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Venerable Montse Grases

Near the beginning of the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*, written after the Synod of Bishops on young people in 2018, Pope Francis recalls a quotation from St Irenaeus: "Jesus is 'young among the young in order to be an

example for the young and to consecrate them to the Lord."¹ He also highlights that "In the heart of the Church, Mary shines forth. She is the supreme model for a youthful Church that seeks to follow Christ with enthusiasm and docility. While still very young, she accepted the message of the angel, yet she was not afraid to ask questions (see Luke 1:34). With open heart

and soul, she replied, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord' (Luke 1:38)."² And the Pope adds, "Mary did not take out an insurance policy! She took the risk, and for this reason she is strong, she is an 'influencer', the 'influencer' of God. Her 'yes and her desire to serve were stronger than any doubts or difficulties.'"³

The Pope gives the example of young saints. During his papacy he has issued decrees on the heroic virtues of many different boys and girls, and the miracles attributed to them. Some of them lived recently, like the Italians Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) and Venerable Mateo Farina (1990–2009). As well as St Jacinta Marto (1909–1920) and St Francisco Marto (1908–1919), the little shepherds of Fatima, Pope Francis has canonized other adolescents and young people.

"The heart of the Church is also full of young saints who devoted their lives to Christ, many of them even dying a martyr's death. They were precious reflections of the young Christ; their radiant witness encourages us and awakens us from our lethargy."⁴

Among the young people proposed as witnesses to holiness, the Synod webpage included Venerable Montse Grases.⁵ It put the question, "Is it possible to become a saint by the time you are sixteen or seventeen years old?" And

the answer it gave was that Montse's life was similar to

that of any other girl her age, and at the same time, it was filled with God: she encountered Jesus in the normality of her daily routine, and she gave herself generously to Him.



1 *Adversus Hæreses*, II, 22, 4: PG 7, 784.

2 Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus vivit*, 43 (25 March 2019)

3 *Ibid.*, 44

4 *Ibid.*, 49

5 <http://www.synod.va/content/synod2018/en/youth-testimonies/montse-grases--a-typical-girl.html>

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.

The Venerable Servant of God Montse Grases

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 requested to inform the Office for the Causes of Saints, Opus Dei Prelature, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL, writing in to ocs.uk@opusdei.org or through the website www.montsegrases.org.

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**

Final conversion

One of my brothers, who never got married, stopped practising his faith when he was very young, and went further and further away from God. Time went by, and at the age of 79 he was diagnosed with cancer of the throat. (...)

Right from the start I prayed through Montse's intercession for him to go to Confession. I said the prayer-card with great faith, because he hadn't been to Confession for 60 years. During his first stay in hospital he attempted to commit suicide twice, but by God's mercy he was rescued and his state of health improved. (...) After some time he deteriorated and had a stomach operation. (...) Some months later he was taken into hospital again and had a third operation. (...)

All this time I was praying through Montse's intercession, convinced that this was when the miracle would happen. A priest went to see him, and he agreed for him to continue to visit him frequently. A few weeks later my brother went to Confession after more than 60 years. Afterwards the priest brought him Holy Communion, and from then until he died, the priest visited him every week.

When the disease entered the final stage I called the priest, who went to see him. My brother was under sedation, and when the priest called out his name he opened his eyes and looked at him. (...) The priest gave him the Anointing of the Sick. My brother died the next day.

I am so very grateful to God because through Montse Grases' intercession I witnessed my brother's final conversion, and my whole family has been brought closer together.

P.S.E.

Grateful for years

This is a small favour that I will never forget. For my final year of secondary education, I started at a new school. At my previous school I had usually got very good marks, and ever since I was small I had been praised for my essay-writing. But the new school was very hard, and my essays were never given a higher mark than 7. So I prayed very intensely through Montse's intercession, asking her to help me. The next essay we had to write was on a topic of our choice, and I wrote in poetic style on some aspects of Montse's life, both spiritual and material, speaking directly to her and recalling her love, courage and faith. The teacher gave me a 10 and added the comment "Very well written". Now, several years later, I am able to thank Montse for her help, and I continue asking her to watch over us.

P.D.F.

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