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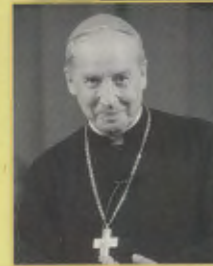
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新聞摘要

主業團東亞區資訊社所編輯之期刊
主業團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

2nd issue 2012 / 二零一二年第二期

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

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因主業團第一位繼任人---歐華路主教代禱而獲得之恩惠

讓這次嘗試暢通無阻



今天（7月7日）我因歐華路主教代禱而獲得一個恩惠，特此作見證；而今天亦是歐華路主教加入主業團的周年紀念日。

我的臨時駕駛執照將於7月14日到期，在六個月前已接到通知我不可以再續領到同類型的駕駛執照在澳門駕駛。因為我在澳門已經居住了幾年，有人曾經建議我去考取澳門的駕駛執照。早在兩個星期前，我到過一個政府機構，這個機構是負責簽發澳門駕駛執照的，那時，我才知道要拿到一個澳門駕駛執照並不是一件容易的事。我需要排期至少六個月，經由政府認可的駕駛學校

預約路試，換言之，我需要等候更長的時間才可領取到相關的駕駛執照。

今早，當我走近治安警察局時，我向歐華路主教祈禱，祈求他幫我領取到另一個為期六個月的臨時駕駛執照。我嘗試再去碰碰運氣，亦做好準備被拒絕。我求歐華路主教讓這次嘗試能夠暢通無阻。當到我遞交所需文件續領臨時駕駛執照時，我向那位警察長官解釋我的情況。而長官大概這樣說：「好吧，下次你需要領取澳門駕駛執照 ...」就這樣，不到三分鐘我便拿到了我的臨時駕駛執照！謝謝歐華路主教的代禱！

Zen, 中國
2008年7月7日

接踵而來的恩惠

我非常感激歐華路主教因他代禱而得到一個恩惠。數周前，一位朋友告訴我她因歐華路主教的代禱而獲得一個恩賜。令我吃驚的不單只是那個恩賜本身，而是我朋友只給與歐華路主教一天的時間去解決那問題。數天後，知道這件事的另一位朋友，也決定給歐華路主教一個指定的時間幫她找回不翼而飛的行李……而天主俯聽了她的禱告。

因為很多人在祈求得到當局的批准，讓坐落在羅馬的生物醫學校園能夠順利遷入新校址，我召集了一班人一起祈禱，祈求所有事情能夠在接着的星期四得以解決。那天，我們將會完成向歐華路主教祈禱的九日敬禮。星期四那天，我們不但收到消息知道所有事情已經解決，而且也知道新校址的開幕典禮已訂於11月28日舉行，當天亦是主業團成立為屬人監督團的周年紀念日。我這個恩賜還未完全地兌現，因為除了獲得當局的批准外，我亦為了所有在那裡工作的人祈禱，讓他

們得到聖化，也為了所有病人的益處而祈禱，但我深信歐華路主教已經盡力照顧所有一切。現在，我感謝天主及歐華路主教俯聽了我的禱告，也鼓勵了我祈求更多的恩惠，因為經驗所得，這些恩惠就像櫻桃一樣，是接踵而來的！

E.F., 意大利

要遵守的協議

我們的合約將會在四個月內到期，所有跡象似乎也在暗示那間公司不會與我們續約。對我們來說，那間公司繼續成為我們的客戶是非常重要的，因為我們大部份訴訟業務的收入來源是來自那間公司。可是，那間公司幾位新上任的經理，他們的態度卻令人洩氣，令我經常抱怨及公開批評他們的不是。基於那位新上任的總經理表現得漠不關心，而他也持有相關的律師執業資格，所以我們好肯定他們不會與我們續約。雖然我們已獲得其他有用的合約，但是我們亦需要依賴從這公司所得的穩定收入，以維持我們訴訟業務的日常開支及數位僱員的薪金。

有一天，我看完一本關於歐華路主教的「通訊」，我發現在他生命裡所發生的重要事件，大部份都是在三月份發生：他生於3月11日，辭世於3月23日，以及教廷左3月5日開啟了他的真福列品案。我們的合約將會在3月到期。「可是，」我告訴歐華路主教，「我們不能等到3月。我們需要你現在幫助我們解決這件事，即在聖誕節前。」這樣，我們便達成一個協議。我會開始向歐華路主教作一個九日敬禮祈禱，同時我盡量不再批評那個客戶，而歐華路主教便會照顧其餘一切。我亦答應一旦他們簽了合約，我便會盡快公佈這個恩賜。當我與同事提及此事和講解我與歐華路主教的協議時，他便與我聯袂一起作這個九日敬禮。

我們在星期日完成那九日敬禮，接着的星期二我們需要到那客戶的辦公室與他們相討一些問題。會後，那位總經理在我們提出續約的事宜前，他已告訴我們，他同意我們向他建議續約的費用，以及向我們索取新合約簽署。在交談中，他表示對我們的訴訟服務充滿信心，以及對我們表示熱切的感激——這是一些在數天前我們絕不會想像到的事情。在距離舊合約到期前的兩個月，我們已經獲得續約了。基於要遵守我的承諾，我現送上這封信以證明我從歐華路主教所獲得的恩惠。

J.A.V., 西班牙
2007年2月13日

我不會遺忘的一本書

在《生命與生活》(英國倫敦) 2012的春季發行本裡，在「我不會遺忘的一本書」環節中，刊載了Esther Bentley 對《道路》一書的書評。Esther在六十多年前首次閱讀這本書。



道路 施禮華著

2012年5月11日

「我閱讀這本書後，最終能夠感到平安」

寄自Esther Bentley, 86歲

William Court, 布里斯托爾

在我24歲那年我被確診患上肺結核，需要長期臥床。在此不久前我誕下一名兒子，他的名字叫若望。由於分娩時的困難，我變得過度虛弱甚至不能抱他。這個病摧毀我的身體及使我意志消沉，我開始失去希望。有一天，我向醫生吐露我害怕會死去。她溫柔地告訴我不害怕死亡，之後便借了這本書給我。

我對這本書不是特別有興趣，但也開始翻閱——很快我便書不離手。《道路》是由一位西班牙籍的天主教神父所寫的，他在2002年獲冊封聖人。他深信日常生活是可以作為成聖的途徑。這本書教導我們要為所擁有的而感恩以及將焦點放在好的事情上，而不是在壞的事情上。在過往的數月裡，這是我首次感到平安。那年的聖誕節，我可以起床及用膳，在四個星期後，我能夠有足夠的體力去照顧若望及給他付洗。

我仍然很喜歡這本書——它讓我改變我對生命的看法。

請聽，聖神在說話

我是癌症患者，五年前辛苦抗癌的時候，好友陳雪昭送我《道路》一書，給予我很大的安慰及鼓勵。

不久前，主業會的徐老師告訴我，聖施禮華原著的這本現代靈修經典《道路》中文譯本將再度修訂出版。

她並且邀我幫助校對。在退休前我一直擔任國文教師，改作文、挑錯別字是本業，當然義不容辭。

只是，那時我正準備作年度大檢查，心情忐忑不安。我跟徐老師說：大檢查及看報告的時間都已經安排好。她很體貼地問我：「還好吧？」我只有硬著頭皮據實以告：乳症科的醫師在檢查時面色凝重地告訴我，在我另一側摸到一公分的腫瘤，良性或惡性，待檢查報告出來就可知道，到時再作處理。



唉！抗癌的日子原本漫長，根本沒有真正的「畢業」。而我這幾年也作過大大小小的各種「處理」；聽到這訊息，不應該太緊張吧。可是還是會莫名其妙地想東想西，睡不好；而且好像刻意多吃，體重還是在下降……

不管這麼多了，該來的就讓它來吧！我很高興在這惶惶不安的時刻，有件可以全神投入的工作。於是我開始仔細、專注、認真地去校對這本我以前就讀過好多遍的《道路》一書。

說也奇怪，重新閱讀，竟然還是一樣新鮮，更親切，更有味，體會也更深刻。時常靈光一現，感動不已。不是誇張，彷彿真的聽到聖神在與我說話。如果你也像我一樣，一字一句細細探索，你就會明白我的體驗。最難能可貴的，你還會充滿聖神，白白得到一些啟示。

我們主內弟兄姊妹，閱讀聖經，總會期待著「厄里亞的微風」。閱讀《道路》，正有類似的感覺。藉著父兄、朋友、神師，聖神溫柔地在耳邊細語，鼓勵我們，帶領我們走上祈禱和愛主的道路。

外界的一切紛擾都靜止了。我在書中找到了光明及勇氣，深信天主就在身旁，祂不遙遠，祂愛我，祂也知道我愛祂。在聖神的護慰下，我聆聽祂的話語，跟隨祂的召喚與帶領，不掙扎、不抗拒，也不自作聰明。是的，作者聖施禮華以這本小書，在塵世中為我們平信徒開拓了一條成聖的道路。

最後，順帶一提，我的年度大檢查安全過關。感謝天主垂憐。醫師說：「是良性腫瘤，但還要繼續追蹤！」我有逃過一劫的感覺。其實，人人早晚都要去見天主的。我們應該更重視自己的靈修生活，準備好才去見祂，不是嗎？

霍慧珍
台北, 2012

向聖施禮華的敬禮

布宜諾斯艾利斯的偶遇



話說六年前，我在布宜諾斯艾利斯工作地點，距離我家只是300米的路程。因此我習慣步行上班。每天當經過同樣的樓宇，我會向在那裡工作的管理員們說聲“早安”或“晚安”。當中有一位從來沒有回應的。我想，再也不要向他打招呼吧！但回心想，如果聖施禮華處於我的位置，他一定會繼續向他問好，直至他有回應為止。於是，我選擇了每一次經過他的樓宇時，我會繼續慣常給他問好並為他默默祈禱。

終於，有一天他低聲以“早晨”來回應我。那天傍晚，當我再經過時，更停下來問他的名字。他微笑着回答「天使」。我們聊了一會，跟着我便回家去。自此以後，只要他遠遠望見我來到，便會連忙跟我打招呼！有時候因為工作實在太忙碌，反而我會匆忙地走過。

你將會迷失你自己的

在那段繁忙的日子裡，有一次，當他看見我路過時，便停下了他掃地的工作，擋住我去路，很嚴肅地說：“你不能這樣走路的。低著頭，滿腦子都是焦慮和操心，這樣下去你將會迷失你自己的！”（他指著自己的頭，彷彿說你將會發瘋似的）。“你需要看看你週邊美麗的事物，看看那株樹，你聽見那鳥兒嗎？”他不斷地向我舉出更多天主放在我路途上的奇妙事物，讓我學習如何去默想它們。我明白到天主將這個人（這位「天使」）放在我的路途上，使我了解到我不應該單單為了工作而工作，而是應該去學習如何默想祂。我告訴「天使」說我從聖施禮華那裏學懂了可以從自己的工作中去默想天主，那正正是從這些簡單的細節上開始的。我送了他一張祈禱卡，和答應借出關於我所說的這位偉大聖人的影帶給他看，當天的黃昏我帶了給他。

翌日

第二天，我很期待去問他看後有甚麼感想，並想像著我應可以鼓勵他去辦告解。但出乎我意料，他不在那裡，而最不尋常的，是他辦公室的門也關上了！到了傍晚，門仍然緊閉，接下來的一天也是如此。到了第三天，我看見他如常地在掃地，但面帶倦容和悲傷。我向他打了個招呼；正想問他這兩天去了何處時，他已經急不及待地向我道謝了那影帶並說道：“我的妻子在前天逝世了。你不是

會想像到那影帶對我有何大的幫助。我看後向聖施禮華傾訴了很多，這在我來說是很重要的。現在我知道我妻子已經快樂地與天主在一起，而我更要為邁向聖德的生命去努力和奮鬥，以便他日我也能夠擠身在天堂中。”我們繼續談到他的家庭、兒女和諸聖相通功。他雖然是疲倦，但卻相當平靜。他還要求我可否把影帶借給他多幾天。接下來的日子，我們有更多的傾談。自從我向他談及「修和聖事」和「彌撒」後，他恢復了實踐他的信仰。他向我索取了更多的祈禱，並轉送給他工作時所遇到的人。

懷着一個前程未卜的心境去羅馬

幾年後，我正在預備到羅馬進修。如果這是天主的旨意的話，我將會晉鐸成為主業團的神父。我向「天使」提及這事。雖然我對自己的前景一事還是不太清楚，他卻肯定了我能夠晉鐸，而且還說天主將要藉著我的牧職去幫助更多人。他更說：“我將會在這裡等候著你穿上神父祭衣，昂首地歸來！”我去到羅馬後與他保持書信來往。我經常鼓勵他持守信仰，他也從未間斷地告訴我他經常對著我們父親的祈禱為我及我在羅馬的同儕們祈禱。

在我晉鐸的那一天，我雙親給我帶來了他的信，（我不知道他們是怎樣相遇的，然而他在他們離開羅馬前數天便交了這封信給他們）他在信中告訴我他天天為那些在羅馬進修的人祈禱；而且在晉鐸那天，他會比平時更加倍努力地為我們晉鐸者祈禱。

我早就告訴了你！

幾個月前，我回到布宜諾斯艾利斯，並前往探望他。他看見我身上的神父祭衣時很感動，並說：“我早就告訴了你！”我向他道謝他的祈禱和書信，當我鼓勵他繼續請求聖施禮華代禱時，他拍了拍外衣袋裏的那張聖施禮華祈禱卡說：“他陪伴著我到處去！”

P. M. C布宜諾斯艾利斯、阿根廷
2012年5月30日

我遺失我的皮夾兩次

我要跟你們分享一件今天下午發生在我身上的事，我和我的助理Jacky到基隆和平島，將考古挖掘站從承租的辦公室搬到里長辦公室，這是里長免費提供的。



中午12:50我們在台灣大學正門口搭乘開往基隆的巴士，大約1:35到達基隆，由於等不到101路公車，我們決定改搭計程車以便趕上下午2:00約定碰面的時間。這次的車資比上次便宜多了，只要台幣120元，所以我從皮夾取出100元，另外從小錢包取出20元來付車資。

搬到新的挖掘站後，我把袋子放在一個角落以方便我的工作，有些印尼外勞幫助我們組裝的工作，大約下午四點我們準備離開的時候，我發現皮夾已不在袋子中的固定位置，我們回去里長辦公室也找不到，所以只有兩個可能：掉在計程車上或是被偷。

在離開和平島之前我去李先生住處討論有關挖掘預算的事（李先生是雇用外勞的人），並像他提起掉皮夾的事情，他說這些外勞非常誠實，不用懷疑他們。在前往基隆巴士站時我想起前兩個月發生的事情，我想起我曾經跟Jacky提過我曾經掉過皮夾而幸運地失而復得；事情是這樣的，那天下午3:30我到國立台灣師範大學去見Ann Heylen 教授討論一些荷蘭文件的手抄本及翻譯，那是有關於西班牙人 在和平島的事蹟，這也是和考古挖掘有關。

下午約4:30我回到台大時發現皮夾不翼而飛，我的另一個助理Felipe Wu協助我找遍了整個辦公室還是找不到，最可能的情況是當我騎車穿越校園時，它從我的口袋中掉了出來，Felipe約在5:30時打電話給我，當時我已離開台大，他告訴我有人在師大正門口撿到了我的皮夾，但那人現在在板橋，Felipe很好心地替我取回了，皮夾內的證件也原封不動，那個人婉拒任何的酬謝，我實在被台灣人的誠實與友善所深深感動。

就我的記憶，這是我掉皮夾僅有的兩次，而我現在也五十歲了，經由第一次的經驗我很天真地相信會有人再打電話告訴我皮夾找到了，而事情真的發生了，我的皮夾是掉在計程車內，而司機就近將我的皮夾交給了海洋大學的前門警衛，這警衛在晚上十點前打電話告訴我並將皮夾郵寄給我，我再次被台灣人民的誠實所感動。

但更讓我印象深刻的一件事，是在晚上9:50（約皮夾遺失了七小時後）依然音訊全無，我便準備開始向我最敬愛的聖人—聖施禮華（主業會創辦人）祈禱，當我正取出祈禱卡向他尋求幫助的同時電話響了，我知道有人來告訴我皮夾找到了，海洋大學的警衛表明他自己的身份，也尋問我的名字，我迫不及待地詢問他：「是不是你撿到了我的皮夾？」，他回答：「是的」，我還沒有向聖人祈求協助尋找，我只是感謝他的代禱，以這種奇妙的方式結束2011年。

鮑曉鷗

台北2011年12月30日

離鄉別井……是為了返回我的家庭生活中

當我18歲的時候，我常常幻想自己與白馬王子結婚。我們會有兩個孩子，而我會擔任一本著名雜誌的駐外記者。但是最後我想像的小說與我所期待的有些不同……

2012/06/11

我的名字叫 Ana María Gálmez，我真的和我的白馬王子結婚，我們一見鍾情。婚後30年了，我的丈夫仍然令我深深地傾倒。我們真的生了孩子，不是我想像的兩個，而是七個。我雖然唸完新聞學，但是我沒有成為駐外記者。最後從事一些關於溝通策略的工作，而當我意識到將由我「當家作主」的時候，我的生命突然間發生了巨變。

我在智利生活了差不多半個世紀，較年長的孩子與我同住，有些即將結婚，而我竟然成為西班牙的「外僑」。在智利我還有最好的朋友、父母、兄弟姊妹及幾個女兒，也放棄了我的工作，為了陪伴我丈夫去面對挑戰他的新事業，簡而言之，重新開始。

我跋涉了「千山萬水」（正如這邊的人喜歡說的），來到西班牙，以為自己的新生活會很像我留在智利的的生活。可是，很快地我便發現自己從裡到外、完完全全地投入一份經常只有在紙上談兵，而很少實踐的工作：管理家務。

一個溫馨而親切的家庭

在馬德里的頭三年，我經常與內心的魔鬼搏鬥，並說服自己做了一個正確的選擇（沒有人強迫我），去接受這份天主似乎在召我去做的工作：百分之百地投入家庭生活，並從世上隱退。

起初是滿難適應的。正如好多我這一代已婚的婦女一樣，我潛意識地恐懼家庭，就如Betty Friedan——一個國際性婦女運動「現在」的創辦人常說的，是一個「舒適的集中營」。這個口號陪著我們很多的婦女成長，就像綿羊逃避豺狼一樣，我們逃避廚房及浴室。



但是過去這幾年讓我明白一個溫馨而親切家庭的重要性。能夠營造家庭的溫暖，讓每人（丈夫、兒女、朋友）在那兒可以放鬆及恢復體力，一定得有人盡力去確保這個使命。我現在比從前更肯定這是我們母親的工作。

一個充滿生氣而喜樂的家庭

作為一個主業會已婚會員已經有30年了，我發現聖施禮華的這些話語非常受用：「當我想到基督徒的家庭，我喜歡想像它們充滿著生氣和喜樂，就像聖家一樣。」近年來，我能夠將理論實踐出來，讓我可以幫助新認識的朋友能夠找到天主，無論是在廚房裡，在照顧他們的子女時，在陪伴年老的父母時，在每日奔波接送孩子往返家時……這些家庭的溫暖能夠吸引很多人去尋找避難所、慰藉及感情，尤其在現今的社會中，最大的貧窮莫過於孤獨。

為我來說，致力於打理家務讓我很快地投入新的國家，就像任何真正的“拉丁美洲人”一樣，我喜愛邀請朋友到我家玩。不管是預備一頓飯；安排我兒子同學的母親來我家品嚐咖啡；分享智利美食的食譜；或主辦義務活動等，逐漸地我交了很多新朋友。

在這世上還有很多的事要做

雷蒙在西班牙的Valladolid 經營一所養護院。他很感激能帶領許多人更接近天主，當他們面臨生命決擇的時刻。

2012年3月31日

雷蒙住在西班牙Valladolid的家鄉。現年三十歲，經營一所收養長者的住宿中心。「在我及母親、妹妹的眼裏，這所宿舍並非一間機構，而是我們的第二個家。我們穿著制服與長者一起生活；我們的座右銘是『不需耐心，只需幽默。』事實上，很多時候只不過是幫忙換個尿片而已，但也許五分鐘後得再來一次。我們發覺最有效的解決方法是『一笑置之』」。



雷蒙提名為「2006年 Castile and Leon 的青年創業家」

是甚麼原因讓他從事這個創意？除

這是現今社會的需求之外，亦因為社會上需要正視這羣急需幫忙的人，他們好像到達了生命最困窘的時刻。我說，「好像」，是因為他們一旦得到關懷及鼓勵，他們便重拾朝氣。我記得教宗若望保祿二世說過，即使在他最後的歲月，亦不感覺「衰老」，因他在這世上還有更多的事要做。「在這世上有很多的事要做」的信念，使我們活著。



快樂！很奇妙的回饋。當然，亦有不理想的時刻，偶爾有一些令人厭惡的工作，或遇到問題重重的情況。但這些都是例外，只要你保持自己的幽默感。」

他說主業團的精神是他奉獻力量的來源，讓他從工作中看見使人更接近天



慶祝長者百年大壽

誕生的景象，今年他們還創作了包括小人像的五個作品。在聖誕期間，他們很高興地欣賞六十位高中學生的表演。每天亦會誦讀福音中簡單的章節和一篇短評。

「最艱難痛苦的，」雷蒙說：「是有人過世。」「我親手為好一些長者合上眼睛，然後發報這消息給其他人。『他們現在已在天堂了！』我會這樣說。」在問到有人會談及安樂死這話題時，他回答說：「我已在這兒六年了，從沒有人提過，這兒確讓他們住得愉快，被熱情所環繞，感染到充滿希望的氛圍。」

主的機會，當他們面臨生命決擇的時刻。他們中最年長的九十八歲，另有八位也九十多歲。他們都感謝能參與彌撒，每星期一次。他們會與神父作個人交談，更渴望接受病人傅油禮。他們除整理聖堂外，又為每台彌撒作祭台畫像。每年他們做幾趟十字苦路的敬禮，把一個大房間佈置成聖堂，放滿鮮花，或用一些親手製作的人造花。聖誕節來臨時，又畫了好幾幅耶



寄語創業者

雷蒙常被邀請至高中及大學作演講，鼓勵青年創立事業。他敦促他們要成為「有熱誠的男女。」他解說創業的召喚為「一份推動我們每早起床的熱望。」他強調他們要有正面的態度，並「以鎮定及靈敏克服危機。」簡單來說，「自己要先做個領導人。」

當他畢業時(23歲)，已希望能成為一個「青年創業家」，透過妹妹及十分支持他的母親的幫忙，他滿腔熱忱地展開了他的一番事業。他認為母親是背後最大的動力「她不斷鼓勵我們，是這間宿舍的靈魂。」另一設立此事業的因素是當他的祖母面臨這專業的需求時。原本的計劃是在新樓房收留45位住宿長者及15位白日受托的長者。

今天他與20名員工在這宿舍工作。「我們只是一個大的專業團隊中可見的代表，」他說。他的膽識加上妹妹的協助，讓他成為「2006年 Castile and Leon 的青年創業家」但是，當他的母親知悉他得獎後卻說：「忘記得了甚麼獎，趕緊動手工作吧！」

一位表裡一致的女人



Conchita del Moral

鄭芷玲於1957年在羅馬認識杜麗，與她共事超過30年之久。

「感謝天主，有幸能與聖施禮華、歐華路主教及杜麗共渡歲月。杜麗是首位要求加入主業監督團專責主業團中心日常家務工作的女性。她以非凡的超性眼光及專業精神履行職責。能夠與她在羅馬共處32年實感榮幸。從她身上，我學到了怎樣做好我的工作和為愛天主而做，應如何關顧細微的事情，尤其被她的虔敬、喜樂及對人無私付出而感動。」

「黛麗是一位表裡一致的女人。」她面對任何工作也從不會退縮：例如得處理一些較令人生厭的事，她總是先行一步，從不小題大作。因她比我年長的原故，我會說：「杜麗，讓我來吧！」她總會即時回應：「我不見得這事會有失身份。」就這樣便去做了。

她只為別人而活

「杜麗，多謝您忠於聖施禮華的精神，及指引我如何活得快樂。感謝您以無比的耐性對待我們這些初出茅廬對工作不熟悉的姊妹，也感謝您的從不炫耀。雖然她是第一位擔任家務工作的獨身女團員，卻常常不願受注意。她只為主業團而生，也只會服務他人而活。我還記得她的親切教導，及英勇地糾正過錯時，總是那麼仁慈，從不讓人感到難受。」

她是個怎樣的人

杜麗是位少說話，多做事的人；在她手上萬事都可以迎刃而解。她十分專業地處理主業團中心的家務工作；亦有敏銳的時代觸角，如怎樣利用科技產品使別人更舒適。她從不錯過任何學習的機會，活出聖施禮華時常所說：「專業職責乃是聖召的一部分。」

「我可舉一事例以了解她如何總不讓人察覺。她是位甚有涵養的人，一天，她令我感到意外地說：『芷玲，很多人寫信給我，妳的文章寫得那麼好，妳可否代我書寫回覆？』這令我有點兒措手不及，因她從不會要求別人幫忙——她常是幫助別人的那一位。我告訴她：『可以呀，但當人們把這些信件收藏作日後第一位擔任家務工作的獨身女團員的聖髑時，那便是假的聖髑了。』現在我才體會到，那刻她為何顯得很不自然地說道：『不要說愚蠢的



話，誰會有這想法！」而我們確實這樣做了，這使我明白到就算在這許事情上，她一如既往，總不讓人察覺到她的存在。

「我可以用幾句話總括她的一生：願光榮歸於主。她實實在在學習了創辦人這教導。現在雖然她已在天堂，我仍時常請她幫忙而收到數之不盡的恩惠。有時候我仍想像著當我找她要些東面時的表情，然後我會大聲問：『黛麗，我找不到眼鏡！』隨著，眼鏡便出現了——我常常有她陪伴在左右，謝謝您！黛麗！」

鄭芷玲
托勒斯特，西班牙

「杜麗，請幫忙媽媽！」

去年十二月，我九十二歲的母親，失去對食物的興趣。每當我抵達護養院的門前，我便向杜麗求救：「杜麗，您得幫忙我給媽媽餵食，她沒正常地進食好一段日子了，看她這麼瘦弱，您知道如何照顧長者的，請從旁協助我！我真不願意她用餵食管進食，把餵食管從鼻子插進胃部，聽說這方法很不好受。若然有別的選擇，我更不情願送她到醫院去！雖然我明白這事情早晚要發生，但我確切希望可以延遲一點。」

向杜麗祈禱後，我有更大的能量去嘗試給母親餵用每趟帶去的東西，有時候，她會吃一點兒；我便如息重負！有時，她卻全不合作地把嘴巴密封。

2012年二月中，母親的情況急轉直下。醫生提議可轉介入住寧養院，比起在醫院，她在那兒會有百分百的關顧。我欣然接受這建議，雖然得付出昂貴的費用。我繼續向杜麗尋求幫助…她照顧別人的經驗十分豐富，我知道杜麗從不間斷地陪伴著我的母親，我深信她完全明白我們的憂慮…

我感到因著杜麗的幫忙，插鼻胃管的過程顯得很順利，母親比前好多了亦很平靜。她得到十分專業的照顧。

可是，幾天後醫生約見我；她說母親沒有排斥用管餵食的奶，可是她體內功能已沒法吸取營養，同時，肺部呼吸能力也慢慢減退。醫生預計她只能多活幾星期，更提醒我們，根據過往的例症，病人在最後的日子關節會因痛楚而抽搐，加上呼吸困難，這都會令家人難受。

一個晚上，探訪母親後，我開始回憶過去幾星期發生的事，有點兒抱怨杜麗不能帶給母親痊癒。接著，感受到這訊息：杜麗並不是沒有做好工作，請天父讓媽媽快点康復；她已92歲了，是時候放開手讓她進入新生命了！試看一下，從去年十二月至今，一切意想不到的事都得到妥善安排：醫療團隊、護士、照顧員、神父及每一位相關的人都是天父派來的天使，把「仁愛」送給母親。杜麗除了幫忙餵食外，實在還付出很大的努力啊！



三月十四日早上七時四十分，母親安逝在病榻。那時我們正在聖堂為她獻上感恩祭及誦禱。令醫生感到意外的是母親在最後的時刻並沒有絲毫痛楚的現象。這是因杜麗的代禱帶來格外的恩惠，使我們如願以償……杜麗在主的臺前為我們呈上深切的哀禱：「請讓母親得享善終之鴻恩！」



感謝天主！杜麗，多謝您！您真了不起！

Josephine Chu
2012年5月28日
於香港

經歐陽杜麗的代禱而獲得的恩惠

計劃好的旅程



我的父母親在好幾個月前已計劃到巴塞隆納探訪我。上次與他們共聚已是一年半前了。他們會於十天後由多倫多啟程。前幾天，卻有政府人員通知父親要當陪審員，正巧是在計劃到巴塞隆納的日子。年初他亦被召作這事，但因當時他母親正患重病而獲豁免。

律師告訴父親這回他們通常不會寬厚對待，因已是第二次，況且旅遊並非開脫這公民責任的好理據。別無他法，父親只好照樣提交文件，出示已購的機票及訂好的酒店房間，而我則開始向常幫助我的杜麗祈求。果然，昨天有政府人員致電父親，陪審員工作會延至九月份。謝謝您，杜麗！

C.L.
西班牙
2012年3月7日

來得及時



星期四，一月五日，這天正是主顯節前夕，我離開住所時，往接待處查詢那等候多時的郵包可有到達……雖然，我已開始失去信心這郵件會來得及時。

在十二月十七日，我父母當時正探訪住在倫敦的兄弟，安排寄給我一大箱禮物及聖誕美食，希望能於聖誕節到達；可是卻因慣常的節日郵遞積壓及延誤，聖誕過後仍然音訊全無。

雖然，身在羅馬讀書的我，可跟隨這兒的傳統，在三皇來朝的主顯節前夕才把禮物拆開；我開始向杜麗祈求包裹能及時送來；我相信父母得悉一定很高興，所以，我也請母親向杜麗祈求。既然杜麗一生都專注為他人服務，她定必是最可交托這任務的人選了。我便開始了九日敬禮。

現在我確知道該向黛麗請求更多東西，因她實在是位叫人驚異的代禱者，除了禮物收到外，更為他人帶來歡欣——深信這是杜麗喜愛見到的。

C.R.
羅馬，意大利

一切都沒問題

幾星期前，一位朋友的手袋在她的傢俬店內被偷走。袋內有些文件，駕駛執照，信用卡及現金。當她發覺時已是一小時後了；她即致電我們告訴這事，我們提示她要即時通知銀行停止信用卡運作及向杜麗祈求信用卡不會被盜用（因通常這是小偷首先會做的事）。我們為這意向再向杜麗求轉禱，幾分鐘後，我這位朋友告訴我們銀行沒有發現新簽帳，一切都沒問題。

第二天，這位朋友往碼頭查詢她從中國訂購的傢俬船期狀況。在到達前，要路經市場買些東西，想到腳上穿著的新鞋不被弄污，便決定買雙拖鞋更換。從碼頭回家途中發覺忘記了帶那雙新鞋。她把這事告訴我們，說因有要事在身，只能於翌日才往這市場尋找。我們提議她向杜麗轉求，希望能認得那店子和找得著那雙新鞋。第二天，她來電說已找到那店舖，那店員更認得她是留下鞋子的那位。現在她也開始了對杜麗的敬禮。

T.S.
宿霧，菲律賓
2011年11月22日



歐陽杜麗
壽文（供私人敬禮用）

主，祢召叫了祢的僕婢杜麗，去從事如同至聖童貞瑪利亞在納匝勒聖家所做的工作。求祢幫助我在每天的境遇中找到祢，並在我周遭散佈家庭的溫暖，如同杜麗依照聖施禮華的教導，在喜悅、無私地工作中所展現的一樣。求祢光顧祢的僕婢杜麗，並因她的代禱賜給我求所之恩惠（說明所求）。阿們。

天主經，聖母經，聖三光榮經各一遍。
依據教宗與爾爾八世的法令，我們聲明並無任何意圖比教會更先作出判斷，因此此文並非為公開敬禮使用。

錯誤更正：新聞摘要，二零一二年第一期，第 11-12 頁

杜麗(Dora)在主業團擁有特別重要的位置

歐陽杜麗(Dora del Hoyo)是在主業團擔任家務工作的首位獨身會員。這是與Javier Medina神父進行的採訪，他寫了一本關於杜麗的簡短傳記，名為《一盞亮着的燈》(“A Lighted Lamp”)。

2012年4月04日

你為什麼決定寫關於歐陽杜麗？你個人認識她嗎？

我沒有福分見過杜麗。我只是透過曾經與她一起在羅馬生活的幾位女士所記錄有關她的生平而認識她。透過那些逸事，我發現她擁有富於吸引力的個性，使我急不及待讓其他人認識她。於是便開始寫這本書。



在左方的是杜麗

杜麗與主業團創辦人有什麼關係？

杜麗是主業團第一個擔任家務工作的獨身會員。聖施禮華在這位既忠信而又願意獻身的女兒身上，發現她擁有很多天賦，她總是懂得怎樣回應天主的召叫，那就是為什麼她在主業團擁有特別重要的位置。



Fr. Javier Medina，
傳記的作者。

書中指出家務工作是一真正的專業。這又怎樣應用於杜麗身上？

就工作而言，“專業”是指一些需要有高水準特殊才能的工作；而一位“專業人士”是指這人的工作表現出超凡的能力。所有關於杜麗的見證，一致地肯定杜麗以一等一專業人士的能力來執行她的家務工作。她精通每項工作的細節，並以最高水準來完成它。

這一類型的專業工作與現今社會仍有關連嗎？

我們經常聽到人們投訴現今社會變得越來越冷酷。與此同時，我們都會渴望見到人與人之間有更多的團結、共融及互相諒解。我們如何能達到這樣？當然，這是沒有單一方案。在我來看，如果我們想人與人之間的關係得到改善，我們必須從最基本——家庭開始。

年青人——其實是每一個人——都需要家庭溫暖。如果他們無法找到它，便會很難學習怎樣發揮人間有情，與他人融洽地相處。

就這點來說，明顯地像杜麗那樣負責打理家頭細務的人，為社會的福祉扮演了一個很重要的角色。那些當權者必須確信這事實，並積極鼓勵從事這行業的人員——作為對未來社會首要的投資。

杜麗的個性有那些獨特的地方？

如果只容許我說一個特質，毫無疑問地是她對天主及鄰人的愛。她是一位胸襟廣闊的女士。

書中提到一些見證，回憶說杜麗在平凡的日常生活中是一名英勇的婦女。那些英勇行為指的是什麼？

基督徒的英勇行為不是指作了什麼「最困難」或「最偉大」的事。它產生於日常生活中，是在每件微小的事上不斷地將愛表現出來的結果，正如杜麗所活出的一樣：以愛去照顧別人。

（傳記，“Una luz encendida”，由在馬德里的發行人Palabra提供。）

監督為歐陽杜麗女士封聖蒐集見證

2011年10月11日，監督蔡浩偉主教公開發表文告，呼籲所有認識主業團首位助理獨身團員歐陽杜麗女士的人士，提供一切有關為歐陽杜麗女士立檔封聖事宜的資料。

2012年7月29日

監督蔡浩偉主教致函所有聖十字架及主業監督團的信徒。

自主業團首位助理歐陽杜麗女士於2004年1月10日逝世後，明確而廣泛地顯示她的聖德的訊息接踵而至。自那天起，我陸續收到數百封信件，全部皆由曾與歐陽杜麗女士一起生活的主業團信徒及其他認識她的人士署名親筆，詳盡地見證她身為虔誠基督徒榜樣的一生。

基於這些見證，我們務必繼續進行調查。依照現有規範初步查證後，我認為目前已有足夠條件為歐陽杜麗女士（Salvadora del Hoyo Alonso）「立案列聖」。

為此，我懇請所有聖十字架及主業監督團的信徒細心思考，是否存有不不論是正面或負面，與這次「立案列聖」事宜有關的資料，以及如果有歐陽杜麗女士親撰以反映其本人及生平事蹟的文稿，而完全自由地考慮願意將之全面公開，使調查有所進展，最終使事實真相呈現。

2011年10月11日，羅馬

+ 蔡浩偉主教

Chris Tiu 與「寬恕就是愛」

Chris Tiu是一位菲律賓籍的職業籃球員，他看了《寬恕就是愛》這部電影，得悉聖若瑟瑪利亞·施禮華神父的早期生活，他便在網誌寫下他對這部電影的感受：

這是我第一次在網誌提及電影的話題。這不是因為我與這部電影有關，而是因為我覺得這部電影實在是富娛樂性、教育性而且能夠激勵人心。

感謝我母親的堅持，讓我能夠於去年10月1日在亞洲第一大購物中心Mall of Asia看到由Educhild贊助的《寬恕就是愛》的優先場。



電影的(英文)名稱聽起來有點奇怪，縱使在較早前有人告訴我這部電影是圍繞著一位聖人的一生。這位聖人的名字叫若瑟瑪利亞·施禮華，真福若望保祿二世稱他為「平凡事務中的聖人」。之前我在網誌也提及過，我對他有某種偏愛，這是因為我非常認同他的見解：我們不需要作「偉大」的事情才能夠成聖，相反，我們應當在日常生活中最簡單及平凡的事務裡找尋天主。

後來，我發現電影的名稱用以比喻古時有待開發的領域，及可能會發現巨龍出沒的地方。這部電影環繞著施禮華的一生及他兒時的朋友，一位虛構的主角，名叫瑪諾洛。在電影中，你將會看到施禮華在1930年代的西班牙內戰時，怎樣堅毅地在暴力與危險中嘗試去履行他的使命。

我沒有打算在網誌透露故事的細節。你可以在dragons.ph找到故事大綱及電影預告。我誠意邀請你觀賞這部電影去親身經驗我首次觀看這部電影時的感受。

老實說，我原以為這部電影會有點冗長，因為聖人的一生通常都會被描寫成非常虔誠的，讓人很容易猜到接下來所發生的事。明顯地，這部電影有很多迂迴曲折的劇情。電影的拍攝技術非常了得，而我亦十分享受那些戰爭場面！

我最喜愛的場景之一就是當施禮華的朋友給他送上生日蛋糕的驚喜，和他們以施禮華的一雙破舊了的鞋自娛。這是令人非常感動，即使他們生活窮困，

他們仍能以簡單的娛樂得到真正的快樂。

從電影中領略到的價值

施禮華彰顯了友情最高的境界 --- 就是只有付出而不期望回報，一心只想你的朋友得到最好的：天主。

以下是從電影中獲得的價值觀，也值得我們去反省：

永恆的友情

施禮華彰顯了友情最高的境界 --- 就是只有付出而不期望回報，一心只想你的朋友得到最好的：天主。施禮華及瑪諾洛在神學院裡互相打鬥後，他們便選擇了截然不同的道路。施禮華成為一位神父而瑪諾洛成為一位間諜。儘管瑪諾洛充滿著仇恨，施禮華仍然竭力去維繫這份友誼。即使瑪諾洛從不回信，施禮華每年至少一次給他寫信，直至施禮華去世為止。當瑪諾洛的父親辭世後，施禮華便前去安慰他。雖然瑪諾洛對他冷漠，施禮華仍抱有希望給瑪諾洛送上一串玫瑰念珠。請留心後來有什麼事情發生在那串玫瑰念珠上。

神貧

施禮華和瑪諾洛同樣出生於富裕的家庭裡，但施禮華的父親因生意失敗而破產。因此，瑪諾洛的父親吩咐他疏遠施禮華。施禮華家陷入極度的貧窮，卻使施禮華更加親近他的父親，反之，瑪諾洛的父親似乎沒有時間理會他。施禮華的雙親教導他不要將快樂建基於物質上，而是將他的心神放在天主那裡，因為只有天主才是真正快樂的泉源。當施禮華創立主業團時，他也將這份精神帶進去，教導跟隨他的人以他自己為榜樣去體會貧窮的喜樂。電影中一個簡短的畫面，放映著施禮華在尋找一對新鞋，反之一位年老的婦人正在注視著一頂帽子，這情境實在令人感動，亦闡述了何謂神貧。

因著對天主的信賴而得到力量去追隨一個使命

令人觸目的像羅蘭·約菲這個無神論者竟然能夠拍攝到施禮華的信德。羅蘭說他其實早已經推掉了拍攝這部電影的提議，直至一次偶然的機會，他看了一隻光碟，放映著真實的施禮華與一位猶太少女的談話，內容是關於她想改信天主教。施禮華告訴她要聽從父母，亦向她承認他的最愛是一位猶太人 --- 耶穌，而第二位是一位猶太婦女 --- 瑪利亞。施禮華的開明，仁愛以及和藹可親的個性，與某些人對他的描述實在有點不同，這隻光碟觸動了羅蘭或者可以說，改變了他。羅蘭開始搜集更多有關施禮華生平的資料，及親自撰寫劇本。羅蘭成功地捕捉到施禮華的信德，而施禮華本人也形容這份信德實在是很顯著。施禮華深信，信德是一份天主賜與的禮物，能夠讓他得到所需的

力量去追隨他的使命，儘管他要面對內戰及遭到“好心人”強烈的反對，認為他創立主業團是瘋狂的。

寬恕的奇蹟

能夠寬恕別人而得到真正的釋放是一件美好的事。嘗試在瑪諾洛及他的兒子羅伯特兩人之間的生命，發現這個“寬恕的奇蹟”會有什麼事情發生。

在片末，我發現身邊大部份的人也被感動得流下眼淚。明顯地，他們是被電影裡的場面所感動。我也深受感動，所以我才在網誌提及這部電影。

希望你們能夠看到這部電影！最好你可以陪同你的朋友及家人一起觀看。假如你想看一些富有娛樂性及教育意義的東西，我相信這會是一部理想的電影。與此同時，這亦是你的福傳工作，你可以陪同一位朋友觀看這部電影，希望他/她也可被感動或轉化。你無需多說教，讓電影去說明一切便可以了。



“寬恕就是愛” (There Be Dragons) 海報

Favors granted through the intercession of Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, the first successor of the Founder of Opus Dei

To make this attempt hassle free



I'm sending a testimony of a favor I received from Don Alvaro today, July 7, anniversary of his joining Opus Dei. My temporary driver's license will expire on July 14. And I was told six months earlier that I could no longer get the same type of license to drive in Macau. I was advised to get a Macau license since I've been living in the region for a few years. Two weeks earlier, I went to the government agency which issues the Macau driver's license. And

there I learned that it was not that simple to get one. It would take at least six months to book oneself for a road test through one of the accredited driving schools. And getting the license finally would need more waiting time.

As I walked towards the Public Security Police Office this morning, I prayed to Don Alvaro to assist me in getting another temporary license for another six months. I was taking another chance, and preparing myself to be rejected, too. I told Don Alvaro to make this attempt hassle free. When my turn came to present some documents for the temporary license, I explained my situation. And the police officer said something like, "Okay, next time you'll have to get your Macau license...." And within three minutes I got my temporary license! Thanks to Don Alvaro's intercession!

**Zen, China
July 7, 2008**

One favor after another

I am writing in gratitude to Don Alvaro for a favor received. Some weeks ago a friend wrote saying that she had received a favor thru

his intercession. What struck me most was not just the favor itself but the fact that my friend had given Don Alvaro one day to sort the problem out. A few days later another friend of mine who heard about it, also decided to give Don Alvaro a fixed time to find her lost baggage ... and God heard her prayer.

So, as many people were praying for the necessary approvals to be granted to complete the move of the Campus Biomedico in Rome to its new site, I got together with some other people to pray all together that everything would be done by the following Thursday. That day we would finish our novena to Don Alvaro. When Thursday came, we not only received the news that everything had been solved, we also heard that the date set for opening the doors at the new site was November 28, the anniversary of the establishing of Opus Dei as a personal prelature. The favor has not yet been completely fulfilled, because as well as the approvals, I was praying for the holiness of all those who work there and the good of all the patients, but I have no doubt that Don Alvaro is already taking abundant care of all of this.

Now I am thanking God and Don Alvaro for hearing my prayer, and I have been encouraged to pray for more favors after finding from experience that they are like cherries – they come one after the other!

E.F., Italy

Agreements are there to be kept

Our contract would run out in less than four months, and everything seemed to suggest that the company would not renew it. It was essential for us to continue to have that company as our client, because it represented a major part of the income of our practice. But the attitude of the new managers of the company was discouraging, and this sometimes led me to complain about them and criticize them aloud. We were sure that they would not renew our contract, given the lack of empathy with the new general manager, who already had a lawyer's practice of his own. We had obtained certain other useful contracts, but we needed to be able to

count on a regular income from this one company for our practice to continue and to keep several of the people on the staff.

One day, after reading a Newsletter about Don Alvaro, I realized that many of the most important events in his life had taken place in March: he was born March 11; he died March 23; and his cause of beatification was opened on March 5. Our contract was due to run out in March. "But," I told him, "we can't wait until March. We need you to solve this for us now, before Christmas." So we came to an agreement. I would start a novena to Don Alvaro and would try never to criticize that client again, and he would look after the rest. I also promised to publicize the favor as soon as the contract was signed. When I talked about this to my colleague and explained my agreement with Don Alvaro, he joined me in it, and we did the novena at the same time.

We finished it on a Sunday, and the following Tuesday we had to go to our client's offices to discuss certain questions. At the end of the meeting, the general manager of the company, without our raising the matter, told us that he agreed with the figures we had proposed for the renewal of the contract, and asked us to get the new contract to him for signing. In the course of the conversation he stated that he had complete confidence in our practice, and showed warm appreciation for us – something that would have been unthinkable just a few days before. There are still two months to go before the old contract runs out, and the renewal is already signed. And as agreements are there to be kept, I am sending this letter to attest to the favor from Don Alvaro.

J. A. V., Spain
February 13, 2007

"The book I'll never forget"

The Spring 2012 issue of "Life and Living" (London, UK), contains a review of THE WAY in the section "The book I'll never forget," by Esther Bentley, who first read it over 60 years ago.

May 11, 2012

"I read this and finally felt at peace"

by Esther Bentley, 86
William Court, Bristol



"THE WAY"
by St. Josemaría Escrivá

I was 24 years old and bedridden with pleural tuberculosis. I'd recently given birth to my son John after a very difficult pregnancy but was too weak to even hold him. The illness was destroying my body and my spirits were so low that I began to lose hope. One day, I confided in my doctor that I was afraid I might die. She told me, very gently, not to be scared of dying and she lent me this book.

I wasn't particularly interested, but started to read – and was soon unable to put it down. *The Way* was written by a Spanish Roman Catholic priest, who was canonised in 2002, and who believed that ordinary life can be a path to sanctity. The book spoke about being grateful for what you have and to focus on the good, not the bad. For the first time in months I felt at peace. By that Christmas I was able to get up and have dinner and four weeks later I was strong enough to care for John and have him christened.

I still love this book – it changed my perspective on life.

When You Read *The Way*

Hui-zhen Huo
Taipei, 2012

I am a cancer patient. When I was fighting it desperately five years ago, my best friend, Margaret, gave me a copy of *The Way* which comforted and encouraged me tremendously.

Not too long ago, a friend of mine from Opus Dei told me that the Chinese version of the modern spiritual classic *The Way* will be reprinted. She asked me to help her check the final draft. Thinking that I have been a Chinese teacher all my life before retirement: correcting compositions, picking out the incorrect words which are my specialty, all the reasons were there to accept the task happily.

Coincidentally I was getting ready to have the annual check-up. Hence, I was a little bit uneasy about my situation for the dates of the examination and the reports were already arranged. My friend asked thoughtfully, "Are you all right?" I had to tell her the truth reluctantly. In fact, my doctor had told me that she felt another 1 cm growth inside. Good or bad? We simply had to wait.

To battle against cancer is to battle against it endlessly. There is no such thing as to "graduate" from the disease. To hear such news by now I should not be nervous after all the kinds of treatments I have gone throughout these years. However, I began to imagine, to lose sleep, to force myself to eat more yet my weight continues going down...

Don't think so much, if it has to happen, let it happen! Come what may! I was delighted at this restless moment to dedicate myself to a task which would



demand all my attention. And so, with extreme care, concentration, and seriousness, I started to edit the book *The Way* which I have read many times before.

It was odd to say, but to read it again, still is surprisingly new and fresh to me, yet now even more intimate, more savory, and my understanding deeper. Inspirations come now and then to touch my soul. I am not exaggerating, it seems I could hear the Holy Spirit speaking. If you, like me, were to chew each word, you will understand what I am experiencing. Above all, you will be filled with the Holy Spirit and be enlightened.

My friend, you who have read the Scriptures, are waiting for "Elijah's breeze". When you read *The Way*, that is exactly the feeling you get. Through father and brother, friend, spiritual director, the Holy Spirit is whispering tenderly at our ear, encouraging us, leading us to the way of prayer and Love of God.

All the external disturbances stopped. I found such light and fortitude in the book convinced that God is by my side, not far away. He loves me and He knows that I love Him too. Under the consolation of the Holy Spirit, I listened to His words, followed His calling and guidance. No struggling, no resistance, nor relying on myself. Yes, the author, St. Josemaria Escriva, through this little book, opened for us lay people the divine path of sanctification in this world.

Lastly, by the way, I passed my annual check-up, very grateful to God's mercy. The doctor told me that it is benign but I need to continue the check-up. I felt I was spared from a trial. Actually, everyone will go to see Our Lord sooner or later. We then ought to pay more attention to our own spiritual life, so prepare ourselves well to see Him!

Devotion to St. Josemaria Escriva

Janitor in Buenos Aires



What I'm going to write about began six years ago. I used to walk to work – it was just 300 meters from home. I went past the same buildings every day, saying "Good morning" or "Good evening" to the janitors working at the entrances of the apartment buildings. There was one who never responded.

I felt like not greeting him again, but I thought that in my place St Josemaria would continue saying hello until he won him over. I opted for leaving him my usual greeting together with a silent prayer, every time I passed his building.

One day he muttered "morning," in reply. When I went past again that evening I stopped and asked him his name. "Angel," he answered, with a smile. We chatted for a few minutes and I went on my way. After that he always called a greeting as soon as he saw me coming. Some days I went by at full speed, because I had so much work to do.

You'll lose your mind!

One of those times, when he saw me going by, he stopped sweeping, blocked my path, and said very seriously, "You can't go around like that. Head down, brain full of worries. You'll lose your mind!" (and he pointed to his head like saying, "you'll go crazy"). "You need to look at the beauty all around you. Look at that tree... Do you hear that bird?" And he kept giving me more examples of the marvels God sets on my way, for me to learn to contemplate them. I realized that God had set this man (this Angel!) on my way, for me to realize I wasn't going to work just for the sake of working, but to learn to contemplate Him. I told Angel that I had learned from St Josemaria that it is possible to contemplate God in one's work,

precisely through the simple little details. I gave him a prayer-card, and promised I'd lend him a video about the great saint I was talking about. That same evening, I gave it to him on my way home.

The next day...

The next day I was really looking forward to asking him what he thought of it. And I also thought I could encourage him to go to Confession if he hadn't been for some time. But to my surprise, he wasn't there, and the door of his room was shut. That was most unusual. In the evening it was still shut, and the following day too. On the third day, I saw him sweeping as usual, but looking tired or sad. I said hello, and before I could ask him where he'd been, he thanked me for the video about St Josemaria and said, "The day before yesterday my wife died. You just don't know how much that video helped me, I talked to him and it meant a lot to me. Now I know that Chiquita" (his wife) "is with God, and she's very happy, and I have to keep struggling to lead a good life so that I can get to heaven too some day." We went on talking about his family, his children and the communion of saints. He was tired, but very peaceful. He asked if he could keep the video a few days longer.

We had more talks on other days and I talked to him about Confession and Mass. He started practicing his faith again. He asked me for more prayer-cards, and passed them on to people he met in the street while he was sweeping the entrance to his building.

To Rome with an uncertain future

A few years later I was preparing to go and study in Rome, and, if it was God's will, to be ordained as a priest of Opus Dei. I told Angel about it, and although I wasn't at all clear about my future, he assured me that I would be ordained and that God would make use of my ministry to help many more people. And he said, "I'll be waiting for you here, to see you coming along in your cassock, – and with your head high!"

I went to Rome, and we kept in touch by letter. I always encouraged him to keep practicing his faith, and he never failed to tell me that he was praying the prayer-card to our Father for me and for all those who were with me in Rome.

On the day of my ordination to the priesthood, my parents brought me a letter from him. (He'd met my father, I don't know when or how, and brought them the letter to give me a few days before they left for Rome.) He told me that he never failed to pray for those in Rome every day, and that on that day he would be praying harder than ever for those of us who were being ordained.

I told you so!

A few months ago I returned to Buenos Aires and went to see him. He was really moved to see me dressed as a priest, and he said, "I told you so!" I thanked him for his prayers and his letter. When I encouraged him to continue praying through St Josemaria's intercession, he slapped his overall pocket where he had a prayer-card of St Josemaria, and said, "He goes everywhere with me!"

P. M. C., Buenos Aires, Argentina
May 30, 2012

My wallet got lost twice in Taiwan



Something happened to me that I want to share with you. I went with one of my assistants to Heping Island to transfer the archeological excavation station from a place we were renting to the office of the lichang, which will be for free.

We took the Keelung bus beside the main door of National Taiwan University at 12:50 pm, and we reached Keelung around 1:35 pm. Since the Keelung city bus did

not come I decided to take a taxi to arrive on time to our appointment at 2:00. This time the cost was cheaper than the last time, only NT\$120, so I took 100 from my wallet and 20 from my purse.

Once in the new station, I put my bag in a corner to work more comfortably, and we installed the materials with the help of some workers, etc., but after leaving the place, around 4:00 pm, I discovered that my wallet was not in my bag, in the compartment that I always place routinely. We went back to the lichang's office, and it was not there either. So, only there were two possibilities, either I lost it in the taxi or it was stolen.

Before leaving Heping Island I went to the house of the man hiring the workers, to discuss some other issues of the excavation budget, and I commented the loss of my wallet to him. He told me that the workers were very honest and he was sure they cannot be suspected.

Going back to the Keelung bus station I remembered something that happened just two months ago, and I think I commented this to my assistant. I also lost my wallet somewhere, but I luckily recovered it. What happened then was: I went to National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) to see a Professor at around 3:30 pm to discuss something about the transcription and translation of some documents related to the Spanish presence in Heping Island, thus related also to the excavation.

When I returned to NTNU at 4:30 I found that the wallet was not with me. I searched the whole office with the help of another assistant, but we couldn't find it. The most possible scenario was that it fell from my jacket when I was biking from one campus to the other. Once I got home, this assistant called me an hour later to tell me that that when I left NTNU, a man called my office saying that he found the wallet on the front entrance of NTNU, and that he was now in the outskirts of Taipei, and if I want the wallet I have to go there immediately. This assistant kindly went to pick it up for me. Everything was there, the money and all the identification cards. That man refused to get any reward for his deed. I was really impressed

by the honesty of the common Taiwanese people.

I have to say that, these are the only two times that I have lost my wallet, and I am now more than 50 years old. After the first experience I was naively confident that someone will call again to report on the lost wallet. And it really happened. I dropped the wallet in the taxi, and the taxi driver went to the nearby University and gave the wallet to the guard in the main gate. This man later contacted me before 10:00 pm and he told me that he will mail it to me. I was again impressed by the honesty of Taiwanese people.

But this time, what impressed me much more was an additional thing. About 7 hours after losing the wallet, I did not have yet news. So, I started to be worried. Then I remembered that I haven't prayed yet to my favorite saint, Saint Josemaría, and I realized I have to do it. But just exactly at the same moment that I was going to take the prayer card to request him for help, the telephone rang. I knew the call was from somebody reporting about the wallet. The guard of the University identified himself and asked for my name. I said it, but before he continued talking I told him "you have my wallet, right?" And he said "yes". I did not request any more St Josemaría to help me; I just thanked him for his intercession, and for ending the year 2011 in such an amazing way.

J.E. B., Taipei
May 5, 2012

Leaving home...to return to my home

When I was 18, I used to dream about marrying my prince charming. We would have two children, and I would work as a foreign correspondent for a famous magazine. But my little novel turned out a bit differently than I expected....

March 12, 2012

My name is Ana María Gálmez. I did wed my prince charming; it was love at first sight. After thirty years together he still takes my breath away. And we did have children—not two (as I had imagined), but seven. I studied journalism, but didn't become a foreign correspondent. I ended up working in the field of communication strategy, and when I was beginning to sense that it was now my turn to become the "boss," my life suddenly changed dramatically.



After almost half a century in Chile, with older children and some on the point of getting married, I became an "expatriate" in Spain. I left behind in Chile wonderful friends, my parents, brothers and sisters and several daughters, cutting short my own career in order to accompany my husband in his new professional challenge and, in a way, to start over.

I crossed "the puddle," as people here like to say, thinking my new life would be much like the one I was leaving behind in Chile. But in a short time I found myself immersed, soul and body, in work that I had often liked to theorize about but rarely practice: homemaking.

A home that is warm and welcoming

During these first three years in Madrid, I've had to fight my inner



"demons" and convince myself that it was the right choice (no one forced it on me), to take up this work that God now seemed to be asking of me: a life one hundred percent devoted to my family and hidden from the world.

At first it wasn't easy. Like so many women of my generation I had a subconscious fear that a home—as Betty Friedan, founder of the "Now" movement, used to say—is "a comfortable concentration camp." That's a slogan many of us women have grown up with as we fled the kitchen and the cleaning closet like sheep from a wolf.

But these past few years have taught me the importance of a warm and welcoming home. And to bring about this warmth of a home, where everyone can relax and recover their strength (husband, children, friends), someone has to make sure it's a reality. Today more than ever, I'm convinced that this is the job of us mothers.

A bright and cheerful home

As a supernumerary in Opus Dei for the past three decades, I've found some words of St. Josemaría very helpful: "When I think about Christian homes, I like to imagine them as bright and cheerful, just like the Holy Family's home." These recent years have helped me to combine practice with theory, so I can help my new friends to find God in the kitchen, when caring for their children, when accompanying an elderly parent, in the endless daily struggle to get the children from one place to another.... This warmth of a home has drawn many people to seek shelter, consolation and affection there, in a world where the greatest poverty now is to be alone.



In my case, dedication to these domestic tasks has helped me to quickly become integrated into my new country. Like any good "Latina," I love to invite people to my house. Whether it's preparing a meal, organizing mothers from my son's school to come over for coffee,

passing on a Chilean recipe, or hosting volunteer work, little by little I've made many new friends.

My skills as a writer have grown a bit rusty recently, but my "talent" for communication has helped me give classes on subjects that I know backwards and forwards: the challenges professional women face, educating one's children, human virtues and the new technologies.

I'm convinced that everything we undergo in life is always meant to help us grow. By undergoing this process of growth we can then assist others in a similar situation. An illness, a financial setback, the death of a loved one, or in my case moving to another country, when accepted as God's will everything takes on a new value and dimension.

A refuge where others find shelter

We have a small notebook at home where our guests, if they want, can write down a few words. For the great majority (and by now, that's quite a few), what they record is often the same: their gratitude for the chance to share in our family life, in the affection and joy, and of course, in some good home cooking. When I read these comments, I like to think that my family resembles those of the first Christians who spread the faith to others through the example of their ordinary daily activities. The best way to sum up these past few years is: wherever one is, one can always love God and serve others. And what is this if not the definition of happiness?

"Still so much to accomplish in life"

Raymond Sampietro runs a geriatrics residence in Valladolid, Spain. He says he is grateful for the opportunity to help bring many people closer to God in a decisive moment of their lives.

March 31, 2012

Raymond Sampietro lives in Valladolid, Spain, his hometown. 30 years old, he runs a geriatrics center. "For me, as for my mother and sister, the residence isn't an institution but our second family. We live with the elderly and wear working clothes. Our motto is 'no need for patience, just a good sense of humor.' Often it's nothing more than changing someone's diaper—and having to repeat the operation five minutes later. We've found that the best solution is simply to laugh."



Ray was named "Young Entrepreneur of 2006 for Castile and Leon."

What led him to undertake this initiative, besides the demand for this type of work today, was the desire to meet a real social need and assist people who seem to have reached the most difficult stage in their lives. "I say 'seem to' because when they receive affection and encouragement they are revitalized. I've heard that John Paul II, even in his final years, said he never felt 'old' because he still had so much he wanted to accomplish in life. That spirit of 'still so much to accomplish' is what we try to keep alive here."

Surrounded by affection

"Eighty percent of the people here are women (so you can see they outlast us men, he jokes). 10 suffer senile dementia and a



similar number are afflicted with Alzheimer's. Our work here is demanding. I work more than 10 hours a day, including every other weekend. But in pouring yourself out for the people here, right away you begin to have a lot of affection for them, and you do everything possible to make them happy. It's a wonderful compensation. Of course there can be bad moments, and occasionally very unpleasant tasks and problematic situations. But these are the exception—if you keep your sense of humor."



Celebrating a hundredth birthday

He says that the spirit of Opus Dei is what underlies his dedication, helping him see in his work an opportunity to bring people close to God in this decisive moment of their lives. "The oldest is 98, and 8 are in their 90's. All are grateful for Mass, which they attend once a week. Many speak personally with the chaplain, and all were

eager to receive the Anointing of the Sick. They take care of the chapel, and paint a new altar scene for every Mass. They make the Way of the Cross several times a year and keep the large room used as a chapel filled with flowers, or with artificial ones they themselves make. When Christmas comes, they paint many Nativity Scenes; this year they made five of them with small figures. During Christmas season they really enjoyed listening to Christmas carols performed by sixty high school students. Each day they also read a brief passage from the Gospel followed by a short commentary."

"The toughest part," Raymond says, "are the deaths." "I've closed the eyes of a fair number already and then given the news to the



others: 'They're in heaven now,' is how I put it." When asked if anyone here has brought up the topic of euthanasia, he answers: "No one has even mentioned it. I haven't heard a word about it in the six years I've been here. The atmosphere is one of real joy. They are surrounded by affection, and a noticeable climate of hope."

Advice for entrepreneurs

Ray is often asked to give talks to high school and university students to encourage them to start their own business. He urges them to be "men and women with a passion," and defines the entrepreneurial vocation as "the eagerness that moves us to get up each day." He insists that they keep up a positive outlook and "overcome crises with ingenuity and calm." In short, "to be a leader of yourself."

As soon as he graduated (at age 23) he wanted to be "a young entrepreneur" and launched his adventure passionately, along with his sister, and with the strong encouragement of their mother. He calls his mother the true force behind their endeavor: "She's the one who constantly encourages us; she's the soul of the residence." His grandmother's



An outdoor festival

need for professional care was another factor. Their original plan called for a building with a new floor to accommodate 45 elderly persons in residence and another 15 during the day.

Today he operates a residence with a staff of twenty. "We are just the visible face of a large team of professionals," he says. His daring, along with his sister's, earned him the prize, "Young Entrepreneur of 2006 for Castile and Leon." But when his mother heard about the prize she told him, "Forget the prizes, and get to work."

A woman all of a piece

14-03-2012

Conchita del Moral first met **Dora** in Rome in 1957, and they worked together for more than thirty years.



Conchita del Moral

"I thank God that I was able to spend years with Saint Josemaria, with **Father Alvaro del Portillo**, and with **Dora**. She was the first woman to ask admission to the **Work** with the conscious intention of dedicating herself to the domestic care of the Centers of the Work, and she carried out this work with great supernatural vision and professionalism. I was lucky to have lived in Rome with Dora for 32 years. I learned from her how to do my work well and for the love of God, how to take care of the little things. More than anything else, I was struck by her piety, along with her joy and her concern for others.

"**Dora was a woman 'all of a piece.'** She never shrank from any task; when there was a job to do that was more difficult or just more disagreeable, she was always first in line, without making a big deal out of it. Because she was older than me, I would say to her, 'Dora, I'll do it.' Right away she would answer, 'I don't think it is in any way beneath my dignity,' and she would do it.

She lived only for others

"Thank you, Dora, for your faithfulness to the spirit of **St. Josemaria**, and for all the ways in which you have taught me how to be happy. Thank you for your patience with us, the younger ones who arrived knowing how to do hardly anything, and thank you for knowing how to pass unnoticed. She, who was the very **first numerary assistant in Opus Dei**, always wanted to pass unnoticed. She lived only for the Work and in order to serve the others. I remember her gentle way of teaching and her courageous way of

correcting, always with such love that you couldn't be hurt.

How she was



Dora del Hoyo

Dora was a woman of few words, but of great deeds; she got you out of all your predicaments. She was very professional with regard to the Administration of the Center; she was up to date on the latest products available, the latest innovations, and the best way of taking advantage of them for the sake of pleasing the others. She never missed an opportunity to learn; she had put into practice what Saint Josemaria so often said: **'The professional vocation is a part of the divine vocation.'**

"I will give you one little example of how she wanted to pass unnoticed. She was a very cultured person, and one day she surprised me by saying, 'Conchita, so many people write to me and you write so well, would you be willing to answer my mail?' I was taken aback, because Dora never asked for favors—she was always the one doing the favors. I told her, 'Fine, but then they will keep those letters as being relics of the first numerary assistant, and they will be false relics.' I can see it now, the way her face changed and she told me, 'Don't speak foolishness—who would think such a thing!' And so we did it, and I realized that even in this she didn't want to be noticed.

"I can sum up her life in a few words: May God alone shine forth. How well she learned this lesson of the Founder. Now that she is in heaven, I constantly go to her and she does me thousands of favors. Sometimes I can picture the look she would give me when I would ask her for something. And then I say out loud, 'Dora, I can't find my glasses.' And immediately they appear—I always have her at my side. **Thank you, Dora.**"

Conchita del Moral Herranz
TorreCiudad Spain

'Dora, please help my mom!'

Last December 2011, my 92- year old mother lost her appetite to eat. So, I started to pray to Dora every time I reached the door of the elderly home. "Dora, please help me feed my mom. She has not been eating for some time, she looks so thin. You know what to do with elderly people... please be at my side. I do not want my mom to have 'tube-feeding', as I was told it would be a painful way to eat, with a tube inserted from nose to stomach. And I do not want to send her to the hospital if there are other options. So, I really hope to delay that process even if I know it may have to happen soon."



After praying to Dora, I had more energy to make my mother eat what I brought for her. Sometimes, she ate a little, and I felt so relieved, but sometimes, she kept closing her mouth.

In mid-February 2012, my mother was in critical condition. The doctor suggested to send her to a Care Centre where she would have 100% attention instead of the hospital. I was happy to accept this idea even though it would be costly. I kept asking help from Dora, who had a lot of experience in taking care of people. I believe Dora had been accompanying my mother all this time and I was confident that Dora fully understands our concerns...

I believe that Dora helped make the process of inserting the feeding tube smooth and without any complication. My mother looked much better and peaceful. She was well attended by a professional team.

However, after a few days, the doctor wanted to talk to me. She said that my mother did not reject taking milk, but her internal organs failed to absorb anything and her respiratory system was also slowing down. The doctor estimated that my mother would live for some weeks. The doctor alerted us that patients in this condition would suffer a bit towards the last hours

as pains would arise on all the joints together with respiratory problems. These moments can be really hard for the family.



One late evening, after visiting my mother, I started to think about all the events of the past weeks. I had complained a little to Dora why my mother was not getting well. Then, I realized the message... "It is not true that Dora did not do her job in asking God for mom to have a speedy recovery. She is already 92, so it is time for us to let her go and let her enter a new life!"

Looking back to the events since December 2011, things happened in a way that they fell perfectly in place: the medical team, nurses, care-givers, the priest and everyone we met is an angel sent by God to deliver 'Love' to my mother. Dora has been working hard on this, not only to feed her.

March 14, 2012 - 7:40 AM – my mother passed away peacefully in her sickbed while we were offering the daily Mass and prayers for her in the church. The doctor was surprised to find that my mother did not go through the agony and pains in the last moments. This is another favor from Dora, as she even extended the best help – that is, sending our petition to God as we asked, "May our mother receive a decent and holy death!"

Thanks to be God, and thank you, Dora! You really work!

Josephine Chu
May 28, 2012,
Hong Kong

Favors granted through the intercession of Dora del Hoyo

The planned trip

My parents have been planning to come and visit me here in Barcelona for months now. The last time I saw them was over a year and a half ago. They are due to arrive in ten days and they are coming from Toronto. A few days ago the government called my father to tell him that he is being called for jury duty and his presence is requested on a day that coincides with the planned trip to Barcelona. Earlier on in the year he was called for the same thing but was able to get out of it because he had to take care of his mother who was very sick at the time.



The lawyer told my father that they are usually not very lenient especially because this is the second time and a vacation is not a good excuse get out of public civil service. In any case my father submitted documentation to show that the plane tickets are already bought and the hotel is already booked, and I started to pray to Dora who always helps me. Sure enough, yesterday the government called my father to tell him that his jury duty is being postponed to September. Thank you Dora!!!

C. L. Spain. 7th March 2012

In the nick of time

It is Thursday, 5th January, the eve of the Epiphany, and as I leave the house I walk into reception to check whether the much awaited package has arrived, although by this stage I am beginning to lose faith in its timely arrival. On the 17th of December my parents, who were visiting my brothers in London, prepared a box of presents and Christmas goodies with the hope that they would arrive in time for Christmas; but what with the usual Christmas back-log and postal delays, Christmas Day came and went with no sign of the package.



Since here in Rome where I am studying we traditionally open our presents

sent by the three Kings on the eve of the feast of the Epiphany, I began praying to Dora so that the package would arrive in time. I knew that it would make my parents very happy to know that the presents were received, so I encouraged my mother to pray to Dora as well. Seeing as Dora spent her entire life attentive to the needs of those around her, I was sure that she would be the best person to whom I could entrust this consignment. I began the novena. Now I think I really should ask her for more things because she is an amazing intercessor: not only did the present arrive just in time, but was the cause of great joy to others – something I am sure Dora would have liked.

C. R. Rome, Italy

All were clear

A few weeks back, a bag of a friend of mine was stolen while she was in her furniture shop. Inside the bag were her documents (driver's license), her credit cards and some money. By the time she realized it, an hour had already passed. She immediately called to inform us of what had happened. We told her to call the banks to stop the credit cards and told her to pray to Dora that the ones who stole the bags have not made any purchases or transactions using the credit cards (since this is the first thing they do). We prayed to Dora for this intention and after a few minutes, she told us that the banks have checked if transactions were made using these cards and she was told that all were clear.

The day after, this same friend of mine went to the pier to check if the shipment of their ordered furniture from China had arrived. Before going there, she passed by a market to buy some things. Seeing that her shoes were new and that it would be sullied, she decided to buy a pair of slippers in the market place. Going back home from the market and the pier, she noticed that she did not have her new pair of shoes. She told us of what had happened and said that she will only be able to go back to the marketplace the following day since she had other things to do. We told her to pray to Dora again that she be able to find the store and the pair of shoes. The next day, she called us up to say that she did find the store and that the girl in the store recognized her as the one who left the shoes. She is now starting to have a devotion to Dora.

T. S. Cebu, Philippines.
22h November 2011



Dora del Hoyo
Prayer for private devotion

Lord, you called Dora to work at the same task as the Blessed Virgin Mary carried out in the home at Nazareth. Help me to find you in everyday situations, and to spread all around me the family warmth which she displayed in her cheerful, selfless work following St Josemaria's teachings. Delight to glorify your servant Dora, and through her intercession, grant me the favour I request (here make your request). Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgement of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.

Chris Tiu & There Be Dragons

November 10, 2011

Chris Tiu, a professional basketball player from Philippines, watched the movie "There be dragons", about the early life of St. Josemaria Escriva and wrote a post in his blog with his impressions:



"For the first time, I am blogging about a movie. Not because I have anything to do with it, but because I think it's truly entertaining, educational and at the same time, very inspiring!

Thanks to the persistence of my mom, I found myself watching an advanced screening of THERE BE DRAGONS last October 1 at the Mall of Asia sponsored by Educhild.

The title sounded a bit weird to me having been told earlier that the movie revolves around the life of a saint. His name is St. Josemaria Escriva, who was named by Blessed John Paul II as "the saint of the ordinary." As I have mentioned in passing in a previous blog, I have some sort of devotion to him since I strongly agree with his mantra: that we don't have to do 'great' things in order to become saints but rather we must find God in the simplest and most ordinary events in our lives.

I found out later that the title was given to unknown lands in the olden times that were yet unexplored and where dragons may be found, figuratively speaking. The movie revolves around the life of Josemaria and his childhood friend, a fictional character named Manolo. In the movie, you will see Josemaria persistently trying to fulfill his mission in the midst of a violent and dangerous Spanish civil war during the 1930s.

I do not intend to give away the story in this blog. You may get a synopsis of it and watch the trailer at dragons.ph. I invite you to watch the movie yourself and experience what I felt watching it for the first time.

Honestly, I thought the movie would be quite dragging as lives of saints

are usually portrayed as very pious, where it is easy to guess what comes next. Apparently, there were a lot of twists and turns in the story. The cinematography was excellent as well and I enjoyed the war scenes too!

One of my favorite scenes was when Josemaria's friends surprised him with a birthday cake and entertained themselves with his worn-out shoes. It's very touching how people can be genuinely happy with such simple pleasures in life despite being poor.

VALUES FROM THE MOVIE

Josemaria exemplified what could be the highest form of friendship -- that of giving without expecting anything in return, only wanting the best for your friend: God.

Here are some of the values that can be seen and reflected upon from the film.

Timelessness of friendship. Josemaria exemplified what could be the highest form of friendship -- that of giving without expecting anything in return, only wanting the best for your friend: God. Josemaria and Manolo started to take completely different paths after their seminary days where they were shown exchanging punches. Josemaria became a priest and Manolo a spy. But in spite of Manolo's animosity, Josemaria tried his best to keep their friendship. He would write him at least once a year until his death, although Manolo never replied. When Manolo's father died, Josemaria came to console him. Although Manolo gave him a cold shoulder, he kept his hope by giving him a Rosary. Watch out what happens with that Rosary!

Spirit of poverty. Both Josemaria and Manolo had rich families. But the business of Josemaria's dad went bankrupt. Because of that, Manolo's dad told him to keep away from Josemaria. The apparent poverty in the Escriva family only made Josemaria get closer to his dad, while Manolo's dad did not seem to find time for him. Josemaria's parents taught him not to base his happiness on material things but to place his heart on God, who is the source of true happiness. He brought this spirit with him when he founded Opus Dei and taught those who followed him the joy of being poor with his example. The short scene showing Josemaria looking for a pair of shoes

while an old woman was eyeing a hat was particularly moving and telling of this spirit.

Strength of faith in God to pursue a mission. It was rather striking how an agnostic like Roland Joffe captured the faith of Josemaria. He said that he actually turned down the offer to do this movie until he chanced upon a DVD showing the real Josemaria talking to a young Jewish lady wanting to convert to Christianity. He advised her to be obedient to her parents and confessed to her that his first love is a Jew, Jesus, and his second is a Jewess, Mary. The open-minded, charitable and amiable character of Josemaria, which was rather different from the way he was being portrayed by some people, captured him and perhaps we could say, changed him. He began to research more about his life and wrote the script himself. He did a great job of capturing the faith of Josemaria which the saint himself described to be so thick that you can cut it with a knife. Josemaria believed that faith is a gift from God, and that could have given him all the strength he needed to pursue his mission in spite of the war, and the apparent opposition from "good people" who thought he was crazy founding Opus Dei.

Miracle of forgiveness. It is amusing how forgiving another person can be truly liberating. Try to follow how this "miracle of forgiveness" ensued between the lives of Manolo and his son, Roberto.

Towards the end of the film, I noticed that some of the people around me were moved to tears. Obviously, they were touched by the scenes in the movie. I felt inspired too, that's why I decided to write about the movie in this blog.

Hopefully you guys can catch it too! Best if you can bring your friends and family. If your intention is to watch something entertaining and educational, I think this is a perfect movie to watch. At the same time, it can be your apostolate work to bring a friend to watch and hopefully be 'inspired' or 'converted'. You don't have to be all preachy. Let the movie do the talking.

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