

## events

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## 新聞摘要

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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

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## 新聞摘要

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## 懷緬已故同窗 — 若望保祿二世

年輕的卡羅爾華迪卡(Karol Wojtyła)早已熱衷祈禱  
Chiara Santomiero 撰

羅馬，2011年5月8日(Zenit.org) — 「那是1944年8月。當時華沙剛展開了納粹抗戰，沙比亞樞機主教(Cardinal Sapienza)決定收留修生在主教住所。這是我初次遇見卡羅爾華迪卡(Karol Wojtyła)。」 Kazimierz Suder主教用他平和的聲線，讀出眼前幾張小紙條上的段段回憶。

記者們則像一群等待考試的學生，安坐於餐椅的另一端。他們專誠來到克拉科夫(Krakow)，只為會見由當年克拉科夫不屈不撓的主教兼上任大主教沙比亞(Adam Sapienza)於德國侵佔波蘭期間一手創辦的秘密神學院八位學生之中唯一還在世的Kazimierz Suder主教。



Kazimierz Suder主教解釋：「被納粹德軍侵佔期間，只要有人向樞機主教表明自己渴望成為神父的意願，樞機主教就會告知他一切書目，讓他自行回家秘密研習。我們修生彼此從不認識。」

這一切防禦措施都是必需的。當年納粹德軍曾發現五位年輕人聚集在已關閉的神學院內，為此他們即時逮捕並槍殺五人，更將其他人押送至奧斯威辛集中營。自此，沙比亞樞機主教就把整個神學院隱藏於地下發展。

### 聆聽

年老的Kazimierz Suder主教身後掛著前教宗的相片，相中的卡羅爾華迪卡(Karol Wojtyła)正在托頭沉思。窗外環伺聖瑪利亞大教堂(Mariacka Basilica)的美景。50年前，若望保祿二世就委身在這裡，履行其精神領袖的職務。

「自當年八月的那一天起，卡羅爾(Karol Wojtyła)的面貌至今仍在我記憶中留下深刻印象。」 Kazimierz Suder主教說：「他穿著白色襯衫及厚厚的長褲，雙腳套上木屐。額頭但見明顯疤痕。後來，我才知道他曾被貨車撞傷過。」

「他是很好的同伴。」 Kazimierz Suder主教憶述道。「跟他溝通從未出現問題。」華迪卡「向來言簡謙厚，因為他喜歡聆聽。他只就事情表達意見，但從不將之強加於人。他總是努力去了解別人，而且從不說謊。」

年輕的華迪卡(Karol Wojtyła)樂於借出自己的筆記，而筆記的每一頁均寫上

耶穌及瑪利亞的名字縮寫。他亦慶幸自己能夠幫助朋友學習，但並非協助他們考試。一位同伴曾在測驗時向他問取答案，他只回答說：「專注此刻，懇求聖神，然後自己尋找答案。」

「他擁有誠懇的目光。」 Kazimierz Suder主教續說：「又有幽默感，而且喜愛聽笑話。」

「華沙抗戰失敗後，多位被迫逃難的神父來到主教住所。我們把房間讓給他們，自己則擠進平時用作上課的樞機講道室內睡覺。」

我們大家擠在一起共同生活的日子，讓很多年輕人緊密聚首，直到俄軍於1945年入城為止。「我知道華迪卡(Karol Wojtyła)在瓦多維采(Wadowice)出生，家人過身後，就與父親一同遷往克拉科夫(Krakow)。到父親於1941年去世，他就立志以成為神父為終身目標。」

### 苦難

年輕的華迪卡(Karol Wojtyła)還有另一特質足教同窗Kazimierz Suder主教畢生難忘：「他對人類的苦難總是相當敏銳。他把一切所得的都贈予貧民，而且往往非常低調，絕不展現自己的慷慨。」

Kazimierz Suder主教補充說：「除此之外，他亦天生擅於祈禱。」他常常手持玫瑰念珠祈禱，頸項亦總戴著加爾默羅的聖衣。「他不曾把神學研究與祈禱分開。對他來說，兩者已合而為一。晚禱後，前教宗總會帶同神學手冊或筆記留在聖堂內。將學習與祈禱融合為一，是他的獨特之處。」

Kazimierz Suder主教亦談及年輕人對沙比亞樞機主教的看法：他是教人引以為傲的納粹敵人，亦是波蘭抗戰的支柱。他總是伏於地上、伸開雙手祈禱，就如十字架一樣。

Kazimierz Suder主教再次轉向已故同窗的相片，前教宗若望保祿二世的笑臉現在掛於聖伯多祿大教堂(St. Peter's Basilica)的露台內。Kazimierz Suder主教謙遜地承認：「我從未做到如他一般專注地祈禱。」

### 羅馬之路

1946年11月1日，華迪卡(Karol Wojtyła)獲祝聖成為神父。翌日，他在瓦維爾大教堂(Wawel Cathedral)的聖倫納德聖堂(Chapel of St. Leonard)參與首個感恩祭彌撒，到11月10日，他就正式踏上瓦多維采(Wadowice)的祭台。

Kazimierz Suder主教提到：「同一星期，卡羅爾離開羅馬攻讀博士學位。直到當時，他只是在秘密神學院研習了兩年。」

前教宗若望保祿二世精采的一生，為改變其故鄉波蘭的命運作出了莫大貢獻，世界亦由此揭開新的一頁。

## 護士憶述若望保祿二世的最後一天，他如何背負受苦者的十字架

羅馬，2011年5月8日(Zenit.org) — 「他們在近中午時分致電給我，我急忙地趕到聖父的寓所，因為我擔心去到已經太遲，然而，他卻在等待著我。我馬上說：「早安，聖父，今天陽光充沛」，因為我知道他（尤其在醫院時）很喜歡聽我這樣說。」

這就是羅馬杰梅利綜合醫院前康復病房護士主管Rita Megliorin四月二日早上她被召喚到宗座住所時的憶述，當時若望保祿二世正在垂危中。

Megliorin女士星期五（四月二十九日）在羅馬的聖十字架大學給記者述說這些情況。

「我想他不曾認得我。他望著我 — 不像那個他慣常急於知道自己身體狀況的樣子；他只是親切地望著我，那目光觸動我。」她細述：「我即時把我的頭鑽進他手裏，讓我感受他最後的撫摸，我把他軟弱無力的手按在我面上，而他那時正注視著病床前，牆上掛著受苦基督的畫像。」



聽到在聖伯多祿廣場上聚集的青年的歌聲、祈禱聲及歡呼聲越來越變得大聲，Megliorin女士便問教宗的私人秘書斯坦尼斯瓦夫·扎維茲樞機，這些聲音會否打擾教宗「他卻領我到窗前說：『Rita，這些孩子到這裏來是為了向聖父問好。』」

### 光明

2005年1月是Megliorin女士首次在杰梅利綜合醫院與教宗見面。有一天，她如常地

上班，竟想不到教宗身處醫院裏，有人催促她到十樓，因為那裏有一個「非常重要的病人」。

她說與若望保祿二世在一起的時光，「就像在一個沒有時空限制的地方，感覺像在天堂一樣。」

「他在住院期間的數個月，每天早上，當我到他的房間時，他已經醒了，因

為他從早上三點鐘便開始祈禱。我會打開窗簾，對他說：『早安，聖父，今天陽光充沛。』他會轉臉望向我及給我降福。我便跪下，他會摸著我的臉。」這個程序就標誌著聖父每天的開始。「除此之外，我是一個頑固的護士，而他是一個堅持己見的病人。他要得到自己身體狀況的最新信息，尤其是他的病況及其嚴重性。如果他不明白，他會給我一個請求的目光，希望我給他解釋清楚。」

「他從不會停止研究關於人類的課題。我記得那些關於遺傳學的書，縱使他在病榻中，他仍經常用以參考及研究。」她解釋：「每天他會對我們說，每個問題都有解決方法。」

「他對弱小者特別關愛，就像每位父親一樣。例如，在羅馬Tor Vergata舉行的普世青年節，他向站在最後排的青年問好，因為他知道他們不可能看得清楚。在醫院時，他總是忙著與不是重要的人物在一起，卻甚少與傑出的教授為伍，他會關心弱小者的家人，也詢問他們是否有孩子在家中。」

她簡述：「教宗在綜合醫院裏忍受著可能是最艱苦的時刻，」並補充說：「為那些信天主的人來說，能夠幫助病人是一種恩賜。但為那些不信的人，這也是一個不平凡的經歷。」

### 今天更美好

當被問及有沒有一套關於華迪卡（教宗）生平的電影可以媲美他垂危時所經驗過的時刻，她反問在場人士有沒有經歷過抱著垂危父/母的時刻。之後，她很不得情願地回答：「我不能回應。」接著說：「沒有經歷過是不會明白的。」

另一個記者問死亡是否一個解脫。她答道：「死亡永遠不是一個解脫」「作為一個護士，我只可以說照顧是很有限的，超出這樣便變成英勇了。」

Megliorin的結論是：「在他（望保祿二世）生命最後的時刻，不單只背負自己的十字架，同時他亦背負所有受苦者的十字架。他滿心歡喜地這樣做，懷著希望地相信明天會更好。事實上，我想為他來說，這已是一個更好的今天的希望。」



## 聖施禮華的著作

路濟亞，一位年輕的母親，前銀行行政人員，為推廣聖施禮華的著作，在香港不同堂區舉辦了書展。

2011年11月13日

身處香港，我們希望能夠幫助更多人認識聖施禮華及主業會。故此，清泉出版社決定在不同堂區舉辦書展，從而令更多教友可以接觸到聖施禮華著作之中文版書籍。

鑒於教區已宣告今年為教友年，我們覺得在全港不同堂區舉辦書展將有助本地教友閱讀多一點靈修書籍，尤其是聖施禮華的著作。在我自己而言，這些著作給了我重大的啟示，令我獲益良多。我很相信這些著作不論在任何書店，將會成為暢銷書，每位讀者也可在閱讀這些書籍後得到益處。

首次書展於二零一一年一月九日在聖瑪加利大堂舉行，日期是由堂區神父所訂定，然而，巧合的是，一月九日正是主業會創辦人聖施禮華的生日，這真是個奇妙的巧合！從那個主日起，我們在不同堂區舉辦了多次書展。



陳淑儀，一位前銀行行政人員，將她的創業技能致力於推廣聖施禮華的著作。

根據我的經驗，我感覺到每次書展也不盡相同，從中，我更獲得了不少寶貴的經驗。當我每一次走進堂區聖堂預備書展時，我會先到聖堂作祈禱，祈求聖施禮華代禱。

在書展中，有堂區教友要求我們推介一些書籍作靈修閱讀，送給朋友、子女，或新領洗者等，的確，每年有很多慕道者領洗呢！在書展中，《我願意》往往是甚為暢銷的兒童書，若是幼兒的話，漫畫版的《流水終會穿過山嶺》也甚受歡迎。在某些堂區，《十字苦路》很好賣，而在另一



些堂區，父母手冊《羅盤》銷路也很不俗啊！不過，《道路》一書總是最好賣的，我想這是由於《道路》已售出超過數百萬本，並已被翻譯成三十七多種文字，是名乎其實的暢銷書！我只須提出這些數據，通常教友都會購買的。

除選購書籍外，顧客也有跟我們分享閱讀心得，有些說他們沒有時間飽覽家中所藏的靈修書籍，這不也是我們的遭遇嗎？怪不得這說法似曾相識，我們

不也遇過這問題嗎？又有些教友提到有些靈修書很沉悶，是的，我也有同感，我也曾遇過這情況，有些靈修書對我們平信徒而言，的確是頗為深奧的，因此，清泉出版社希望出版淺白易明，及容易理解的靈修書籍，供讀者選購。此外，還有一些教友詢問有關聖施禮華及主業會舉辦的靈修講座和避靜事宜，我們當然極為樂意回答呢！

除此以外，在書展義工方面，他們總是充滿熱誠的。他們之中有主業會會員，有主業會協助人，與及他們的朋友，和平信徒等。為了我們的目標，他們熱心幫忙，有的更請纓代清泉出版社向他們自己的本堂神父提出申辦書展之要求，我們對此深表感謝。

在書展過程中，我們變得更加親近。有教友告之，她購買清泉書籍後，於“臉書”網 (facebook) 中作分享，不多久，她的朋友會請她代為購買。聽到這消息，我們可樂透了，因為我們明白到，其他人也可藉著他們的朋友接觸到聖施禮華的著作，或是有關主業會的資訊，並於個別堂區之書展完結後，書展之精神也會於其他平台展現。

這正如聖施禮華在《道路》第831節中所說：「你是塊投入湖中的小石子。藉你的表樣和言語，你產生了第一個漣漪…這一個，造成另一個…另一個，又另一個…一個比一個大。」



## 如何在日常的行為中成聖

張薇(音譯)談及聖施禮華的訊息，為許多生活在世俗中的人，是一條找尋天主的途徑，每天嘗試改進自己多一些。

2011/11/28



我的名字是張薇，來自中國的北京，在德國的堤雅(Trier)攻讀藝術歷史。我是在四年前領洗的。為我來說，那是我一生中最重要的時刻。我是從一位義大利籍朋友那裏認識天主教信仰。他也對我提及主業會。

天主展示給聖施禮華主業會的訊息：即我們可以在日常生活中成聖，對我有極大的影響。主業會因着這神聖的靈感誕生，一條給所有在社會中生活及工作的男女都可以追隨的途徑，藉着每天的工作來改進自己。

這訊息經由聖施禮華傳給我們，教導我們如何透過工作、透過每天的日常生活，去追求完善。它清楚地指導我們怎樣藉着日常的事情成聖，時常記着這個理想，並且要嘗試把它活出來。



## 當我們祈禱時，生活會變得簡單好過些

王仲華(音譯)，在德國的一位中國學生

2011年12月5日

王仲華(音譯)來自北京，在德國攻讀。她道出為何會於2011年聖週六教宗本篤十六世在羅馬給她付洗



我是來自中國北京的王仲華，目前在德國留學。我透過我最好的朋友接觸到天主教信仰。自此，特別是在找到天主教信仰及主業會之後，我的生命徹底改變了。

對住在一個陌生的地方的中國留學生來說，生活有時會是十分困難的。我們遇到的障礙，遠遠超過其他人，尤其是在語言方面，還加上要面對遠離自己家人的孤獨。



但在認識聖施禮華後，我找到了一個解決的方法。

祈禱可以戰勝許多所謂的困難。對我來說，祈禱是個與天主的談話。祈禱不單是祈求我們所想要得到的東西，更準確來說，是使我們的生活變得簡單好過些。換句話說，把我們所行的路變得暢通無阻。

我非常感激聖施禮華，因為透過向他的祈禱，我得到所需的精神支持。我將於這個星期六領洗，成為一名天主教徒。我非常高興。十分感謝你，聖施禮華。



## 一位喜樂的生命鬪士

露芙柏嘉祿，一位育有六名孩子的母親，維護生命的領導者及天主教的皈依者，在她41歲時死於乳癌。從最近出版的一本書中能窺探她那短暫但豐盛的生命。

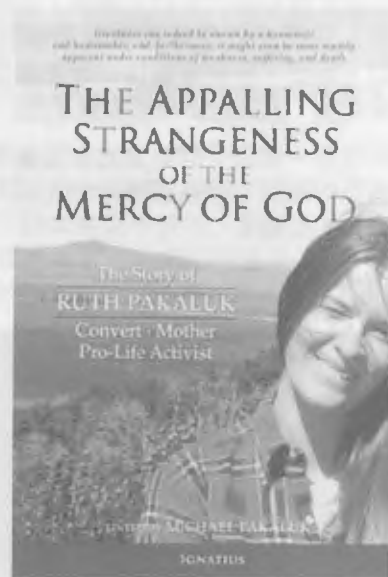
2011年9月6日

露芙，一位主業會的已婚會員，在41歲時死於乳癌。最近 Ignatius Press 特別為她出版了一本由她丈夫所編輯的書。書名為「天主的仁慈是何等的不可思議」。書中都是她的信札和文摘，內容充份展現了她的才華、深厚的信德和喜悅的精神。最後，並且以她給主業會協助人的數篇講義為結尾。

這書的序言是由哲學家彼得基庫所撰寫。他寫道：「在這書中你會遇見一位真正了不起的人。生命中，只有甚少的事情會比她所描述的更為珍貴。我誠邀你去認識這位生命的鬪士，她的筆桿尤勝死亡的刀劍。」

作家米高諾域也給與這書高度的讚賞：「我從未看過一本比它更美麗動人的書，一本描述怎樣以歡愉的生活來壓倒死亡帶來的憂傷；一本關於悲傷和快樂的書。」

以下是摘錄自德懷鄧肯在波士頓大教區的刊物「先鋒報」所撰寫的完整評論。



“天主的仁慈是何等的不可思議：露芙柏嘉祿 (Ruth Pakaluk) 的故事” 編輯：邁克 (Michael Pakaluk) 柏嘉祿，出版：Ignatius Press

## 「在喧嚷的孩子們當中綻放著喜樂」

德懷鄧肯

波士頓先鋒報 (2011年4月22日)

露芙柏嘉祿在1998年因乳癌擴散而英年早逝，享年41歲。她有七名孩子(其中一名夭折於嬰兒猝死綜合症)。她下嫁予邁克柏嘉祿，他是聖母大學哲學系的教授，也是波士頓先鋒報的專欄作家。Ignatius Press 剛剛出版了一輯她偉大的信集和講義，書名為「天主的仁慈是何等的不可思議」，此書是由邁克所編輯及撰寫傳記和備註的。

有人或者會認為在她的生命裏，烙印着兒子湯馬斯的早夭，接着是她自己的離世應是悲慘的。其實不然，它是一齣既神聖而又圓滿的喜劇，充份體現出「天主的仁慈是何等的不可思議」——是出自格雷厄姆格林的一本小說，她最喜愛的句子之一。

因為，這正是邁克在他的序言中所指出的一樣，露芙的生活是在日常生活的起落中不斷的轉變和喜樂。她對最微小的事物也表露出極大的愛心。正如教宗本篤最近談及聖德蘭 小耶穌一樣。賦於豐富的幽默感、強勁敏銳的領悟力、和具有震撼力的寫作風格，露芙令我想起偉大的美國作家佛蘭納里奧康納，他被托馬斯默頓媲美為索福克勒斯。

好吧，我的確是有些偏心的。我認識了露芙已有十年，我與邁克及柏嘉祿家庭相當熟稔。露芙，邁克和我都是主業會和維護生命運動的活躍份子，我們都擁有哈佛大學的學位。有時想起露芙或是邁克都是同樣地好笑的，他們尚未畢業便結了婚，不再是未婚人仕 (bachelor)。那，在他們畢業時又怎能接受甚 學士學位 (bachelor) 呢！接着，露芙在麻省的 Citizens for Life 那裏受聘為會長，服務了好幾年；好像母親及家庭主婦的工作 尚未能滿足於她。

以下是露芙在一個講座中談及的「生活計劃」，她說：“在你日常生活中的一套計劃 或一個規則用來去實踐祈禱和其他方面的靈修生活”。“這愛是天主真正期待的，這愛是真摯和值得的，這愛是在無數的清早起來，充滿歡樂，聆聽放學回家如雷動象群般的孩子們；帶着笑容迎接進入家門的丈夫和抑制着自己那急不及待想訴說緊張刺激一天的衝動。愛就是在這些無窮無盡，重複又重複的棄絕自我內加深和增長。

在1993年9月18日給朋友的信中，她寫道：「我完全明白妳在一天結束前那如釋重負的感受。母親們的渴望 - 每天如是，大約從下午4時開始，我和朋友潔蒂稱它是砒霜時段 (或是妳或是她們，但亦有人 能在茶點中度過!)。」

“無論怎樣，我們都掙扎熬過，熬過晚餐，熬過睡覺前的喧囂擾攘，在寫一封信（好像這封）或閱讀一至兩章書後便垮倒下來結束了這一天。但這是了不起的生活。依我看來，每一個人都會發現每天大部份時間是令人疲勞厭倦的苦事。不會因為妳是上班族這些疲勞厭倦就會變得輕鬆一點。

其實在我來說，上班反而令我感到受到制肘。很多人認為他們所賺到的金錢是能夠足以補償這些無盡繁重乏味的工作。我想我不會。

“家庭主婦有很多需要體能勞動和無盡繁重乏味的工作，還要操心孩子們的紛爭，和吵鬧等等。但我們比大部份人有較多的自由空間去思索和與朋友閒談。我無法想像會有一份差事比這更能令我稱心滿意。

教宗在這星期較早前說的一番話能清楚解釋露芙的看法：「實踐愛德是基督徒聖德唯一的途徑。」無論如何，愛德是要「如良好的種子，在靈魂內生長和孕育成果實。信徒一定要欣然聽命於天主的聖言和藉着它的恩寵，透過他們的工作實踐祂的旨意，時常參予聖事，特別是聖體和禮儀；他們要恆常祈禱，自我犧牲，熱心服務弟兄和鍛鍊德行。」（教宗本篤十六世 2011年4月13日通諭）

買這本書，細嚼它，它正合時宜：荷李活下月將會推出一部電影名為「潛在的巨龍」描繪主業會的創立和創辦人聖施禮華的早期生活。露芙的故事有類似的聖德，出眾的德行，在現代美國芸芸眾生中生活，她的故事，雖說是發生在此時此處，卻是永遠長存和璀璨的。待續……

德懷鄧肯是 *UMass School of Law Dartmouth* 的教授，擁有公民和教會法律的學位。

## 經聖施禮華的代禱而獲賜的恩惠

### 再次安睡

G. V., 意大利

2011年9月8日



過去我曾多次寫信來這網站尋求聖施禮華的緊急代禱。這一次我是寫信來表示感謝。

2006年的時候我被診斷出患有結腸癌，只剩下幾個月生命。那時我遇到一位來自主業會的朋友，他送給我一張印有聖施禮華肖像的祈禱卡。我用此去祈禱了兩年，而直到今天我仍活著，儘管我比較虛弱。PET-CT掃描顯示出我的腫瘤有正面的改變。

聖施禮華的祈禱卡幫助我繼續計劃我的人生，即使遇到我人生中悲痛的時候仍不會放棄自己。失眠的晚上是我祈禱的好時機。後來聖施禮華幫助我減少使用並直至停用嗎啡。讓我醫生很驚訝的是我只在短短兩日後就能停止使用它。通過我最敬愛的聖人，我開始在沒有安眠藥的幫助下能正常入睡。而且我只需在黃昏而不用在早上服用血壓藥。四十年來我飽受慢性失眠之苦而無藥可治，現在已兩年不用服食苯二氮安眠藥了。我得承認這個經驗提醒我不要放棄我的每日默禱，而且盡可能在聖體櫃前作默想。

幾天前我祈求大家替一名未出生的嬰兒祈禱，他的父母得知他可能患有唐氏綜合症。他是我兒子的第四個小孩。他已結婚五年。好像所有的災難都發生在我們身上，因為沒多久前我們失去了我們二十四歲的智障女兒。三天前我聽聞最後一次檢查已確認那嬰兒絕對沒有患唐氏綜合症。

最後，我希望請求我們最敬愛的轉禱者，聖施禮華，幫助我減去我因以上發生的事件而增加的10公斤體重。謝謝。

### 一星期內兩個奇蹟

中國，澳門

2011年9月3日

我是一個剛剛畢業正在找工作的畢業生。此過程其實讓我很沮喪，因為我的



身體情況為我找工作增添難度。幾次被拒絕的經驗令我失去希望，亦令我嫉妒其它人的正常生活。不過，因為我女朋友的鼓勵，我開始尋求聖施禮華的轉禱，助我找到工作。我持續向聖施禮華祈禱，希望他代我轉禱，助我找到一份合適的工作，好能為家庭的經濟作出貢獻。

兩天後我收到一間銀行的聘請，並要求我作入職前身體檢查。那時我意識到向聖施禮華祈求工作的九天祈禱卡的力量。我每天早餐前都會先作祈禱。幾天後銀行人力資源部通知我因為我的身體檢查結果，需要對我的情況再作跟進。那時我很沮喪，但我相信聖施禮華及我的女朋友。因此我繼續向聖施禮華祈禱。最後在上個星期，有兩個奇蹟發生。醫生告訴我我體內開始產生抗體，而我的身體情況亦開始改善。而且，我還收到銀行的聘請通知。這是我一生中一些極為震撼的時刻！

我對聖施禮華表示衷心的感謝，他幫助我明白祈禱的重要性，並讓我重拾希望。感謝天主讓我認識到忠誠的僕人聖施禮華，藉著他作為工具，我得到天主教信仰的恩賜，並通過聖施禮華讓我收到這個特別的恩惠。

### 真正的智慧及聖德

L.M.

2011年9月2日

最近我失去一份做了很多年，薪金不錯的工作。我的妻子給我一張「祈求工作的九日敬禮」祈禱卡Novena for Work，我用此作祈禱。後來我收到幾個面試機會，最後獲得聘請，開展了一份更高工資，及可媲美甚至比以前更好福利的工作。我失業的時間只維持了一個半月。對於我來說，對天主的信賴及聖施禮華的轉禱是我得到新工作的重要原因。我會繼續背誦及默想九日敬禮Novena 內的字句，因為它字裡行間充滿著真正的智慧及聖德。

### 兩次的恩惠

西班牙

2011年10月1日

藉著聖施禮華的代禱，我得到很多恩惠而要感謝主。以下是最近的一件事。

我是有糖尿病的，經過數次心絞痛和心臟跳動不規則後，醫生臨時性的診斷是冠狀動脈壁間血腫。醫生表示，他們將為我做心導管檢查，並在我心臟放進支架。我為這一意向聖施禮華祈禱，並且把附有他聖物的祈禱卡按在我心房上。他們做了一些初步的測試，但沒有作進一步的檢驗，因為醫生告訴我，我的冠狀動脈就像孩子般健康。我想感謝為我祈禱的每一個人，透過聖施禮華的代禱才会有這順利的結果。

### 第二部分

我剛給你寄出那篇關於聖施禮華為我的冠狀動脈支架手術所給予的恩惠。但我忘了說，在9月5日星期一那天上午，當我在祈禱時，我還不知道那天有什麼等待著我時，《鍊爐》其中的一點令我震驚，第529點寫道：「耶穌，我滿懷信賴心地躺在祢的懷裏，把我的頭躲在祢可愛的胸前，我的心觸動祢的心：凡事我都只要祢所要的。」那是上午9時，10點48分我便到了醫院。在那段時間，和在整個檢查過程中，《鍊爐》中的那句子給了我莫大的安慰。謝謝！

### 他對我有著聖者般的耐性！

西班牙

2011年7月30日



我曾是個無神論者，三年前，我才認識天主，這是我人生中最美好的事。在我還未有信仰的日子，我也曾懷疑過聖施禮華，但他對我無限的慈愛使我感到詫異。(…)那時我的朋友也不相信我的改變。(…)我希望讀到這訊息的人會求聖施禮華為我轉禱，因為我正在尋找工作。他是個那麼美好的人，我肯定他是非常接近主的。我可以說的是，聖施禮華萬歲！（他對我有著聖者般的耐性！）(…)不久前，我入了間聖堂，偶然發現關於聖施禮華的單張，讓我讀到他所教導的美好事物真令我萬分喜悅，真令我讚嘆不已。他是多麼的謙虛啊！有多麼大的能量去原諒他人和奮鬥！真非筆墨所能形容，但其實也可以的——這是多浩瀚的愛！是無條件的愛啊！我只希望那些與我以前一樣背離主的人，能發現有主（和聖施禮華）作嚮導這份真正的禮物。非常感謝你。請為我祈禱。願主保佑你。

## 一張撕裂了的聖施禮華的祈禱卡

阿根廷

2011年6月26日

有一天，當我在工作十分不濟，被經理和同事取笑、嘲笑和虐待時，我真的很絕望，我在工作地方中同一建築物的一個小聖堂中哭了一會。當我走進去時，我十分驚訝地看到一張撕裂了的聖施禮華祈禱卡，放在其中一張長椅上。它被撕開了一半，放在上面，猶如有個人憤怒地撕裂它後，感到慚愧而放在那裡。

我真的受不了。怎會有人把一張如此不可思議的卡撕破？所以我把它愛惜地放進我的銀包內。我感到聖施禮華，或至少他的相片，跟我一樣同受侮辱，並以某種方式，在我經歷困難時，通過那撕裂掉的祈禱卡，他陪伴在我身邊。在那時，我祈求他幫助我，在我的行業中，讓我找到一個更好的工作環境。四個月後，我便找到了。聖施禮華，感謝你一直陪伴著我！

## 比額外的幫助還要多

P. M. 澳門

2011年6月26日

我一直為我在澳門工作的語言中心尋找額外的人手。每年七月和八月，語言中心都會擠滿了密集的英語課程，所以，我們需要在清潔上得到額外的幫忙。在我們學校定期清潔的女士亦嘗試為我尋找多一個人幫忙，她問了3至4人，但她們都沒有空。同時我也不停尋找，但並沒有成功。那時已到了六月，工作亦越來越繁忙。那位清潔女士和我決定，我們一起向聖施禮華祈求。她甚至說：「當我們向他祈禱，我們必然會找到適當的人選。」然後，我告訴她，我會問一位在我望彌撒的教堂裏遇到的一位太太。

事實上，兩個星期前，彌撒後我曾跟這位女士交談了一會，得知她也是在其他地方作清潔服務的（...）。由於我跟她並不熟絡，我沒有信心去請她到我們學校清潔。但有聖施禮華的幫助，嘗試一下也無妨吧。

當我告訴她，我們需要額外的幫助時，她非常高興，因為她其中一的一位雇主剛剛在前一天離開了澳門。這意味著她需要到另一地方工作以支持她的開支。她感覺我的要求非常及時。

在學校清潔了一些日子後，她被邀請到主業會中心參加月省。她同意了，還帶了她的姐姐（...）。

感謝聖施禮華，他不僅給予語言中心在清潔上額外的幫助，我們還認識了兩位新朋友，並讓她們能多些認識聖施禮華。

## Classmate Remembers John Paul II

Young Wojtyła Was Already a Man of Prayer

By Chiara Santomiero

ROME, MAY 8, 2011 (Zenit.org) - "It was August of 1944. When the uprising in Warsaw against the Nazis began, Cardinal Sapieha decided to gather the students in the archbishop's residence. That was the first time that I met Karol Wojtyła."



Monsignor Kazimierz Suder reads the memories recorded in tiny script on the white pages before him with a calm voice. On the other side of the table, like students awaiting an exam, were the journalists who had come to Krakow to meet the sole surviving member of the group of eight young men who made up the clandestine seminary organized during the German occupation of Poland by the indomitable archbishop of Krakow, Adamo Sapieha, the city's last prince-archbishop.

"During the Nazi occupation," Monsignor Suder explained, "when a man expressed to the cardinal an intention to become a priest, the cardinal told him what to study at home in secret. None of us knew the others."

This was a necessary measure after the Nazis found five young men staying in the seminary that they had closed; they arrested and shot them, while others were deported to Auschwitz. After this Cardinal Sapieha took the seminary underground.

## Listening

On the wall behind the elderly priest hung a portrait of Karol Wojtyła in a thoughtful mood, with his chin resting on his hand. From the windows of the room there is a view of the Mariacka Basilica where 50 years ago he carried out his work as a spiritual director.

"The image of Karol on that August day is still much impressed on my memory," Monsignor Suder said. "He had a white shirt and pants made of thick material with wooden clogs on his feet. A scar was evident on his forehead. Afterward, I found out



that he had been hit by a truck."

"He was a good companion," he recalled. "He didn't have problems with communication." Wojtyła was "modest in speaking insofar as he preferred to listen; he gave his opinion on issues but he didn't impose it, he tried to understand the other person; he never lied."

The young Wojtyła lent out his notes -- each page of his notebooks marked with the initials of Jesus and Mary -- and he gladly helped friends with their studies, but not with exams. In response to one companion who asked for the answers during a test he said: "Focus for a moment, ask the Holy Spirit and then try to give the answers yourself."

"He had a serene gaze," Monsignor Suder continued, "and a sense of humor; he liked listening to jokes."

"After the failure of the Warsaw uprising, the priests who had to flee the city came to the archbishop's residence and we gave them our rooms and all slept together in the cardinal's audience room, where we also had classes."

This period of very close common life that continued until the Russians arrived in 1945 brought many of the young men close together. "I knew that he was born in Wadowice, that he had come to Krakow with his father after all of his family died and that after his father, too, died in 1941, he decided that the purpose of his life was the priesthood."

### Suffering

Another characteristic of the young Wojtyła that remained alive in the memory of his classmate was "sensitivity to human suffering. He gave the poor everything he received but with great discretion so as not to make a show of his generosity."

"Above all," Suder added, "he had the gift of knowing how to pray." He almost always prayed on his knees with the rosary in his hands and the Carmelite scapular about his neck. "He didn't separate the study of theology from prayer; for him it was all one. After night prayer he would remain in the chapel with the theology manual or the notebook. Connecting study with prayer and vice versa was one of his characteristics."

The monsignor also spoke of how the young men would see Cardinal Sapieha -- a proud opponent of the Nazis and support of the Polish resistance -- prone on the floor in prayer with his arms extended in the form of a cross.

Turning again to the photo of his old classmate, whose smiling face now has hung from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, he admitted with humility: "I never succeeded in achieving the concentration that he had in prayer."

### On to Rome

Wojtyła was ordained a priest on Nov. 1, 1946. On the following day he celebrated his first Mass in the Chapel of St. Leonard in the Wawel Cathedral and on Nov. 10 in the parish of Wadowice.

"In the same week," Monsignor Suder noted, "Karol left for Rome for the doctorate, after only two years of study in the seminary."

The great adventure that would contribute to changing the history of his country and the world had begun.



## Nurse Remembers John Paul II's Last Day

**Says He Took on the Cross of Everyone Who Suffers**

By Mariaelena Finessi



ROME, MAY 1, 2011 (Zenit.org) - "They called me in the late morning. I hurried because I was afraid that I would not arrive in time. Instead he was waiting for me. 'Good morning, Holiness, it's sunny today,' I said to him immediately because it was what he liked to hear when he was in the hospital."

This is how Rita Megliorin, former head nurse of the recovery ward at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic, remembers the morning of April 2 when she was called to the papal apartment, to the sickbed of John Paul II, as he was dying.

Megliorin made her remarks Friday to reporters at Rome's University of the Holy Cross.

"I didn't think that he would recognize me. He looked at me. It wasn't that inquiring look that he used to have when he wanted to know immediately how his health was. It was a sweet gaze, which touched me," she recounted. "I felt the need to put my head on his hand, I allowed myself the luxury of receiving his last caress, laying his powerless hand on my face while he fixed his eyes upon the picture of the suffering Christ that hung on the wall in front of his bed."

Hearing the increasing volume of the singing, prayers, and acclamations of the young people in St. Peter's Square the nurse asked the Pope's secretary, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, if the noise didn't bother the Pope. "But he, taking me to the window, said: 'Rita, those are the children who have come to greet the father.'"

### Light

Megliorin first met the Pope at Gemelli in January 2005. Coming to work one day, and not thinking about the Pope being there, she said that she was told to make haste to the 10th floor because there was "an important patient."

"Think," she said, "of a place where there is no space and where there is no time, and think only of a lot of light." This is what it was like being with John Paul II.

"During those months, every morning I came into the room to find him already awake because he had already been praying since 3. I would open the blinds and say 'Good morning, Holiness, it's sunny today.' He would turn to me and bless me. I would kneel and he would touch my face." This was the ritual that started the Holy Father's days. "Beyond that I was an inflexible nurse and he was an inflexible patient. He wanted to be updated on everything, the sickness, its gravity. If he didn't understand, he would give me a look that suggested a request for a better explanation."

"He never ceased to study man's problems. I remember the books on genetics, for example, that he consulted and studied attentively, even in the condition that he was in." "Every day," she explained, "he told us [that] 'every problem has a solution.'"

"And like every father he had a love for the weakest. For example, at WYD in Rome at Tor Vergata, he greeted the kids who were in the back, thinking that they weren't able to see much. In the hospital, too, he occupied himself with unimportant people and not with the great professors, he asked about their families, if they had children at home."

"The Pope endured what were perhaps the most difficult moments at the Polyclinic," she observed, but added that "helping the sick is a gift, at least for those who believe in God. But it is a singular experience for non-believers too."

### Better today

Asked whether any particular film about the life of Wojtyla corresponded to what really went on in his dying moments, she responded with the question of whether anyone in the room had held a dying parent in their arms. "I can't answer," she said reluctantly. "Whoever hasn't experienced it can't understand."

Another reporter asked whether death was a relief. "Death is never a relief," she replied. "As a nurse, I can only say that there is a limit to care beyond which it becomes heroic."

John Paul II, "in the last moment of his life," Megliorin concluded, "took up his cross, taking on not just his own [cross] but that of all those who suffer. He did it with the joy that is born of the hope of believing in a better tomorrow. In fact, I think that for him it was already the hope in a better today."



## Reading Saint Josemaria in Hong Kong

Lucia, a young mother and former bank executive in Hong Kong, has organized numerous book sales for the writings of Saint Josemaria at parishes all around the city.

August 29, 2011

Here in Hong Kong we wanted to help more people to get to know St. Josemaría and Opus Dei. So we decided to offer people the chance to read the books of St. Josemaría in Chinese.

The diocese of Hong Kong has declared this year the *Year of the Laity*, and we thought that book sales at parishes would help lay Catholics read more spiritual books, in particular, the books written by St. Josemaría. These books have been an inspiration for me, and I have always thought they should be best-sellers at book shops and can benefit all the Catholics of Hong Kong as well.



The first book sale took place on January 9, 2011, a date chosen by the parish priest. I learned only later that this date is the birthday of St. Josemaría. What a wonderful coincidence! Since then, we have had many more book sales.

From my experience, each book sale is slightly different. I must say that I learned a lot from these experiences. Each time I went to a parish church for a book sale, I would visit the tabernacle and say a little prayer and ask St. Josemaría to intercede for us.

Some parishioners would ask me to recommend books for their spiritual reading. Some would buy them as gifts for their friends, their children or for special occasions, such as baptisms, as there are quite a number of adult baptisms here. For the kids, the book 'Yes' is the most popular, and for younger kids, the comic book about St. Josemaría seems appealing. In some parishes, the *Way of the Cross* is popular, while in other places, the books on parenting sell more.

Nevertheless, we always find that *The Way* is a "best-seller" in many parishes. And

personally I find *The Way* easy to sell. I just need to mention the millions of copies that have been sold and that the book has been translated into 37 languages. These facts usually quickly result in a sale.



Lucia Kwong, a former bank executive, put her entrepreneurial skills to work distributing books of St. Josemaría.

The customers also spend time in sharing their experiences with us. Quite a few tell us that they have a lot of spiritual books at home, but they don't have time to read them. Doesn't this sound familiar? Other customers told us that they found spiritual books very boring. Well, I have encountered this before, because some books really are "heavy" and not that easy for a lay person to swallow. We hope to have more books that are 'user-friendly.' That is why we try to provide these books through Spring Publications.

Some customers ask us questions about Opus Dei and our founder. A few ask about the dates of retreats and about the doctrine classes. I am more than happy to respond to all these questions.

I also see the enthusiasm of those who volunteer to help us in the sales booth. The volunteers are faithful of the Prelature of Opus Dei, or cooperators or other friends. I can see that they are eager to help, and they often offer to speak to priests of other parishes in order for us to hold book sales there.

Through this initiative, people have been brought closer together. One customer told us that she posted on her Facebook account the books that she bought and a few friends ordered some of them through her. We are thrilled to hear about such requests, knowing that the sale does not end there, but continues as more people read the books through their friends.



I guess it is like what St. Josemaría said in *The Way* (point no. 831): we are like the stone that falls into the lake and that "produces a first ripple ... and then another and another ... each time wider."

## How to become holy in everyday things

**Wei Zhang is Chinese, and is studying in Germany**

August 18, 2011

*Wei Zhang talks about how St Josemaria's message is a path for many people to find God while living in society, by trying to be better every day.*



My name's Wei Zhang, I come from Beijing in China, and I'm studying History of Art in Germany, in Trier. I was baptized four years ago. For me that was a key moment in my life. I learned about the Catholic faith from an Italian friend. He also told me about Opus Dei.

The message of Opus Dei, which God showed to St Josemaria, that we can become holy in everyday life, had a big effect on me. That was the divine inspiration that produced Opus Dei, a path that many men and women can follow, people who live and work in society, and try to be better every day through our work.



At Piazza Navona, Rome

The message passed on to us by St Josemaria shows us how, through work, through everyday life, we can seek for perfection. It shows us clearly how to become holy in everyday things, keeping this ideal always before our eyes and trying to live up to it.

## Life becomes simpler when we pray

**Zhonghua, Chinese student in Germany**

September 16, 2011

*Zhonghua Wang is from Beijing and studies in Germany. She tells how she comes to be baptized by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome, during the Easter Vigil, 2011.*



I am Zhonghua Wang from Beijing, China. I'm currently studying in Germany. I met the Catholic faith through my best friend. After that encounter, especially after finding the Catholic faith and Opus Dei, my life changed drastically.

Because for us life is very difficult sometimes in a foreign country, living in a strange place. We find very many obstacles, much more than other people. Especially the language, loneliness, being far away from our families.

But I have found a way after getting to know about St Josemaria. Many so-called difficulties can be overcome through prayer. Prayer for me is a dialogue with myself and above all with God. It's not only about getting what we want through our prayers, but rather about our life being simplified through praying. In other words, the road we travel becomes clearer.



I am very grateful for the spiritual support of Saint Josemaria through prayer. I am really happy that this Saturday I'm going to be baptized a Catholic. Thank you very much, Saint Josemaria!

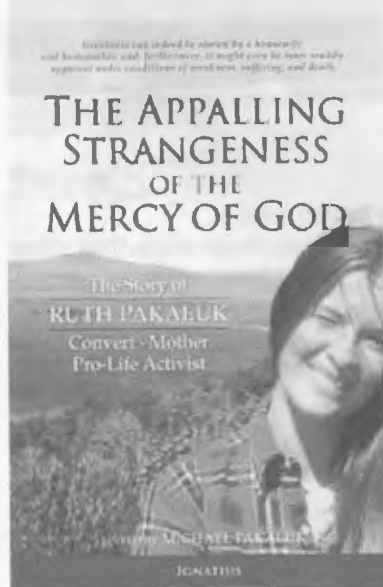


## A Joyful Warrior for Life

Ruth Pakaluk, a mother of six, pro-life leader and Catholic convert, died from breast cancer at the age of 41. A recently published book gives a glimpse into her short but fruitful life.

September 06, 2011

"The Appalling Strangeness of the Mercy of God: The Story of Ruth Pakaluk," edited by Michael Pakaluk. Published by Ignatius Press.



*"The Appalling Strangeness of the Mercy of God: The Story of Ruth Pakaluk," edited by Michael Pakaluk. Published by Ignatius Press.*

Ruth, a supernumerary member of Opus Dei, died from breast cancer at the age of 41. "The Appalling Strangeness of the Mercy of God," published by Ignatius Press and edited by her husband Michael, is a collection of Ruth's letters that show her intelligence, deep faith and joyful spirit. The book concludes with several talks she gave for cooperators of Opus Dei.

The book has an introduction by philosopher Peter Kreeft. He writes, "In this book you will meet a truly wonderful person. There are few things in life more precious than that. I invite you to meet a warrior for life whose pen is mightier than death's sword."

Author Michael Novak also praised the book highly: "I have never read a more beautiful and touching book -- a book about a joyous life and overpowering death, and grief and joy."

Reprinted below is a full review by Dwight Duncan from "The Pilot," the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston.

## "Radiating joy amidst the screaming kids" Dwight G. Duncan

Boston Pilot, April 22, 2011

*Ruth Pakaluk died of metastatic breast cancer in 1998 at the youthful age of 41. She had seven children (one of whom died of sudden infant death syndrome), and was married to Michael Pakaluk, professor of philosophy at Ave Maria University (and columnist for The Boston Pilot). Ignatius Press has just published a magnificent volume of her letters and talks entitled "The Appalling Strangeness of the Mercy of God," edited with a biographical overview and notes by Michael.*

One might think that her life, marked by the untimely deaths of her son Thomas, followed by her own, was tragic. Actually, it is more a divine comedy that has a happy ending, manifesting "the appalling strangeness of the mercy of God," one of her favorite lines from a Graham Greene novel.

This is because, as Michael documents in his introduction, Ruth's life was one of continual conversion and joy amidst the ups and downs of daily life. She showed "the greatest love in the smallest things," as Pope Benedict recently said of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Gifted with a great sense of humor, a powerful and penetrating intellect, and a dynamite writing style, Ruth reminds me of Flannery O'Connor, the great American writer whom Thomas Merton compared to Sophocles.

Okay, I'm biased. I knew Ruth the last ten years of her life, and have always been close to Michael and the Pakaluks. Ruth, Michael and I were all active in Opus Dei as well as the pro-life movement, and we all had Harvard bachelor's degrees. Funny to think of Ruth (or Michael, for that matter) as a bachelor of anything, since they got married as undergrads. Ruth went on to serve as president of Massachusetts Citizens for Life for a number of years, as if being a mother and homemaker didn't give her enough to do.

Here's Ruth giving a talk on Plan of Life, "a schedule or a system for working prayer and other aspects of the spiritual life into your daily routine": "The love God is really looking for, the love that is true and that counts, is the love of ten thousand mornings of getting up, being cheerful, listening to the kids when they come in from school like

a thundering herd of elephants, and smiling at your husband when he comes in from work and refraining from rehearsing all the horrors of your day. It is these countless, repeated acts of self-denial that makes love deepen and grow."

In a letter to a friend dated Sept. 18, 1993, she wrote: "I understand completely the relief you felt at the end of the day. Mothers long for the same every day starting at about 4:00 p.m. My friend Katy and I call it the Arsenic Hour (it's either you or them, but someone's going to get it in the tea).

"However, we somehow drag ourselves through it, through dinner, through the bedtime bedlam, then collapse at the close of the day after maybe writing a letter (like this one) or reading a chapter or two. But it is a great life. As far as I can make out, everyone has the burden of finding a large part of the day a grind. Just because you experience this in a business suit does not make it more pleasant. In fact, it seems to me to make it less pleasant, because business suits are uncomfortable. A surprising number of people find the money they make adequate compensation for this experience of drudgery. I don't think I would.

"Housewives have lots of physical work and drudgery and the psychologically difficult task of listening to children fight, cry, and whine. But we have more free time to think our own thoughts and converse with our friends than most people ever do. I cannot picture a job that would be more appealing to me than this."

The pope could easily have been explaining Ruth when he said earlier this week: "Christian holiness is none other than charity, fully experienced." However, in order that charity might, "like a good seed, grow in the soul and there bear fruit, the faithful must listen gladly to the Word of God and, by its grace, carry out His will through their works, participate frequently in the sacraments, above all the Eucharist and the Holy Liturgy; they must constantly apply themselves in prayer, in the abnegation of their selves, in the active service of their brothers and in the exercise of every virtue" (Pope Benedict XVI, general audience of April 13, 2011).

Get this book. Read this book. It couldn't be more timely: A Hollywood movie out next month entitled "There Be Dragons" depicts the origins of Opus Dei in the early years of St. Josemaría Escrivá, its founder. Ruth's story is likewise one of holiness, extraordinary virtue, lived amidst ordinary concerns in modern America. Her story, though practically here and now, is nonetheless timeless and radiant. To be continued...

*Dwight G. Duncan is professor at UMass School of Law Dartmouth. He holds degrees in both civil and canon law.*

## Favors granted through the intercession of St. Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer

### Sleeping normally again

G. V., Italy  
September 8, 2011



I have written to your website several times in the past asking for urgent prayers through St Josemaria's intercession. Now I'm writing to express my thanks.

In 2006 I was diagnosed with cancer of the colon and given just a few months to live. At that point I met someone in Opus Dei who gave me a prayercard with a photo of St Josemaria and a prayer on the back to request favors. I prayed it for two years and I'm still alive, though rather weakened. The PET-CT scan showed a positive response to the tumor.

The St Josemaria prayer helped me to keep up my plan of life and not abandon it even during episodes of the worst pain. Insomnia meant that the night was a good time for prayer. Later on St Josemaria helped me to cut down and then stop using morphine. To my doctor's great surprise I ceased to need it after just two days. Through our dear Saint, I began sleeping normally again without the help of sleeping pills, just taking one tablet for blood-pressure in the evenings instead of the mornings. I have done without benzodiazepine for two years now, after forty years of chronic insomnia which did not respond to any medication. I have to say that this experience has helped me especially not to leave aside my daily meditation, and I make it before the Tabernacle whenever possible.



Some days ago I asked for prayers for an unborn baby whose parents were told he might have Down Syndrome. It is my son's fourth child; he has been married for five years. Every calamity seemed to be falling on us, since not long ago we lost our twenty-four-

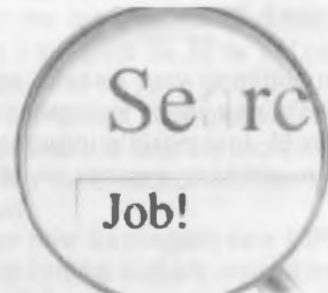


year-old daughter who was mentally disabled. Three days ago I heard that the last checks showed the baby has definitely not got Down Syndrome. Finally, I would like to ask our dear intercessor, St Josemaria, to help me lose the ten kilos weight I have gained during all the above events. Thank you.

### Two miracles in one week

Macau, China  
September 3, 2011

I am a fresh graduate who have been seeking for my first job recently. The process has been frustrating since I have a medical condition which may hinder me to get a job. Several failures in job application have made me lose hope and sometimes envy other people's normal life. However thanks to my girlfriend's encouragement I have begun to seek the intercession of St. Josemaría for finding a job. I kept praying to St. Josemaría and asking for his intercession to help me to get a suitable job so that I can start to contribute financially to my family.



Two days later I received an offer from a bank and the bank asked me to do a pre-employment medical check-up. At that time I realized the power of praying the novena of the prayer card of St. Josemaría and kept praying it before breakfast every day. A few days later the human resource officer called me again and said they needed to study my case further because of the result of the medical check-up. At that time I was frustrated but I trusted my girlfriend and St. Josemaría. Hence I continued to pray to him. Finally two miracles happened last week. The doctor told me that there is antibody developing in my body and that my medical condition is improving. Furthermore I was accepted by the company. This is one of the sensational moments in my life!

I would like to sincerely thank St. Josemaría for helping me to realize the importance of prayer and restoring my hope. Thank you my Lord for letting me know your faithful servant St. Josemaría who has been instrumental in my receiving the gifted Catholic faith and for this specific favor granted through St. Josemaría.

### True wisdom and holiness

L.M.  
September 2, 2011

I recently lost a job I had held for many years where I was making a good salary. My wife showed me the Novena for Work and I prayed it. I received several interviews and have an offer to start a new career at a higher salary with comparable if not better benefits. My time out of work was one and a half months. For me faith in God and the intercession of Saint Josemaría were keys in obtaining this new job. I will continue reciting and meditating the words of the Novena for there is true wisdom and holiness in those words.

### A Favor in two parts

M.M.V.G., Spain  
October 1, 2011

I have many favors to thank God for through St Josemaria's intercession. Here's the most recent one. I am diabetic and after several episodes that looked like angina and heart irregularity I was given a provisional diagnosis of intramural coronary hematoma.

The doctors said they would carry out a cardiac catheterism and put in a stent. I prayed for this intention to St Josemaria and put the prayer-card with a relic of his over my heart. They did some preliminary tests but then did nothing further, because, the doctor told me, I have coronary arteries like a child's. I would like to thank everyone who prayed for me through St Josemaria's intercession for this favorable outcome.

### Second part

I just sent you a favor granted me by St Josemaria regarding having a coronary stent. I forgot to say that when I was praying in the morning of Monday September 5, with no idea of what was waiting for me that day, I was deeply struck by a point from The Forge, no. 529:

"Jesus, I put myself trustingly in Your arms, hiding my head on Your loving breast, my heart touching Yours: I want what You want, in everything."

That was at 9 in the morning, and by 10.48 I was in hospital. For the whole of that time, and during surgery, that point from The Forge was a great comfort to me. Thank you!

## What saintly patience he's had with me!

P.L.G., Spain  
July 30, 2011

I was an atheist until I discovered God three years ago, and it's the best thing that ever happened to me. St Josemaria also surprised me by his endless kindness towards me, given that in my unbelieving period I doubted him too. (...) My friends just can't believe the way I've changed. (...) I would like to ask anyone who reads this message to remember to pray for me through St Josemaria's intercession, because I'm looking for a job. He is such a beautiful person, I'm sure he was very close to God. All I can say is, hooray for St Josemaria! (And what saintly patience he's had with me!)



A short time ago I went into a church and by chance found a leaflet about him, and I was incredibly happy to read the beautiful things he taught. I'm just amazed. What humility! What a great capacity for forgiveness and for struggling! I can't find words to express it. Actually I can – What a great capacity for loving! What unconditional love! All I want is for people who have turned away from God like me, to discover the real gift involved in having God (and St Josemaria) as their guide. Thank you very much. Remember me in your prayers, and God bless you!

## A torn prayer-card of St Josemaria

L.S., Argentina  
July 26, 2011

One day when I was going through a very tough time at work, getting laughed at, jeered at and mistreated by managers and coworkers, I went in despair to cry in a little chapel which is in the building where I work. When I went in I was surprised to see on one of the benches a torn prayer-card of St. Josemaría. It was torn in half and placed there on top, as if someone had torn it in anger and then felt sorry and left it there.

I just couldn't get over it. How could anyone tear up such a miraculous card?! So I took it and put it in my wallet with loving care. I felt as if St Josemaria, or at least

his picture, was suffering insults just like me. And in some way he was at my side through his torn prayer-card at those difficult times I was going through. At that point I prayed to him to help me to find a better place, in my field of work, and four months later I found one. THANK-YOU, SAINT JOSEMARIA, FOR BEING WITH ME!

## More than receiving extra help

P.M., Macau  
July 26, 2011

I was looking for extra help in the Language Centre in Macau where I work. Every year in July and August is busy with intensive English courses, so, we need an extra help in cleaning. The lady who cleans regularly in our school was helping me to look for another person, and she asked 3 to 4 persons, but they were not available. I was also looking but not successful. It was already June, and it was getting busier.



The cleaning lady and I agreed that we pray to St Josemaría. She even commented: "For sure, when we pray to him, we will find someone". Then, I told her that I will try asking a lady whom I see in the church where I attended Mass.

Actually, two weeks before that, I had brief conversations with this lady after Mass and I learned that she was also doing cleaning services in other places (...). Since I did not know her well, I was not confident to ask her to clean in our school. But with St Josemaría, it was a matter of trying.

When I told her that we need extra help, she was so happy because one of the persons she works for, just left Macau the day before I asked her. This means she needs another place to work for financial needs. She found my request very timely. After some days of cleaning in the school, she was invited to the centre of Opus Dei to attend a recollection. She agreed and brought her older sister (...).

Thanks to St Josemaría, not only did he grant the extra help in cleaning the Language Centre, but we also met two new friends who are getting to know St Josemaría.