

ENCARNITA ORTEGA

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Her Footprint in Fashion (1941– 2021)

Eighty years ago, **St Josemaría** first explained his vision for **Opus Dei** to Encarnita. Her response was a positive and enthusiastic 'Yes'.

A few women joined her and began the adventure of proclaiming the call to be saints and apostles in the middle of the world, to place Christ at the summit of all human activities.

St Josemaría encouraged them about the future, telling them **"Dream and your dreams will fall short"**. Encarnita thought that in her lifetime she would see some twenty-five Opus Dei centres open.... But, by the end of her life, there were countless centres all over the world. Indeed, her dreams fell far short.

Among the fields of work that St Josemaría proposed to the women of the Work was the world of **fashion**. Towards the end of her life in Oviedo and Valladolid, Encarnita dedicated many years to organising training activities for professionals in the sector. She made them aware that for a Christian

woman true elegance means **presenting the image of a daughter of God**, with good taste.

Many women of Opus Dei, in collaboration with others, are currently developing **creative and apostolic projects** in this field. Encarnita's influence is still apparent.

In the Philippines they have created GUTSY, an acronym for *Give Up Trends, Show Your worth*. It is a platform to promote women's self-esteem and strength of character. It also seeks to promote health and well-being in all its aspects. They sought Encarnita's intercession to get the collaboration of a company that promotes a prestigious brand in the Asia-Pacific markets. The women were sure that the positive result was because of her intercession.

Today, GUTSY is reorganising itself so as to expand its apostolic outreach and services to women. It has always believed that Encarnita had a vision ahead of her time because of the formation she received from St Josemaría Escrivá. She has been **a great source of inspiration and a constant intercessor** for the group.

From Valencia (Spain), Amparo Ferrando, Director of the COSO Moda (Communication and Society Fashion) project, relates the following: **"We count on Encarnita's help** for all the activities of COSO Moda. She is always interceding on our behalf. We don't have the money or the infrastructure to carry out any major projects, and she surprises us because we have amazing results. Our greatest achievement was the Solidarity Fashion Show. Without money or experience, the show was hugely successful. The work of the professionals who took part, the palace where it was held, the furniture, everything, was donated free of charge. In addition, we obtained scholarships for the dressmaking programme of the Centre Ruel Ilomba, in Ivory Coast" through the **Harambee NGO**, which promotes initiatives for the advancement of women and their education in Africa.

In 2021, eighty years after that conversation with St Josemaría, the reality goes way beyond those early dreams. Encarnita would never have imagined so many 21st century projects across the continents.



→ Harambee volunteers

Favours

A few years ago I was in a very difficult job situation. My wife had given birth to our eldest daughter and **we were both unemployed**. A friend of mine prayed the prayer card to Encarnita asking for a solution, and that same afternoon **I got employment**. Right now Spain has been hit hard by Coronavirus. My wife and I are on ERTE (unemployment benefit during temporary lay-off), which means we have very little income. We have **4 daughters**, which makes it difficult to make ends meet. I remembered the favour she did for me and decided to do a novena. At the end of the novena, **my company called me back**. I know that this was, once again, a favour from Encarnita. **R.M.**



● GUTSY Group of the Philippines

I live in a university hall of residence. We started to have some symptoms of **Covid 19**. On 5 October there were 2 confirmed cases and on 10 October there were 20 diagnosed cases. We applied the protocol and locked down the entire hall of residence for 10 days. We were prepared to deal with the situation, but there is always uncertainty and fear that it could become more complicated. On the 5th day, with great confidence, I asked Encarnita for the illness to have mild symptoms, pass quick and that nobody would be badly affected.

I write this favour because her intervention has been clear: **most of the cases have been mild** or asymptomatic. The local health centre – without it being the usual practice for the 18 to 20 age group – has carried out PCR tests on all the residents, the families were very grateful for the letters we sent informing them of the situation.

On 19 October, regular activities resumed at the residence. The residents have bonded with one another and **have grown in spontaneity and initiative**. There were zoom chats, online games, we heard from each other and we experienced one of the pillars of our college life: its family atmosphere. **A.C.**

The Positio is being worked on; it covers the life, virtues and reputation for sanctity of Encarnita.



Prayer for private devotion

Lord, you showed your daughter Encarnita how attractive it is to seek holiness in the middle of the world and gave her the grace to follow that quest faithfully in Opus Dei. Grant that, like her, I may discover your Love afresh every day and communicate it to those around me. Deign to glorify your daughter Encarnita and, through her intercession, grant me the favour I ask of you... *(here make your petition)*. 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.

Those who have obtained favours through the intercession of the Servant of God, Encarnita Ortega, are asked to let us know by writing to us at the address below. More information is available at www.encarnitaortega.org

This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give a contribution to help its publication may send donations by cheque or postal order to the address below or by direct transfer.

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