純真的待人態度所吸引著。於是我又再重新開始我的基督徒生活，以及決心參與每天的彌撒感恩祭。我在祈禱與天主傾談時，那蘊藏在我靈魂深處，對無可置疑的願景和毫不保留地把自己交給天主的渴求一一展現。在那時候我有一位感情穩定的女朋友，已經交往了數月；我與中心的神父傾談時，他們鼓勵我在戀愛期要過著虔敬和貞潔的生活。

隨著時間的增長，我清楚看到我的司鐸聖召，我便在1998年9月進入塞維亞教區的修道院。

在教區的日常生活是怎樣的？

我每天都清楚察覺到有很多人正在渴求著天主，當我開始在這教區工作時，從未想過我會受他們這樣愛戴的。

在我心目中，我很清楚知道一位司鐸一定要是天主的選民。正因為這樣我需要祈禱、舉行彌撒聖祭，孝愛聖母和聖若瑟等等。

我也下定決心要細心照顧這地方的病患，我會時常去探訪他們，儘量幫助他們減輕痛苦，為他們祈禱，同時依靠著和獻上他們在天主眼中極為珍貴的禱告。



在第一年的聖誕節，我嘗試寄聖誕卡給這區的每一教友(40,000人)。數星期後，一位頗為陌生的女仕前來教堂，告訴我她想要恢復信仰生活，我問她是甚麼原因促使她這決定，她說：「我從來沒有收過聖誕卡，當我收到這張從教堂寄來的聖誕卡後，我便決定要重新投入我的信仰懷抱。」

你可以看到聖神是怎樣在靈魂當中行事的了！感謝天主，在這區已有兩位年青人投身入教區的修道院了、同時有更多人前來辦修和聖事、要向天主感謝的事情還有很多咧！

2009年6月，您的教區增添了一件聖施禮華的聖物，在您的司鐸聖召路上，主業會是如何助上一臂之力呢？

多虧得主業會的精神，我學會我的司鐸聖召的滿全在於我要完全配合我的主教，嘉祿·亞米高樞機(Cardinal Carlos Amigo)和教區助理主教璜·若瑟·阿森裘(Fr. Juan Jose Asenjo)，還有與教區的神長和修士合一，當然還要與教友建立密切關係，幫助他們一切所需和替他們祈禱。我發現這司鐸聖召的奧妙，全靠主業會精神，我深深銘感於心聖施禮華在培育神職人員的奉獻精神，我們教區想紀念他和向他致敬，以便有更多靈魂能託付於他的轉禱。

80年後, 韓國探險啟程

梅爾切(Mercé)本職為護理人員,現在她完全投入到另一個新的工作—學習韓語。她和其他主業會成員搬到南韓的大田(Daejeon)開始使徒工作,在這篇文章中,她告訴我們主業會女生中心在大田的初始。

2月14日,2010年

八十年前聖施理華(St. Josemaría)開啟了多元使徒工作的潛能之門,使主業會女性成員可以在使徒工作上著力的地方,如辦理學生學舍,舉辦時尚活動,成立職業培訓中心等。

今天,這個夢想也在韓國實現了!

去年九月我抵達大田,開始了主業會在南韓的第一中心。大田是很具基督教傳統的南韓城市之一。第一位韓國本地殉道聖人聖安德魯金大中神父(Saint Andrew Kim Dae Gon),就是來自這個地區。

和我一起來韓國的另外四名成員分別來自巴西,菲律賓,阿根廷和澳大利亞。其中兩名具有韓國人血統,這對我們來說是一項很大助益,因為她們已經了解這個國家的傳統文化。

感謝天主,在這裡我們並不需要從零開始我們的使徒工作,因為從1988年以來就有主業會的成員不時來韓,宣揚普世成聖的訊息。

向鄰居學習韓語...



藉由一位在祕魯認識主業會的協助人的幫助,我們找到了一間公寓,慢慢的把中心建立起來,再加上經由來自我們從彼此不同的國家得到的捐款,所有的事情一一的被實現了,像小聖堂、餐具的擺設,屋子裝潢等...

中心所有的成員幾乎是全天候的在學習韓國語,因為我們的夢是能夠能用韓語來表達自己,去學習、分享和瞭解我們所遇見的所有人心中的希望和擔憂,他們感到興趣和的所喜悅的事。

他們對我們的到來是熱情的,只要是我們當中有任何的需要,他們總不吝於伸出援手,諸如帶我們到我們可以負擔得起的地方購買食物和日常所需的東西、書店,和牙醫診所等。

我要特別感謝我的鄰居對我們的關懷和付出,在過去一周以來,她們每天都來和我練習韓語。由於她們的幫助,我很驚異看到自己在這短短的5個月內,竟可以閱讀和了解之前所無法瞭解的。



有人說韓國就像一個小鎮,在一夕之間突然成為一個很好的國家。也許這就是為什麼雖然我進入一個全新的文化,她的風俗民情和做事的方式與我從前所經歷的很不相同,但我總覺得在這裡有家的感覺。在這裡很容易與人攀談,事實上,我們不止一次在街上被人家問及是否會說俄語。



我也學了很多東西,諸如用筷子夾泡菜、鞠躬與人打招呼、擺設韓式餐桌、找出有8個出口的捷運站中的最佳出口處...這是多麼的另人稱奇的冒險!

初到韓國時我們遇到韓國史上百年來最強的暴風雪,對某些人來說這是第一次看到雪。我們也學會如何疏通在下雪時洗衣機水管內凍結的冰,在要晾乾的浸泡過的毛衣上發現像抽象藝術般的冰柱。

現在這個拼圖開始一塊塊的為我拼湊起來



這些事片段拼湊起來讓我瞭解到,韓國人可以接受不同的宗教信仰,所以談論個人的信仰並非是一件特別的事,我很高興看到人們真誠地尋求真理。少不多久的時間,一群很棒的婦女團體已經開始她們天主教的道理課程。她們懷著極大的樂趣認真地做筆記,以便日後能與她們的家人和朋友分享。當中的一個成員告訴我:信仰對我就像一塊拼圖,現在這個拼圖開始一塊塊的為我拼湊起來。

有一些婦女也慢慢的開始喜歡主業會為了愛的緣故把自己的工作做好獻給天主的精神。像有一位教聲樂的老師和我們分享,在還未認識主業會之前,她就認為她的天賦和工作就是引領她到天主的道路,對於主業會她不認識但她卻已瞭解。

幾天前,我在公車上和一名在大學唸英國文學的學生聊到聖施理華的教導:好好的把一小時的書讀好就如同一小時的祈禱。她睜大眼睛,不可置信的不斷重複:“欽查?欽查!”(韓文為真的嗎)。

我們也經常前往首都首爾,在那裡我們有幾位固定來參加主業會靈修培訓活動的協助人。去年12月,中心為她們和她們的朋友辦了一個避靜。

來韓之前,我們在香港稍事停留,在那裡我們遇見了在1964年帶著主業會的宗旨到菲律賓做使徒工作的首批三位主業會女性成員之一,她分享了許多她的經驗,並且告訴我,「妳將會看到天主在每一件事上的化工。」,而真的就是這樣!



福音的「特別效果」

Juan Ignacio Vadivieso是位音響工程師，在智利擁有一間錄音室。他講述自己怎樣參與製作了一部有「特別效果」的福音。Juan Ignacio Vadivieso 從沒想過開始時只是一個對朋友善意的幫忙，卻成了開展他生命中改變的歷程。他參與製作一部音頻福音，錄製時間超過十八個月。這項目深深地激動了他，也激動了許多參與此項目的人，其中有些是著名的播音人和電視劇集的演員。



「我感到很榮幸，而且永遠都會因能參與這個項目而深感謝意。」

生命改變的歷程

「一切的開始皆因我的朋友Raul Bezanilla要求我改良一張錄製了福音片段的光碟的音質，那是一位主業會神父Don Alvaro Rocha從西班牙得來的。光碟的音質很差，所以我便自行以智利播噪音翻錄在西班牙的錄音之上，又加上了大自然的聲響作背景，還有音樂和其他特別效果。所有人都很喜歡這個版本。Raul的妻子Maria Paz提議我們該製作整部福音的錄音。」

「從十三歲起，我已完全地遠離了教會。過去三十五年，我從沒參與過彌撒聖祭，也沒辦過告解或領過聖體。」

「我接受這項目全因為友情關係和出於對委託人的承諾。隨着一步一步的參與，我們的工作開始後數月，我已是早、午、晚餐都在享用「福音」了！幸好有Don Alvaro的支持和友誼，我徹底地回歸天主，也感到完全地平靜。我開始參與主日彌撒，之後，也參與平日彌撒。」

不在乎金錢

原先看似是幾個月的工夫變成了一個巨大的音頻項目，其中演員人數多達37人，錄製時間亦超過一千小時，製成了8張光碟，共有279條音頻軌道。

「我們有一個難題，就是經濟上我們並沒有足夠的資金。」

旁白的部分，Juan Ignacio 想錄用拉丁美洲廣告界三大金嗓之一Fernando Solis，他也是環球影業公司所有西班牙語報幕的專用嗓音。

「我決定打電話告訴他有關這個項目的事，並向他解釋這部分的酬金不幸地只會是象徵式的，就相等於他為兩個共十分鐘廣告錄音的收入。」

「他非常平靜地聽我講解，在電話那端一句話也沒說。當我講完了，他便說：『我整天都在錄音，讀一些牙膏和銀行之類的內容。我的嗓子是天主的恩賜，有甚麼比參與這個項目來回報祂更好的事呢。我不在乎金錢，即管告訴我你有多少，那我們就這樣處理吧！』」

「我不能相信我所聽到的，他的話給我留下了深刻的印象。」

「經過十五個月的時間，Fernando實際上每天都在錄音。他從沒說一句髒話，從沒顯出任何不情願的舉動或是隨便地灌錄。為我們而言，那確是慷慨大方和專業精神的好榜樣。」

大家都非常投入

「在遇上困難時，大家投入的程度，儘管有些可能已遠離信仰，能鼓動我們向前邁進。他們獻出自己的工作（有時可能會錄上12次之多，可知沒有事情是首度嘗試便完美的），卻沒計較金錢上的報酬，縱然，他們其中很多人並非十分好景。Patrick 擔當耶穌的角色，他告訴我每次錄音結束後，他都會因為情緒未能平伏而在接着的3天都不能為廣告錄音。結束時，他對我說：『謝謝你！謝謝你讓我參與這項目。這是我做過最好的事情！』」

「另一位完全投入的是 Daniel Lencina Jr，他是15首原聲音樂總譜的作曲人，我們從他身上學會了很多東西。雖然他常常都要和他的樂隊練到清晨，卻每天早上都精神奕奕地出現在錄音室。」

「匝加利亞」

至於匝加利亞的角色，Juan Ignacio 想找一位有經驗的智利配音員。「我和他談起，他說他很榮幸，可是卻不能到錄音室來。但是，他會把錄好的聲帶透過互聯網寄過來。寄來的第一倘錄音效果並不夠好；聲調較弱而且需要些指



光碟的封面設計：原先看似是幾個月的工夫變成了一個巨大的音頻項目，其中演員人數多達37人，錄製時間亦超過一千小時。

導。我再跟他商量，我也評論我們未能投入角色中。他便再寄來一個新錄音，可是我們仍是不能錄用它。我終於說服他來錄音室一倘，儘管他來到時，心情並不好。我讓他聽聽只欠他的錄音部分的音頻軌道，然後叫他想像一下當時的時間、地點和角色。當我們完成錄音時，我們一起翻聽，我看到他的雙眼是濕潤濛濛的；他擁抱了我一下，說了聲『謝謝！』就離開了。我們只錄了一次，我認為效果很完美。」



當項目進展到中期時，我決定要領受堅振聖事。

她控制不了自己的情緒

「又有一次，我把一個錄有聖母領報片斷的拷貝寄給負責灌錄天使加比額耳聲音的演員。數小時後，他打電話給我並告訴我所發生的事。他在睡房裏全神貫注地在聽錄音，到接近尾聲時，他聽到有飲泣聲，回頭一看，他看到管家一直靜靜地站在門邊聽着。她不能控制自己的情緒。」

「我為這個項目在錄音室裏花了一千多個小時，有無數的晚上不能入眠，又或是清晨便要起床，傾注了無盡的愛與忍耐。當這項目進展到中期時，我決定要領受堅振聖事。我感到很榮幸，而且永遠都會因能參與這個項目而深感謝意，也為一切我在重新找到與天主的關係時所得的愛與關懷感恩。」

「我只能感謝那些找我參與這項目的人們，也因天主注意到我和給了我這一切而感恩不盡。祂在這一年半時間裏教曉我很多。」

全套 8 隻的光碟可www.jesusdenazaret.cl定購。也可在此網頁聽到部分福音錄音。

天主安排給我的訓練改變了我

從當年到現在的改變，令我感覺最深刻的是天主對我的耐性，祂為我安排了很多事情，等著我作出積極的回應……

2009/12/09

Margaret余是主業會會員，是個全職文員，又是個全職母親，有兩個兒子，大的中六，小的中三。她最初認識主業會與現在對它的感覺有相當大的轉變。

你是怎樣認識主業會的？

我當時的男朋友，即現時的丈夫，是他先認識了一些主業會會員，他便帶同我一起參加了一些活動。我記得其中一次活動是一個聖誕聯歡會，在那裡我認識了一些朋友，但不知道她們是不是會員。她們邀請我去了兩次月靜，但我當時想：「請不要再找我了，因為很不適合，不用再邀請我了！」也不知道是什麼問題，究竟怕什麼呢？我只是覺得非常不合適，非常沈悶，一點也不明白月靜的內容，只怪當年的我實在十分愚笨！於是我決定不會再參加月靜，可以說是絕交了！由當時的絕交到後來成為主業會會員，七、八年的時間當中有著相當大的轉變，讓我告訴你這轉變的過程吧。

在這期間，我結婚，生了兩個兒子，經歷了不少生活上的訓練。有一天，這朋友突然打電話給我，她提醒我月靜的時間，那時我感到自己的反應跟以前很不同。在那次對話中，這朋友與我交換了一些生活上的問題，但老實說，她的來電不算打動了我，只可說是「提醒」，但我心內卻響起了一些聲音，「不妨再參加多一次吧，反正不會有害處的。」於是我出席了七、八年後的第一次月靜，而這次月靜給我最深刻的感覺是「不再沈悶了」，然而除此以外，並沒有明顯的得著，對於月靜內容仍不太了解。

我實在很感激這朋友在這以後每月按時提醒我，而我也出席了每月的月靜，漸漸地我開始明白多一點主業會精神，我接受這精神甚至嘗試把這精神實踐於我的家庭生活、日常生活之中，我覺得很有益處，而旅程就這樣開始了，直至2000年我正式成為主業會會員，歷時十多年的時間，全是天主安排給我的訓練改變了我。

你怎樣把主業會精神整合於日常生活之中？

整合的方法是主業會創辦人聖施禮華教給我們的，是「愛」的方法，即把「愛」注入工作之中，不論是職業工作抑或是家頭細務，都嘗試盡力做好，

但要注意是盡一己之力做好工作，不等於做到完美，盡力以後把工作奉獻給天主，這就是我們所談及的「聖化工作」。

至於家庭方面，我所面對的都是一場硬仗，我有兩個十來歲，正處於十分難搞的反叛期的兒子。我相信每個做母親的都會同意，下班後可用於家庭的時間實在非常短促，只有幾個小時，而我們就得好好利用這短短數小時盡量做教育的工作。我會利用晚飯的時間，盡量與他們溝通，大家談談一整天下來是怎麼過的，有什麼開心或不開心的事，他們的、爸爸的、或我自己的，我們都盡量去交換，加強一家人的互相了解。同時亦教他們一些德行，例如餐桌禮儀、節制、秩序、整潔等等，可是他們不一定乖乖靜靜的接收全部內容，我得利用合適的時機和各種技巧，將想表達的東西盡量用輕鬆的方法告訴他們，目的要令他們不但不會反感，不會悶，而且在不知不覺間接受教導。須知道青少年多麼易於拒絕義正詞嚴的訓導，而傾向接收合他們口味的溝通說話方式。

晚飯後的時間，我不單提醒他們，也提醒自己，要善用每分每秒，因為時間是天主的，我們絕不應浪費這真貴的恩賜。此外，我和其他媽媽一樣，十分重視他們的學業成績，但同時也十分重視他們德行上的培育，甚至我個人認為，比學業成績更加重要，於是每個晚上，我都盡量朝著這方向去工作，然而我不得不承認，不是每晚都做得好，更遑論做得好，我只能盡力而為。

當遇到困難時，聖施禮華的教導或主業會精神對你有什麼幫助呢？

我每天會在下班後盡量去參與彌撒，之後祈禱一會才回家去。在彌撒和祈禱中，我會把開心的事奉獻給天主，而不開心的事我也會一同奉獻，並「交託」給祂。從彌撒及祈禱中汲取的力量，對我的幫助非常巨大，因為帶著這力量，我能夠從新面對問題，無論那是喜樂的事情，或憂苦的困境，而這祈禱奉獻的精神就是「聖化生活」的精神。這精神實在幫了我不少。

從當年拒絕參加月靜到今天，你感覺有什麼不同？

從當年斷然拒絕參加月靜到現在的改變，令我感覺最深刻的是天主對我的耐性，祂為我安排了很多事情來教導我、訓練我，等著我作出積極的回應，倚賴天主的助佑和祂給我的自由意志，我自覺非常幸運，因為我能自由地選擇了正確的方向，成為主業會會員。我有更多機會從聖施禮華的教導和其他會員朋友的經驗中，知道祈禱的重要、與天主溝通的重要，我學會如何真正的在天主的臨在下生活。在這些日子裡，生活的壓力有時實在令我感覺辛苦，但從祈禱中得到的力量，使我能勇敢面對各種問題與困難，並朝著正確的方向前進，是我最大的改變，更是我最大的得益！

一位在拉斯維加斯表演的雜技員

哥思嘉·羅仕(Grzegorz Ros)是主業會的協助人。他原籍波蘭，現年29歲，他在拉斯維加斯(Las Vegas)從事雜技員的工作。他於訪問時說：「我很高興我的職業讓我為人帶來歡樂，並能『取悅』天主。」

2009/12/30

可否告訴我們有關你的工作？

我參與一個名為「夢」(Le Rêve)的大型表演項目，是85個雜技員中其中的一個。法蘭高·達哥尼(Franco Dragone)是整個演出的導演。這是一個非常精彩的節目，也只有在拉斯維加斯這樣的地方才能上演。此項目以泳池做背景，藉先進科技，將體育和藝術共冶一爐。和我一起演出的有很多均是世界著名的雜技員。他們曾在國際體操、演藝、舞蹈和音樂比賽中獲獎無數。



哥思嘉·羅仕在「夢」中的演出

你是怎樣發掘自己這方面的天份的呢？

我自幼便在家鄉史拖易亞(Zotoryia)表演雜技，這運動在那裡很普及。我的訓練導師們建議我以此作為職業。因此，我跟一位朋友多瑪斯·域高斯(Tomasz Wilkosz)組成了雜技二人組合作演出。當我們得悉在大西洋彼岸將有一個大型新製作時，我們便連袂前往巴黎面試，並獲取錄。

請告訴我們你在拉斯維加斯的生活情況。

這裡生活緊湊。不同的人，帶著不同的文化、宗教、信念，從世界各地湧來。對我的同事來說，基督宗教只不過是眾多文化和信仰之一。特別在這樣的城市中，人很容易忘掉一切在現世生活中指導人心的基本觀念。

乍眼看來，這個沙漠中的城市，人們好像只顧享樂。若要基督宗教在此植根萌芽，或在個人靈修上尋得平安，似乎並非適合之地。其實不然，我學會在日常生活中努



「夢」由超過85位藝人合演

力深化與天主的友誼，為我而言，通常是當我在特技鞦韆架上時，在空中騰翻時，或是在與其他人商討創作新環節的時候。

雜技員其實表演些什麼？

雜技員要熟練地用腳尖支撐着身體並快速旋轉；既要保持整體和諧，在隊員之間又要調整各自的動作以彼此配合。每日重複這些動作真不容易。很多時候我們還要忍受肉體帶來的痛楚。但我認為這工作使我能服務人群，能幫助他人休息鬆弛，也能藉此「取悅」天主！所以每次演出時，我都試着傾盡全力。



哥思嘉·羅仕在波蘭出席一個主業會籌辦的培育活動

你如何認識主業會？

赴美前，我收到一份禮物，是三本聖施禮華的著作：《道路》、《犁痕》和《煉爐》。為取得更多有關主業會的資料，我跟拉斯維加斯一位主業會的成員聯絡。不久，我便開始參加一些有關基督徒培育的活動。此後，我還利用每天演出的場間來做默禱。

再者，我的工作要求每天重複地做同樣的動作，這需要很大的體能，尤其要注意力集中和動作標準。主業會的精神恰好助我表演得更出色，因我知道天主就是我最重要的觀眾！

在拉斯維加斯，你怎樣看自己的將來？

在這城市，主業會的工作仍在發展中。我們人數不多，顯然我們需要更多人，也熱切地如此渴望。我以祈求協助主業會，並履行使徒工作。對我而言，引領人靈歸向天主，就如我的雜耍工作一樣，不能單靠個人能力和努力，當然這兩樣也不可或缺。個人能力畢竟有限，唯有通過與他人共同努力，並藉天主的助佑，我便能做到。



拉斯維加斯一景

經聖施禮華代禱獲賜之恩惠

文件上的障礙

我要感謝主和聖施禮華在我工作上的幫助。我是一名醫生，並且決定專修讀專科。這次的入學考試卷很長，而且要通過它也是十分困難的。當我為這考試溫習的時候，我求聖施禮華為我代禱。在考試當天，我把祈禱卡帶著，好讓我的心靈感到平靜及加強對自己和我所學過的知識的自信心。我十分感謝主，因為我最終都能通過是次的考試。但後來因為一些文件上的問題，我仍然感到很煩惱，我必須在限期內提交正確的文件到墨西哥城，否則我便會被取消入學的資格。我感到非常的絕望，因為文件是否被接納並非在我控制的範圍內。驚訝地，就在限期前的最後一日，我能夠成功地把所需的文件全送到墨西哥城的辦公室，當時的我就好像放下了心頭大石一樣，我真的十分感謝主和聖施禮華的幫忙。在今年的二月，我開始了我的專業課程，而且我亦經常求聖施禮華與我同在，儘管在我的日常的事務中有多少的困難，也能有力量去解決；並且，好讓我能以人道，慈愛和真誠去對待我的每一位病人，更重要的是給予他們一切所需。

Daniela Martinez, 墨西哥

2010年2月2日

聖施禮華聆聽了我母親的祈禱

我希望能和你們分享一件事，在20多年前，因為我的脊柱側凸，我動了兩次手術。2年前，我被診斷出我得了腰椎關節炎。我接受了物理療法和藥物治療以減輕痛楚，可惜最後都不奏效。我看了數位的專科醫生，但對我腰間的痛楚卻起不了什麼的作用。日子一日日地過去，痛楚就如成了我的摯友——但它並非唯一一個，因為我也從聖神那裏找到了力量，祂教識了我如何把我的痛楚奉獻給天主。我的母親為我這次的不幸感到極度痛苦，也懊惱自己無能為力。十日前，她為我找了一張印有聖施禮華聖像的祈禱卡，用心的為我向他祈禱。自從那天起，我再感覺不了任何的痛楚。我知道這一定是聖施禮華聆聽了我母親的禱告，我內心感到無限的喜悅。我全心的感謝這位偉大的聖人，主業會的創辦人，他為我轉禱治癒了我。

Olaya S., 智利

2009年12月30日

我對日上事務上價值觀的啟蒙

在2008年，我還在修讀我的法律學位的時候，我感到十分氣餒，因為我覺得我每日做的每件事都很煩瑣和沒有意義。但在那個時候，我讀到了一篇聖施禮華

寫的文章，與此同時我亦從中獲得了恩寵和啟蒙，明白到無論是工作或是學習，它們都是有價值的，我們可以透過它們而服務天主和我們的弟兄姊妹。這次的領悟就好像把我靈魂眼前的黑布揭開一樣，它給予我熱誠去對得我每天的工作。現在，我已成為了一名律師，每當我誦聖施禮華的「求職九日敬禮」Novena for Work時，我都會即時獲到在工作上的恩寵，亦即是說，我有更多的工作，更多的收入清償欠帳，而且有更大的推動力去完成我的事務。我讚頌和感謝上主，祂透過聖施禮華的代禱充裕地保佑了我，祂完全改變了我對日常工作的態度。我希望主業會能早日在我居住的城市中開辦主業會中心（那時我必會成為最早一期的Cooperator協助人），我深信我的祈禱一定會應驗的！

V.G., 巴西
2010年1月15日

我熱切地祈禱

今早當我離開公司時，我接到一位朋友的電話，她告訴我她的哥哥中了風，並且送了去醫院診治。在我回家的途中，我一直手持我每天都用的聖施禮華祈禱卡，一直熱切地向他祈禱。數分鐘後，我的朋友再一次致電給我，並告知我她的哥哥已經脫離了危險，並且能說話和活動他的手臂…這真是個奇蹟！感謝你，聖施禮華！請為繼續為我們代禱…我現在真的不能沒有了你！我再一次向你道謝！

Antonella C., 意大利
2009年12月29日

一個迫切需要的獎項

我想感謝聖施禮華給予我的恩寵。兩個月前我的丈夫去世了。這對我的打擊很大，因為我甚至未能跟他道別。那時候大學的學期快將結束，顯然所發生的一切令我不能專注到學期末的考試。我向聖施禮華祈禱，希望他能給予我幫助，因為我要照料自己及完成學位，好讓我能夠賺錢養活我的兒子。在這之前，我依靠我的丈夫，讀書只是為了興趣。具體來說，為了能支付學費，我的平均分必須達到9.5分，以取得“優良”獎項。然而因為是學期末考試的問體題，這變得非常困難。所以我祈求聖施禮華幫助我得到獎項，因為對於我來說，能得到所須平均分可以算是一個奇蹟。幾天後當我收到成績後，我感到很驚訝，因為餘下的三科我都拿到10分。這意味著我已肯定取得獎項。這一切都是主業會的創辦人，聖施禮華，所給予我的幫助。

Dalila S., 墨西哥
2009年12月29日

為他帶來信德

去年六月二十七日，我們一家聚在一起慶祝我們父母的結婚四十五週年紀念日。我們的父母特別期待這天，因為這一天早上在渥太華教堂會舉行慶祝聖施禮華慶節的彌撒聖祭。我們希望並祈求我們年紀最大的哥哥，一位非天主教徒並距離天主很遠的人，能夠和我們一家人參與彌撒。然而這個可能性並不大，因為他的妻子提出除非她不用參與彌撒，否則她不會出席我們父母的週年紀念慶祝。由於這個問題，我和我的哥哥發生爭論並把氣氛弄得很僵。那天晚上，我很努力地向聖施禮華祈禱。在彌撒那天，我和我的父母非常高興地看到我的哥哥和他的妻子手牽手並帶著他們的外甥進來。更重要的是，他們是主動前來，甚至沒有其它人向他們提到這件事。自從這件事以後，我這個哥哥跟我們更親近，他甚至主動前來探望家人然後一起參與彌撒，並且在彌撒後對神父所說的話作評論。我祈求聖施禮華為我哥哥帶來信德以及他一直追求的快樂。

E. C. 加拿大
11月, 2009

我命名為若瑟瑪利亞以表示對他的敬意

我今年十六歲，住在巴拉圭阿松森。我小時候曾經得過重病。醫生說我的病不能醫治，我只能等死。他們把我的腎上腺移除，然而縱使這樣，我的病還沒有好痊癒。後來我的父親，一位主業會成員並非常信賴天主的人，把我的一件衣服放在聖施禮華墓前並向他祈求我能痊癒。幾天後我的病開始有好轉。醫生們都無法相信，因為這一切看來都是不可能發生的。我很感激聖施禮華給我的機會。因此命名為若瑟瑪利亞以表示對他的敬意。我的父親以至所有的家人在我生病時一直陪伴在我身邊。後來當我看到他對那段時間所寫的回憶時，我哭了。現在我體會到主的力量以及我父母對我的愛。顯然繼上主對我們的愛後，父母的愛是世上最偉大的。

Josemaría M. A., 巴拉圭
1月13日, 2010

我收到對我們工作的報酬

我讀了聖施禮華的文章並被他的文字所吸引。當我瀏覽互聯網時，我看到這個網站並閱讀了從世界各地的人所寫的經聖施禮華代禱獲賜恩惠的見證。我對於聖施禮華怎樣幫助不同人士的故事很驚訝。我查閱工作上的電郵郵件，出乎意料地竟有客戶拒絕就我們公司為他所做的項目付款。當這個情況持續了大概一年後，我們聯絡了一位律師討論我們可採取的措施。我很驚訝這件事的發生而我記起很多人在見證裏提及過祈禱卡及九日敬禮。在協商那段時間我開始每天晚上唸九日敬禮。今天我們公司終於收到那位客戶的付款。我會繼續向聖施禮華祈禱，祈求他幫助我在生意上的成功。

A. C., 美國
1月 13日, 2010

“To be a priest is something beautiful and great.”

Fr. Shohei Kimura was ordained as a priest of Opus Dei on 31st May 2003 in Rome by Bishop Javier Echevarría. He tells his story of conversion.

2009/12/21

Shohei is the firstborn of the Kimuras. His name means “the serene man from the forest village”. His mother embraced Catholicism when he was eight. Four years later, he too was baptised. In May 2003, his father and relatives travelled from Japan to Rome for his ordination, together with the parish priest Father Inoue and parishioners of Ibaraki.

We present some excerpts taken from an interview given in 2003, shortly after his ordination.

“I was moved to know that the faithful from Ibaraki were at my ordination. During the persecutions of the 16th and 17th century, there were many clandestine Catholics in the area of Ibaraki. I don’t think I’m exaggerating if I thought that I owed some part of my Christian vocation to them.”

Can you tell us what influenced you in taking the step of your vocation?

I was baptised when I was twelve. I owe this to many people, firstly to both my parents. My mother, who converted 4 years ahead of me, prayed the Rosary frequently. I recall that she had great devotion to our Lady of Guadalupe. She was the one who found a priest to teach me Catechism.

My father was remarkable too, as a person who loved freedom. Although he has no religion and was none too pleased about my conversion, he always defended my freedom before relatives who took our conversions as a sort of betrayal. My conversion was a serious matter since I was the firstborn. Nonetheless, my father always stood by me, “Let him be, if he wants to be baptised, he will be baptised.” This respect for freedom was an important factor.

Do you recall something from those years of catechism?

The Parish priest, Father Gustaf Banbael de Scheut, from the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, came every Saturday to my house to teach me

Catechism. When he couldn’t come, some nuns I had met in the parish would come. As distance goes in Japan, the parish was far from my house, which made the constancy with which they came over those 3 years all the more remarkable. I will be forever indebted.

When I turned thirteen, my family moved to another part of Osaka, where I met a Salesian priest, Father Josef Heriban. He was a serene and affectionate man who radiated peace. I remember this Belgian priest perfectly because he helped me greatly and gave me invaluable advice. Once he presented me with a book which captivated me. I discovered my professional calling to be a teacher through it. It was the biography of St John Bosco. It inspired me to be pious and above all to dedicate my life to education, which was why I later read English Philology at the university. There I met Opus Dei through a friend and saw that God was calling me to the Work.

What impressed you most from those years?

The exemplary sanctity of many priests in Japan working under circumstances that were objectively very difficult was impressive. Fr. Banbael was no exception; I have met other priests like him. They neither forced nor insisted on my taking steps forward; on the contrary I have been the one who felt drawn. This is why I would say they were saints: they were a marvelous example of love and sacrifice; an example that greatly attracted me.

How did your relatives and friends take the news of your ordination?

In general, fairly well, due to the esteem that is given in Japan to professions that seek to serve others; like being a teacher. I have received congratulatory letters from 3 friends, one a Catholic and the other 2 free-thinkers. They understand that what I have taken on means service to others, for a good priest retains nothing for himself. Our model is Christ.

Besides, I am really happy that my father came to my ordination; I did not expect him to. I also appreciate the effort it has taken for my sister and brother to make the trip. It is difficult to take leave from work in Japan, one has to make up for time lost up to the last minute.

As you can imagine, we miss the presence of my mother. She died 10 years ago. She wanted me to be a priest and prayed for it. She left me completely free to decide what I wanted to be, but I recall that from time to time she would tell me, “Shohei, to be a priest is something very beautiful and very great.”

From Engineering to the Priesthood

Jose Ramon Alba received the priestly ordination on September 6th in Torreciudad at the hands of the Prelate of Opus Dei.

2010/01/25

Jose Ramon Alba is an Associate of Opus Dei. He was an engineer with a passion for cars. Last September, he was ordained a priest. This interview was given shortly after his ordination.

They say you are a die-hard fan of Formula 1 and that you like driving. When was this passion for cars born?



As a child, I once helped my father, who was a mechanic, to change the radiator of our "tin can", as we familiarly called the family car. I devoted considerable time to it and started taking an interest in the world of motoring. I also remember the time when my father took me to a Formula 1 Grand Prix at Montjuic: it was an unforgettable experience.

As an engineer who has worked first for Siemens, and then later for SEAT in its German office and then in the directives of projects like the SEAT Leon and the Altea... would all this professional experience help in your priestly duties?

Naturally, yes. My training in engineering helps me to reason logically and in so many other ways, perhaps even unconsciously. But more importantly, the priest is another Christ: God acts using the priest as an instrument, and counts on his personality, talents and personal experiences.

Can you mention any particular experience?

In our German office, there was a motto that made an impression on me: "love up to the last detail". I had learned this in Xaloc High School where I studied; it came from the teachings of St. Josemaria: "We must find God in the little things of each day".

I was glad to find this harmony between the German precision and the education I had received at school in Hospitalet de Llobregat.

You were a director of SEAT, and now, at 45 years old, you are ordained priest. It would not be easy to understand such a decision in these times...

It was precisely while I was immersed in an intense professional life that I saw God calling me to priesthood. To fully understand this decision, it is necessary to have faith. God calls each one personally, just responding to this call can make one very happy. There is continuity in the course of my life: when I was young, I saw that God was calling me to a vocation in Opus Dei and decided to respond affirmatively. The priesthood for me now is a realization of that same call, a new path within the same way. Now, however, I can serve the Church and bring people closer to God in a new and essential manner: the administration of the Sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. Every day I give thanks to God for my vocation.

How did colleagues at work react when they knew you were preparing for the priesthood?

It has certainly sparked off personal reflection and been a cause to come closer to God and the Christian life. Some have thought, "And I, what should I do?"

Initially, everyone's reaction was one of surprise, since professionally I already had a very clear path. Throughout, they have offered their help and collaboration. In fact, about 30 of my colleagues were at the Ordination ceremony. I must also thank them for their support received during these years of study and preparation for the priesthood.



"Many people are thirsting for God"

From his experience as parish priest in Seville, Fr. Gregorio is convinced that many people are thirsting for God.

2010/02/08

Fr. Gregorio is 32 years old and is the parish priest of the *Church of Our Lady of the Olives and St Joseph the Worker* in Dos Hermanas, Seville. His pastoral duties extend to the more than 40,000 parishioners who live in the 19 towns of his parish. They are simple working folks with the natural cheerfulness characteristic of people from that part of Spain. We interviewed him in a small park nestled between apartment blocks, close to his church.



How did you discover your vocation as a priest?

My parents are good Christians and they taught me from my youth to trust God and to be simple when talking to Him. The whole family goes to Mass on Sundays, and I served as an altar boy in the Monastery of the Incarnation in Seville.

Later, as a teenager, although I continued to go for Sunday Mass, I grew cold in my relationship with God. It's strange: I barely prayed but I remember that coherence was something that I appreciated as a virtue. Any behaviour that was incoherent annoyed me, with that unreasonable irritation that is sometimes seen in adolescents.

I finished high school and started to read Law. I enjoyed hanging out with my friends and we talked about everything typical of university students: the classes, the professors, career options, politics, friendships, sports, the desire to enjoy life...

But in the first year, I felt a certain restlessness. The happiness that I sought was not in the nights out, neither in the parties nor in that superficiality that leaves you empty inside...

My dislike for anything incoherent, which had caused me enough headaches in my teenage days, was leading me towards God. A guy from my group of friends spoke to me about Opus Dei, the little of which I knew at that time was largely negative. Without knowing the spirit of the Work, I use to think that it was for the elite and powerful.

In my second year, I started going almost everyday to a centre of Opus Dei in Seville, the club for university guys called the Plaza de Cuba. I was impressed with their cheerfulness, good humour and the naturalness with which they treated everyone. My Christian life



Image of St Joseph the Worker

started to grow and I resolved to go for Mass daily. While talking to God in prayer, unsuspecting horizons and the desire, hidden deep in my soul, to give myself to the Lord unfolded.

I must say that I had a girlfriend then, a wonderful girl with whom I was going steady for some months. Through the conversations I had with the priest at the Centre of the Work, I was encouraged to grow in my life of piety and to live a chaste courtship.

As time went by, I saw my vocation clearly as a priest and decided to enter the Diocesan Seminary of Seville in September 1998.

What is your ordinary life in the parish like?

Day by day, I perceive more clearly that many people are thirsting for God. When I started in this parish, I never dreamt of the affection that I would receive from the parishioners.

In my mind, it is clear that a priest has to be a man of God. That is why I need to pray, the Holy Mass, and to have filial recourse to the Blessed Virgin and St Joseph...

I also resolved to take very good care of the sick in the area. I try to visit them frequently, to lighten their pain wherever possible, to pray for them while leaning on their prayers, which have so much value in the eyes of God.



Our Lady of the Olive

During the first years, I tried to send a Christmas card to everyone who belonged to the Parish: 40,000 people. Some weeks later, a lady appeared at the church asking to return to the faith; she had not been practicing for some time. When I asked her what prompted that decision, she told me, "No one has ever sent me a Christmas card. When I received the card from the Parish, I decided to start living my faith again."

You can see the Holy Spirit acting in the souls! Thanks be to God, two young men from the Parish are already in the diocesan seminary, and more people are coming to the Sacrament of Confession. There is so much to give thanks to God for!

Last June 2009, a relic of St Josemaría Escrivá was installed in your parish. How does the Work help you in your priestly vocation?

Through the spirit of Opus Dei, I have learnt that my priestly vocation takes on its fullest meaning when I am completely united to my Bishop, Cardinal Carlos Amigo and to the Assistant Bishop of the diocese, Fr. Juan José Asenjo; when I am very united to my brother priests of the diocese, and of course, when I try to be close to my parishioners, helping them in everything they need and praying for them. I discovered this marvel about the priestly vocation thanks to the spirit of Opus Dei. I am much indebted to St Josemaría for his spirit of sacrifice in the formation of diocesan priests. We want to honor his memory in our Parish, so that many souls would entrust themselves to his intercession.

To serve Russia as a Catholic priest

Father Alexey Yandushev-Rumiantsev was ordained to the priesthood in 2007. In this interview given while he was still a deacon, he spoke about how he discovered Christianity by reading between the lines of an atheistic newspaper in Soviet Russia.

Alexey was born into an Orthodox family in St. Petersburg when it was still called Leningrad. He received no religious instruction at home, but learned to speak five languages and took degrees in engineering and later on in theology and philosophy. He also wants to learn Portuguese, the language spoken in Fatima. After his ordination, he plans to take his parish to visit that Marian shrine, so closely linked to Russia's recent history.



Alexey Yandushev-Rumiantsev, a Catholic deacon in Russia.

How did you discover your calling to be a Christian and then to be a priest?

That's a long story. My Orthodox parents are not very observant. When I was born, in 1973, my father had just found work in a chain of supermarkets and was afraid that if I were baptized--given the situation of my country in those years--it would endanger the whole family. Whoever requested baptism had to apply for a passport; that information was then passed on to political authorities and the secret police. After weighing the matter, my parents preferred not to have me baptized.

So your family was not practicing their faith?

Right; my parents believed in God, but they didn't do anything in particular for my religious formation. They kept up some traditions, went to church a few times a year, and there were religious icons in the house, but nothing beyond that.

Then how did you come to be interested in religion?

On my own. I was 12 when I started to think about faith. I believed there was "Someone" --not something-- to whom I could go. One day I came across a periodical, "Science and Religion," published by the Atheistic Society of the Soviet Union. Nobody read a publication like that, but it was a topic I was very interested in. It seemed to me the only way I could learn something more about religion. I subscribed to it and for five years had to read "between the lines" of what was published in that periodical.

What was that atheistic propaganda like?



"Whoever asked to be baptized had to acquire a passport, and that information was passed on to the political authorities and the secret police."

Basically, all the communications media were engaged in a continuous attack on religion. The point was to make people believe that the churches were trying to perpetuate an ancient mythology with no scientific foundation in order to control people's minds and take their money.

What do you mean by reading "between the lines"?

It was religion that interested me, not atheism. The articles attacking religion quoted from Scripture and spoke of the Church and of Jesus Christ. Since I had no access to other sources, I had to make do with that. I started by thinking that if bad things are said about something or someone, it may be because that thing or person isn't really so bad. That could be the case with Opus Dei, too. Once I saw a book that strongly criticized the

Knights of Malta, as well. The author called Opus Dei a dangerous organization, and yet he described its foundation and even gave the address where its "leader" lived. So I decided to write for more information, but this was after I had become a Catholic.

Looking back, I see that it was Our Lord who was leading me along that path. I knew that I couldn't speak about these matters, and so I didn't bring them up with anyone; but my interest kept growing. When I got to be 15, I told my father I wanted to be baptized into the Orthodox Church. He didn't oppose it, and even contacted a friend of his, an Orthodox priest who worked as a mechanic in Leningrad. That way, I could be baptized secretly.

How did you enter the Catholic Church?

Precisely because such bad things were said about it, I wanted to see for myself. In the telephone directory I found the address of the Catholic community of St. Petersburg, but the Church was always closed. After several attempts, I managed to meet that community,



"I began to think that if bad things are said about something or someone, it may be because that thing or that person isn't really so bad."

but the priest was suspicious of me. He realized that I might have been a young KGB spy. There were plenty of spies in those years. But when he saw me come often to the church, he made an appointment with me: After Mass one day, the agreement was that I would follow him for several blocks to a place remote from the parish where we could easily talk. It was 1989, a period of political uncertainty. And so, after a period of formation I asked to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

But why the Catholic Church?

People were always speaking to me about "churches," in the plural. But I was asking which the true one was. Searching the Gospel, I saw that Jesus had founded only one Church, and that he prayed for its unity. I also saw that Christ Himself had placed St. Peter at the head of that one Church. If the Pope is Peter's successor, the rest follows.

What happened next?

"In Russia we have a real need to know the Gospel of work, to know God in ordinary life through things well done."

When I finished school, I enrolled in the Leningrad University. I completed a degree in engineering and after that began studying the history of the Church and philosophy in the Catholic College of St. Thomas Aquinas. I was happy, at last, to be immersed in continuing formation. That is when I made contact with Opus Dei. I was astonished at the hostile campaign aimed at that institution.

What were your first impressions?

Very good ones. I met people who didn't "make propaganda," people for whom the meaning of the Christian life was both simple and profound. In Russia we have a real need to know the Gospel of work, to know God in ordinary life by means of things well done. I'm sure that the Work will be able to do my people a lot of good. The idea of ongoing Christian formation is very attractive. We need it.

How did you decide to enter the seminary?

Although I hadn't spoken with anyone, it was an idea I had been turning over in my mind for some time. I thought that I might lack the capacity or the conditions needed for such a strong commitment. I had already completed my studies and was working. I had even



"After the wall fell, many people began showing real interest in 'the things of God.'"

spent a year abroad—studying phenomenology in Liechtenstein [at the International Academy of Philosophy]. But one day out of the blue a priest asked me, "Do you want to be a priest?" My immediate response was No, but I was wide awake that whole night. I went back to speak with that priest, and in all sincerity told him I had been thinking of it but didn't feel worthy or strong enough to do it. He explained to me that God provides the strength, so at the end of that year (2000), I entered the seminary. Next year, God willing, I'll be a priest.

What is the religious situation in Russia today?

After the fall of communism in 1989, we began to experience a true spiritual springtime. Today that phenomenon has reached its true dimensions; that is, once the emotions of the first moments passed, only those who were truly committed remained. All in all, it must be recognized that there are many who show real interest in "the things of God."

"One day, out of the blue, a priest asked me: 'Do you want to be a priest?' My immediate response was No, but I was wide awake that whole night." Is there prejudice against Catholics?

What is your dream now?

To serve Russia as a Catholic priest.

I'm called Josemaría in his honour

I am 16 years old and live in Asuncion, Paraguay. When I was very small I was seriously sick. The doctors said there was no hope and that I would die. They had removed an adrenal gland but even so I did not recover. Then my Dad, who is in Opus Dei and a person of great faith, sent one of my clothes to the tomb of St Josemaría and prayed to him for me to recover. After some days I started to get better. The doctors couldn't believe it because it seemed impossible. I am very grateful for the chance that St Josemaría gave me. And I'm called Josemaría in his honour. My Dad was at my side the whole time I was sick, and so was my whole family. I later read what he wrote about that period, and it made me cry. Now I realize the power of God and the love my parents have for me. The love of a father and a mother is the greatest thing in this world, obviously after the love of our Lord.

Josemaría M. A., Paraguay
January 13, 2010

80 years later, the adventure begins in Korea

Mercé is a nurse who devotes herself completely to another task: learning Korean. With other members of Opus Dei, she has moved to Daejeon (South Korea) to establish the apostolic work there. She tells us about the beginnings.

February 14, 2010

80 years ago, St. Josemaría unfolded the possibilities of various apostolic works that the women in Opus Dei could be engaged in: student residential, fashion activities, vocational training centers ...

Today that dream is also true in Korea!

In September 2009, I arrived in Daejeon to start the first center of Opus Dei in South Korea. Daejeon is one of the cities with more Christian tradition. The first Korean priest, Saint Andrew Kim Dae Gon, one of the early 19th century martyrs, hails from these parts.

Four other women from Brazil, Philippines, Argentina and Australia came with me. Two of them are of Korean descent, which is a great help for the rest because they already know the traditions and culture of the country.

Thank God we did not have to start the apostolic work from scratch, because since 1988 people from Opus Dei have been making trips to Korea from time to time, to start spreading the message of sanctification of ordinary life.

Learning Korean... from the neighbours



With the help of a Cooperator who met the Work in Peru, we have acquired an apartment and are doing it up little by little: the Oratory, dinning ware, decoration... Everything has been made possible through the donations we had each received from our respective countries.



Almost all of us are studying the Korean language full time, since our dream is to be able to speak it, and come to learn, to share and understand the hopes, concerns, interests and joys of the people we are meeting.

Our arrival was warmly welcomed. For any needs, there is always someone willing to lend us a helping hand: to find a place to buy food or other items at affordable prices, a bookshop, a dentist... I am especially grateful for the attention and dedication of my neighbors that, among other favors, have been coming every day this past week to converse with me in Korean. With the help of many people, I was impressed to see that in only five months, I can read and understand what I could not decipher before.

It is said that Korea is like a small town that has suddenly become a great country. Maybe that's why, although I'm immersed in a new culture with customs and ways of doing things so different from what I have experienced so far, I always feel very much at home. It's easy to start a conversation with anyone. In fact, more than once we have stopped on the street to be asked if we were speaking Russian!



I'm also learning a lot of other things: to eat kimchi with chopsticks, to greet people with a bow, setting the table the Korean way, finding out which is the best way out of eight possible exits in the Metro... What an adventure!

Korea has welcomed us with the strongest snowstorm in the last 100 years. For some, it was the first time to see snow. We have learned to unclog the washing machine when the pipes freeze over, and to discover the abstract art in a sweater frozen stiff after it had been soaked and left to dry.

The puzzle is coming together



Different religions co-exist in South Korea, so it is not unusual to speak about one's faith, and I am happy to see that people seek the truth sincerely. In no time, a good group of women have started to attend classes of Catholic doctrine. They take notes with keen interest so that they can tell it to their families and friends. One of them told me: "The Faith is like a puzzle that is now all starting to fall into place for me."

Some women are also beginning to appreciate the spirit of Opus Dei, which is to offer to God one's own job done well for love. For example, a lady who teaches singing and voice has told us that even before she met the Work, she had thought that singing and teaching it to her students can be her way to God. She had understood Opus Dei even without knowing it.

A few days ago, speaking with an English literature student on the bus going to the University, I explained that an hour of studying well is like an hour of prayer, as St. Josemaría taught. She opened her eyes in surprise and kept repeating: "Chincha? Chincha?" (which means "Really? really?").

We also travel frequently to Seoul, the capital, where there are ladies who are Cooperators of Opus Dei who regularly attend the spiritual activities we organise. Last December a retreat was held for them and their friends.



Before coming to Korea, we had stopped over in Hong Kong, where I met one of the first three women who had gone to the Philippines in 1964 to bring the message of Opus Dei. Among other things, she had told us: "You will see that God does everything." And so it is indeed!

www.josemariaescriva.info

I prayed intensely

This morning as I left work I had a call from a friend saying that her brother had a stroke and was in hospital. On the way home I prayed intensely to St Josemaría, using his prayer-card, which I always have with me and pray every day. A few minutes ago my friend called again. She says her brother is out of danger, is talking and moving his arm... it's a miracle. Thank you, St Josemaría! Keep on interceding for us... I can't do without you now. Thank you again.

Antonella C., Italy
December 29, 2009

The Gospel with "special effects"

Juan Ignacio Valdivieso is a sound engineer and owner of a recording studio in Chile. He tells how he got involved with the Gospel with "special effects".



I feel fortunate and am forever grateful to have been able to participate in this project."

Juan Ignacio Valdivieso never imagined that what began as a favor for a friend would be the start of a life changing adventure. He got involved in the production of an audio Gospel recorded over eighteen months; it deeply stirred him and those who participated in the project, many of them renowned broadcasters and television soap opera actors.

The start of my adventure

It all started when my friend Raul Bezanilla asked me to improve the quality of a CD with excerpts of the Gospel that Fr. Alvaro Rocha, a priest of Opus Dei, had received from Spain. Its voice quality was poor, so I took the liberty of dubbing over the Spanish voices with Chilean speakers, and added background sounds of nature, music and other special effects. Everybody loved it and María Paz, Raul's wife, suggested that we should record the whole Gospel.

I had been totally distant from the Church since I was thirteen. In the last 35 years, I had not gone for Mass, neither confession nor Holy Communion.

I accepted the project only because of friendship and commitment towards those who asked me. I got more and more into it and a few months soon after we started, I was having 'Gospel' for breakfast, lunch and dinner! Thanks to the support and friendship of Fr. Alvaro, I made a complete return to God and an absolute tranquility came over me. I began to attend Mass on Sundays and thereafter, also on weekdays.

He did not care about the money

What at first appeared to be a few months' work became a huge audio project involving 37 actors and more than a thousand hours of recordings that were made in 8 CDs with 279 tracks. There was one problem, though, because economically we did not have enough capital.

For the part of the narrator, Juan Ignacio wanted Fernando Solís, one of the three most prominent voices in the Latin American world of advertising, in addition to being the Spanish voice in all the synopses of *Universal Pictures*.

I decided to call and tell him about the project, explaining that unfortunately the fees for this part would be rather symbolic, equivalent to what he could earn in two commercial recordings totaling ten minutes.

He listened very calmly, without saying a word at the other end of the phone. When I finished, he said, "I'm recording all day, reading texts about toothpastes and banks, etc. My voice is a gift from God and what better way to repay Him than to participate in this work. I do not care about the money; tell me what you have and let us be done with this problem".

I could not believe what I was hearing and was left deeply impressed with his words. For fifteen months, Fernando recorded practically every day. He never had a bad word, a gesture of reluctance or shoddy recording. It was an example of generosity and professionalism for all of us.

What a level of commitment

In difficult moments, the level of commitment, even from those far from the faith, motivated us to move forward. They contributed with their work (sometimes we had to make up to 12 trials, since nothing is perfect at the first try) without a thought of the financial reward, although many were not in a good situation. Patrick, the actor who plays Jesus, told me that after each recording, he could not record commercials for the following 3 days because of the emotion that lingered in him. At the end, he told me, "Thank you! Thanks for allowing me to participate in this project. It's the best thing I have done!"

Another one who got completely involved and from whom we learnt so much was Daniel Lencina Jr., composer of the 15 original musical scores. Although he often had to play with his band until the wee hours of the morning, he appeared in the studio every morning looking impeccable.



CD cover: What at first appeared to be a few months' work became a huge audio project involving 37 actors and more than a thousand hours of recordings

Zacharias

For the character of Zacharias, Juan Ignacio wanted a veteran among the Chilean voices. I talked to him and he said he would be honoured, but would not come to the studio. Instead he would send the recorded text by internet. The first recording sent was not good enough; it was very weak and needed direction. I spoke to him again and I commented that we were not getting into the character. He sent me a new recording that we also could not use. I managed to convince him to come to the studio to record though he did not arrive in good spirits. I set him up to listen to the part of the track where what was missing was just his voice and told him to imagine the time, place and character. When we finished recording, we listened to it together. I saw that his eyes were misty; he gave me a big hug, said thanks and left. We recorded it just once and I think it came out perfect.

She could not contain her emotion

On another occasion, I sent a copy of the passage of the Annunciation to the actor who voiced the archangel Gabriel. After a couple of hours he called to tell me what had happened. He was in his bedroom listening with great concentration, when towards the end, he heard sobs. Turning around he saw the housekeeper who had remained silent, standing near the door. She had not been able to contain her emotion.

A dedication worth its while

I had dedicated more than a thousand hours of studio work to this project, countless sleepless nights and getting up at the crack of dawn, and immeasurable love and perseverance. When we were halfway through the recording, I decided I wanted to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I feel fortunate and am forever grateful to have been able to participate in this project, and for all the affection and love I found when I recovered my relationship with God.

I can only thank the people who asked me to participate in this work, and infinite thanks to God for having noticed me and given himself to me, and taught me so much in this year and a half.

The set of 8 CDs can be ordered from www.jesusdenazaret.cl. At this site you can also hear part of the recording of the Gospel in Spanish.



Half-way through the project, Juan decided he wanted to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

My biggest change is my greatest gain

God arranged everything such that he could teach me and train me, while waiting for me to make a positive response...

2009/12/09

Margaret Yu is a member of Opus Dei. She works full-time and is the mother of two teenage sons. Her initial impression of Opus Dei has gone through a big change.

How did you meet Opus Dei?

My boyfriend then, who is now my husband, first got to know some members of Opus Dei. He brought me along to some family activities, one of which I clearly remember was a Christmas party where I made some friends. At their invitation, I attended two recollections, but I stopped going because I didn't feel comfortable. I didn't really know why or what it was that I was uncomfortable about; it just did not feel right. Besides I found it boring as I did not understand the talks. Looking back, I was really very stupid! Anyway, I decided to call it quits. From then till I became a member of Opus Dei, some seven or eight years passed. The changes in me have been quite significant. Let me tell you what happened.

During this period, I got married and had two sons. I was receiving lots of lessons in life. One day, one of these friends called up unexpectedly. She talked to me about attending a recollection, but this time my reaction was very different from the first time. In that dialogue, we talked about our lives and daily problems. Her invitation to the recollection was timely; I felt myself drawn to give it another try. "No harm attending," I remember thinking to myself. So I appeared again at a recollection after a seven or eight year break. This time, I did not find it the least boring, though I did not yet understand all the talks and meditations.

I remain really grateful that this friend continued to invite me every month thereafter and I became quite regular. Gradually I began to understand the spirit of Opus Dei. I started to live it in my daily life and in my family. I found it very meaningful, and so the journey continued until I became a member of Opus Dei in the year 2000. It has taken me more than a decade, thanks to all the training that God has arranged to help me change.

How do you bring the spirit of Opus Dei into your daily life?

The approach that the founder of Opus Dei, St. Josemaría, taught is the approach of "love", that is, to put love into work, whether it is professional work or the chores of the home, and to try to do a good job. The key lies in the effort of trying to do one's best and to offer that work to God, which does not mean that everything has to turn out perfect. This is what St. Josemaría means when he talks about the sanctification of work.

As for the family, I have to cope with the tough battle of having two sons going through their teenage years. I'm sure that every mother will agree that the time left for the family after work is very short, just a few hours to see to the children. I try to communicate as much as possible with them during dinner. We talk about how the day went, happy things, unhappy things, all of us have something to share. This exchange strengthens the family and builds mutual understanding.

I also try to impart some virtues, such as table manners, moderation, order, cleanliness, etc. They do not always receive everything well. I have to find the right moment and apply a variety of skills so that it doesn't come across as repulsive or offensive. Then unconsciously they accept the lesson. You need to be aware of how easily young people would rebel against discipline, but if they like how and what is being told to them, they will happily comply.

After dinner, I try to make sure that the boys, myself included, make good use of every minute because time is given by God and we should not waste this precious gift. And like all mothers, I am very concerned about their academic performance and I try to follow them up on this, though I personally think that the cultivation of their character is more important than academic performance.

How do you cope with the difficulties that crop up?

Every day I try to attend Mass after work and pray for a while before going home. In the Mass and prayer, I offer up to God all that makes me happy, and entrust all that I find difficult. The strength I draw from the Mass and prayer is a great help to me, because with this strength, I am able to face everything. This attitude of prayer and trust in God is what I learned from St Josemaría and it has really helped me a lot.

What changes have you noticed in yourself?

From the initial flat refusal to those invitations till today, I have come a long way. What I most deeply appreciate is God's patience towards me. He arranged everything such that he could teach me and train me, while waiting for me to make a positive response. Counting on God's help and the freedom he gives us, I feel very lucky to have been able to choose the right path for me and to become a member of Opus Dei.

I have had many opportunities to benefit from the spirit of St. Josemaría and the experience of other members of the Opus Dei, and to come to know the importance of prayer and communication with God. I have learned how to really live in God's presence. At times, I find the pace of life really hard, but with the power of prayer, I find the courage to face up to all kinds of problems and difficulties, without giving up. This is my biggest change; better yet, it is my greatest gain!

An Acrobat in Las Vegas

Grzegorz Roś, from Poland, is 29. He works as an acrobat in Las Vegas. "My profession allows me to entertain people and to 'amuse' God," he says. Grzegorz is a cooperator of Opus Dei.

2009/09/03

What exactly is your work?

I'm one of 85 acrobats who take part in a show called "Le Rêve" (The Dream). The director is Franco Dragone. It's a spectacular show that could take place only in Las Vegas. With a pool as the setting, we combine sport and art at a high level of technical proficiency. Many of my companions are world famous acrobats who have won medals in international gymnastics, acting, dance, and music competitions.

How did you discover your talent?

I started performing acrobatics as a child; it's a popular sport in my hometown, Złotoryja, Poland. My trainers suggested that I take it up as a career, and with a friend, Tomasz Wilkosz, I created an acrobatic duo. When we heard about a new production on the other side of the Atlantic, we went to Paris for an audition and were accepted.

How is your life in Las Vegas?

Life in Las Vegas is intense. People come here from all over the world, from many cultures, religions and convictions. For my colleagues, Christianity is just one more among these cultures and religions. This is truly a place where it's easy to forget the fundamental ideas that guide one's life.

At first sight, it could seem that this "city of leisure," situated in the middle of a desert, is the least appropriate place to find God and encounter spiritual peace.



Grzegorz performing in "Le Rêve"



"Le Rêve" includes more than 85 artists performing together

But it's not that way. Here I've learned to deepen my friendship with God in daily life, which in my case usually takes place on a trapeze or flying through the air, working with people with all kinds of different ideas.

Exactly what do acrobats do?

Perform pirouettes well, acting in unison, synchronizing our acrobatics with each other, and doing so day after day—it's not easy work. Sometimes we experience physical pain. But I think this work enables me to serve people, to help them rest, and even to "amuse" God. And so I try to put everything I have into each performance.

How did you get in touch with the Work?



A view of Las Vegas

Before coming to the United States, I received as a gift three books by St. Josemaría Escrivá: *The Way*, *Furrow* and *The Forge*. I asked for more information and got in touch with a member of Opus Dei in Las Vegas. Soon I began to take part in activities of Christian formation. Since then, between performances, I try to do some mental prayer every day.

My work requires a lot of almost routine repetition of the same exercises. That takes a lot of physical effort, concentration and precision. The spirit of Opus Dei helps me do my work better, since I know that God is the main spectator.

How do you see your future in Las Vegas?

Well, in this city the Work is still growing. We are few, but the need to be more is so evident that it fills us with eagerness. I cooperate with Opus Dei by prayer and by my apostolate. Bringing others to God is like acrobatic artistry: not everything depends on what you try to do, on your human abilities, although these are essential elements. I can't do much by myself; but with the others and God, I can.



Grzegorz attending a formational activity organized by Opus Dei in Poland

Favours granted through the intercession of St. Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer

Problems with documentation

I thank God and St Josemaría for having helped me in my professional life. I am a doctor, and decided to specialize. This particular entrance exam is long and very difficult to pass. When I started studying for the exam, I prayed to St Josemaría, and on the day of the exam I carried a prayer card with me, which made me feel calm and confident about myself and my knowledge. I passed the exam, thank God, but afterwards I had a lot of problems with the documentation I had to present in Mexico City. There was a deadline for sending the correct documentation, without which I would automatically be disqualified. I started feeling desperate because the reasons why my documents were not being accepted were beyond my control. However, thanks to God and St Josemaría, just days before the deadline I managed to contact the office in Mexico City and was told that my documentation was all in order. I was overjoyed, as if a weight had fallen from my shoulders. In February this year I start my specialization, and I will always keep St Josemaría with me to give me the strength to cope with the day-to-day work, in spite of all obstacles. And also to serve my patients with humility, kindness and simplicity, but above all to give them the help they are seeking.

Daniela Martinez, Mexico
February 2, 2010

St Josemaría heard my mother's prayers

I would like to tell you that more than 20 years ago, I had two operations for scoliosis. Two years ago I was diagnosed with lumbar arthritis. I had physiotherapy sessions and took medication to alleviate the pain but with no results. I consulted several specialists but the pain stayed with me. Day after day, pain was my faithful companion – but not my only one, since I found strength in the Holy Spirit, who taught me to make an offering of the pain. Ten days ago, my mother, anguished at this situation and at her inability to help me, searched for and found a picture of St Josemaría with a beautiful prayer. She prayed it for me with great inner strength. From that day on, I have not had any pain. I know that St Josemaría heard her prayer because I feel deeply happy. I give thanks with my whole heart to this great saint, the founder of Opus Dei, who interceded for me.

Olaya S., Chile
December 30, 2009

Light on the value of what I do

Before I finished my law degree in 2008 I was feeling discouraged, because the amount of work every day tired me and seemed meaningless. But then I read the writings of St Josemaría Escrivá, and I received the grace and enlightenment to realise that everything I did – work and study – does have value if I place those actions at the service of God and my brothers and sisters. This enlightenment was like taking a black veil off the eyes of my soul, and it gave me new zest in my daily activities. Now I'm a lawyer, and when I pray the Novena for Work I receive constant graces in my working life – more jobs, debts paid, and a greater stimulus to do my work well. I praise and thank God who, through St Josemaría's intercession, has blessed us so copiously, totally changing our view of daily work. I hope that an Opus Dei center will open soon in my city (I will definitely be one of the first cooperators!). Count on my prayers!

V.G., Brazil
January 15, 2010

A much-needed award

I want to thank St Josemaría for a favor received. Two months ago my husband died. This was a harsh blow to me because I wasn't even able to say goodbye to him. At that point I was coming to the end of the semester at university, and obviously, because of what had happened, I wasn't able to concentrate properly on the end-of-year exams. I prayed to St Josemaría to intercede for me because now I am going to have to fend for myself, to finish my degree to be able to earn my living and support my son. Before, I depended on my husband and was only studying for pleasure. Specifically, to be able to pay for my course, I needed to win an "Excellence" award, which requires average marks of 9.5. This was very difficult because of the problem with the end-of-year exams. So I asked St Josemaría to intercede for me to get the award, because it would be a pure miracle if I got the average marks I needed. The surprise came some days later when I received the missing results, and for each of the three subjects left I got a 10, which meant I got the award automatically. That was all due to the intercession of the founder of Opus Dei.

Dalila S., Mexico
December 29, 2009

To bring him to the faith

Last June 27th my family gathered together to celebrate my parents' 45th wedding anniversary. My parents were especially looking forward to the day as Saint Josemaría's feast day Mass was to be celebrated on the very day of their

anniversary in Ottawa's Cathedral. We were really hoping and praying that my eldest brother, who is not Catholic and very far from God, would attend along with the rest of the family. This seemed quite unlikely since his wife had said she would only come to the anniversary if she didn't have to go to the Mass. This and an argument with her husband made the atmosphere quite tense. That night I prayed very hard to Saint Josemaría. The following day at the Mass, my parents and I were overjoyed to see both my brother and his wife holding hands and even helping their nephew follow along. What's more they came on their own initiative without anyone even mentioning it to them. Since then this brother has been drawing closer to the family; even attending Mass during another family visit of his own accord and afterwards commenting on what the priest had said. I'm asking Saint Josemaría to bring him to the faith and happiness he is looking for.

E. C. Canada

November, 2009

We received payment for our work

I read about St. Josemaría and was drawn to his words. While browsing the internet I came across this website and read testimonies from people around the world. I was amazed at the stories of how St. Josemaría helped people with so many different issues. I opened up my work email and there completely out of the blue was an email from someone who had refused to pay my company money for a project that we completed. As this situation was going on for about a year we had just contacted an attorney to discuss our options. I was shocked that this happened and I remembered that many people mentioned a prayer card and Novena in their testimony. I began to pray the Novena every day during negotiations and today we received payment for our work. I will continue to pray to St. Josemaría to help me be successful in my business.

A. C., USA

January 13, 2010