



The Venerable Servant of God Montserrat Grases

Newsletter No 23 | 2020

Montse Grases: a meeting-point with God

Many young people have testified to the graces they have received after praying through Montse's intercession: a cure, or receiving the strength to endure a sickness; seeing their vocation, or having a major conversion. All of them are grateful to her for enabling them to practise their faith in everyday life, and help others in their turn. When Montse was declared Venerable, Andres, a journalist from Ecuador, wrote the following article about her for his newspaper.

she drew up her accounts on square-ruled paper: "Prayer, late and half-asleep, but did struggle." Or, "Upset, insecure, but afterwards not." She died just a few days after writing that, on 26th March 1959, aged 17 – exactly the same age as I was. She also poured out her heart in what she wrote – she was already planning a major trip to Paris – but on the to-do list of her life, after a skiing trip, a cancer in one leg made its appearance. Ewing's sarcoma. There are fewer than three cases in every



"She always looks pretty, with dark lines under her eyes, chewing gum, and a smile that could make all the criminals in the world know they really are forgiven".

Montse during her trip to Rome in 1958

"She is, I can declare with certainty, one of the women I've talked to most in my life. I turn to her both during those white-tie celebrations when you have a drink in each hand, and when you're in your pyjamas repenting of everything, feeling ready to be put in a black plastic sack and thrown out with the rubbish. She always realizes when I'm telling a half-truth, she doesn't turn away when she doesn't agree with me, and she has no problem about telling me I'm fat, any time of the day. She always looks pretty, with dark lines under her eyes, chewing gum, and a smile that could make all the criminals in the world know they really are forgiven. When I first got to know her I was seventeen, I had free time and felt the world was at my feet. I read her notebooks where, evening after evening, in her round schoolgirl's handwriting, after examining her conscience,

million people under 20. This cell mutation did not happen to her neighbour, or her friend, or her sister, or me. Perhaps because Montse was the one who could manage not to turn a diagnosis of painful treatments, haemorrhaging and radiotherapy into an overwhelming tragedy of painful treatments, haemorrhaging and radiotherapy. Instead, she made it different. She learnt the only six guitar chords that a friend of hers knew – the ones we all know, C, G, F, B, D, A – so that, while still in bed, she could sing 1950s love-songs. But the written lyrics were somehow different from the way they sounded on the radio. "Rosa," she'd say to her amateur teacher, as they came to certain words, "sing it with a capital letter!" Montse Grases, enduring a pain that she said was like a dog permanently gnawing at her leg, sang to her Love".

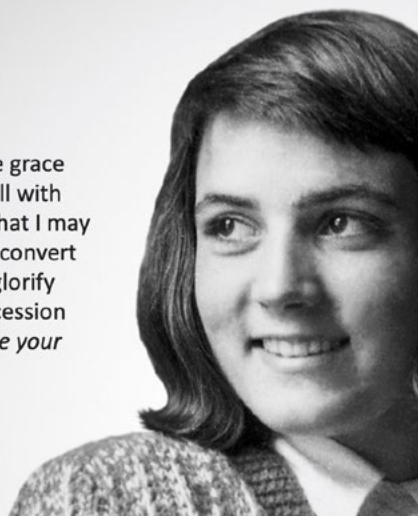
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Prayer for private devotion

O God, you granted your servant Montse the grace of serene and cheerful dedication to your will with admirable simplicity in everyday life. Grant that I may lovingly offer to you all my daily activity and convert it into Christian service for others. Deign to glorify your servant Montse, and through her intercession grant me the favour I ask of you... (*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 judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.



Those who obtain favours through Montse Grases' intercession are asked to notify the Prelature of Opus Dei at the address shown below

Publications

- [Montse Grases Novena](#), Francisco Faus.
- **Montserrat Grases: Christian Heroism in Ordinary Life**, Scepter Booklet 32, 1975.
- **Like Any Other: A Girl Named Montse**, J. M. Cejas, Scepter, 2017.
- [The Life of Montse Grases](#). Video (44 mins) <https://opusdei.org/en-uk/video/life-of-montse-grases/>

News of the Cause of Montse's Beatification and Canonisation

On 26th April 2016, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints promulgated the Decree on the heroicity of Montse's virtues and her reputation for holiness.

This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give alms to help Montse's Cause may send donations by cheque to the address below or by bank transfer.

Direct transfer for donations to: Account Number: **81044834** | Sort-Code: **40-05-33** | Marked Ref: **Grases**

Favours

If you don't want to sleep, then don't

I want to write about my cure after praying to God through Montserrat. Seven years ago, after great stress, I stopped sleeping. For example, I might spend two nights without sleeping at all, sleep for 30 minutes the third night, and the following night get no sleep again. During the day I could not switch off for an instant to compensate for not sleeping at night. (...) Some people advised me to wait, others said I'd better continue taking strong medication long term, and some even told me that people in my situation go mad. I prayed to be cured, and many people supported me with their prayers. This went on for a long time, for two or three years, in varying degrees of intensity. (...) This year a friend gave me the novena to Montse and said I could ask God to cure me through her intercession. I already knew a bit about Montse, but now I had in my hands the text of the novena and a photo of her with a relic. I meditated on her life, which was so short and so full of meaning; on her suffering; on her inner strength, etc. The second night, when I was praying the second part of the novena, I shut my eyes and began to think about what she was like, how much she loved life, and suddenly I heard the words "If you don't want to sleep, then don't." It was not a voice, nor one of my thoughts, but something between the two. (...) That phrase seemed to sum up everything: good advice, comfort, and even a sort of reproach. But I understood it in its fullest sense, and I felt as though I understood her not with my mind but with my heart. After 20 minutes I fell asleep. The next night I read the next part of the novena, and again slept. I couldn't believe it was true. (...) As of today, I can state that my insomnia is behind me. If I find it hard to get to sleep any night, I ask God for help through Montse, and it works. I am sure that in due course she will be recognised as a Saint. Although I knew before that suffering purifies us and brings us closer to God, it was only Montse's example that forced me to understand it and feel it in depth. Everyone who suffers from some illness and has difficulty in finding meaning in it, can petition God through Montse and discover it for themselves, find hope, and be cured. **E.H.**

Russian original at:

<https://opusdei.org/ru-kz/article/bessonitsa/>

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