

Encarnita Ortega



In the street, doing apostolate

On 29 November 2021, during an audience with Pope Francis, the Holy Father remarked to Monsignor Fernando Ocáriz, the prelate of Opus Dei, that “It is important for everyone to be in the street, doing apostolate”.

On one occasion Encarnita recounted something she had heard from the founder of the Work, St Josemaría Escrivá, in the 1940s. He told them that they didn’t need to spend time on their balcony, something which – in those years – must have been customary for some women. What was important was to be in the house: in the oratory with the tabernacle, with the people who lived there and with the friends who arrived at any time of the day, with their concerns.

He encouraged them to be with people, to go out to work or to go out for a walk with friends. St Josemaría used a graphic Italian expression: *nel bel mezzo della strada* (in the middle of the street). This was very much in tune with Encarnita’s temperament. **She enjoyed being with people.** Even when she was very ill, **she did not focus on herself, she always had some exciting project on the agenda** that kept her young and gave her energy: a fashion conference or a meeting with young people, an appointment with a friend, a visit to see someone... It was common to see her in the street because “we can’t just sit here, shrinking”, she used to say.

María Ángeles Sáez recounts: “One day I saw her in the street – it was December, when it is extremely cold

in Valladolid – and I invited her for a coffee. Referring to the fact that Valladolid is world famous for its vineyards, she answered me with a big smile: ‘Here, we go for a glass of wine!’ She felt at ease with people and was always very natural with them. She found opportunities to be with people and to chat in a relaxed atmosphere **with conversations that went very deep”.**

On her regular journeys, she would look for company to talk to someone. Francis Rojo, who was very young at the time, wrote down his memories of some short walks with her: “Encarnita used to come to Palencia, where she knew many people and I got to know her better because I had the chance to accompany her to the train station on her way back to Valladolid. On my short walks with her, our conversation always revolved around my family and my work. She would ask me if I was happy. Although our age difference was evident, I loved being with her. **She transmitted great peace, serenity. She taught one that everything was for the best.** She also taught me how to make the most of my time. In fact, she would leave on a train that allowed her to do some work in Valladolid. I was also struck by the fact that **she never talked about herself**, she related things in such a way as **to avoid any sense of being the lead actor**, anything that could smell of vainglory or of putting herself in the limelight. Nor did she talk to me about her vocation. She was a marvel of discretion.” Francis later asked for admission to Opus Dei.

Favours

A companion for my sister

My sister lives alone. She is elderly and needed a person to do her housework and keep her company. It was not easy. She and I entrusted the matter to Encarnita. I gave Encarnita a month, and she did it. Now there is a young girl, very trustworthy, but who doesn't know how to do things around the house; she is learning. It's not permanent because she wants to find a job for which she is qualified. But for the moment they have fitted in very well: she eats with my sister often. They do things on the computer, which my sister sometimes got stuck on, etc.

L.M.R. (Spain)

Readmitted after an ERTE

Due to the severe financial crisis in my country because of Covid, my company had to give me an ERTE (unemployment benefit during temporary lay-off). I am a father of a large family. With the payment of the ERTE, I had a lot of financial difficulties. Encarnita had previously solved some minor problems for me. I decided to do a novena. The day I finished it, I got a call from my company, telling me that I would be reinstated. Once again, Encarnita helped me from above.

R.M.G. (Spain)

My son found a job

Through Encarnita's intercession, I asked for a son of mine to find a job and he found it in a fortnight. Thank you Encarnita for your mediation and for quickly obtaining God's grace.

L.A.M. (Chile)

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

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.



News of the Cause

The Positio on the life, virtues and reputation for sanctity of Encarnita is being finalised for submission to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

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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