



## Venerable JOSÉ MARÍA GARCÍA LAHIGUERA

Archbishop Emeritus of Valencia  
Founder of the  
HH Oblate Sisters of Christ Priest

### SACERDOS ET HOSTIA

«These words have been my life on earth  
and I hope they will be my glory in heaven»

## Prayer

### For private devotion

Holy Father, source of all holiness, who hast deigned to confer your faithful son José Maria the fullness of priesthood, thus identifying him with Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest: We humbly pray now you grant us the grace we plead, trusting in his intercession, so that one day the Church, which he loved and served with the total offering of his life, will raise him to the honors of the altars, to the glory of your name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory)

*In accordance with the decree of Pope Urban VIII, in no way it is intended to prevent the judgment of the Church. This prayer does not have any purpose of public worship.*

## Acknowledgements

They thank favors or send donations:

**Alicante:** M<sup>a</sup> Evangelina Villegas (Benidorm). **Asturias:** Fernando Lafuente. **Barcelona:** Carmen Sagarra - M<sup>a</sup> Lourdes Tristany. **Cáceres:** M<sup>a</sup> Pilar Gómez Moreno (Plasencia). **Cádiz:** Francisco Arenas Martín . **Huelva:** Esteban Lobo Durán. **Lleida:** M<sup>a</sup> Carmen Masip. **Madrid:** Juan Calvo Izquierdo - Purificación Fernández Rojo - José María Pérez - Manuel González López-Corps - Mariano Perrón - M<sup>a</sup> Socorro Calvo Serraller - Esperanza Martínez de la Riva - Araceli Martín - Antonio Iniesto Acevedo (Majadahonda) - Lucía González - África Álvarez - Isabel Lisbona - M<sup>a</sup> Jesús Castaños - Esperanza Martín - Marcelo Gómez - Carlos Hurtado de Mendoza. **Málaga:** Josefa Ruiz. **Navarra:** Manuel Martín (Corella) - Concepción Bozal (Fitero) **Valencia:** Familia Crespo Soler (Catarroja) - Isabel Álvarez Belvís (Alberic) - Amelia Vaillard - Parroquia S. Juan Bautista (Loriguilla) - Enrique Giner, Parroquia Ntra. Sra de la Asunción. **Vizcaya:** MM. Clarisas, Convento Santa Clara (Gernika) - MM. Dominicas (Lekeitio).

We must voice our gratefulness to those who send their contribution to help in the expenses of the Cause but whom we cannot thank personally, as we don't know their name and address. From here, thank you very much.

We would appreciate, in the case you are moving and want to continue receiving this newsletter, that you could send us your new address in order to avoid mail returns.

To report received graces or to deliver donations:

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Newsletter  
On the life and holiness fame of  
Venerable José María García Lahiguera, Arzobispo

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## Venerable José María García Lahiguera

### BAPTISM: CONSECRATION SEAL

We are all "people chosen by God for a royal priesthood" from the day of baptism; called to a true priesthood, as we are made children of God by this sacrament, and intended for that very reason to make our life a sacrifice of praise to the Creator.



Baptism printed on us a sign that will last for eternity. The priests of the Old Law had "Sanctum Domino" written on their foreheads. "Sanctum Domino", that is "Holy to the Lord". Baptism is a sacrament of consecration: the soul is made a child of God forever; but also consecrated to the Lord forever. The divine plan appears gradually in its entire amplitude, until you see with certainty what He wants from that soul, called into being, called to life, called to be with a particular and definitive call: holy, consecrated, child of God. There are no papal powers that can dispense us from that baptismal consecration. (José M<sup>a</sup> García Lahiguera, *Retreats*).

D. José María was General Religious Visitor in Madrid-Alcala for 14 years, a member of the Sacred Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes since 1969, member of the Joint Commission of Bishops and Religious of the Spanish Bishops Conference and president of the Pontifical Institute CLAUNE for the cloistered life up to the very day of his death. During his ministry, he was for consecrated persons a zealous caregiver, a patient and supporter guide and a real father who not only understood the consecrated life, but loved and defended it.

## Religious Testimonies

- I have an indelible memory of the good Father who both helped us and did it so fondly. He was a firm support in the history of our Congregation –so I recognize–, and I think he is a saint. *Beatriz Hermenegildo, R.S.A.*



- Holy man and holy priest, holy founder and holy Archbishop, he wore himself out for the glory of God, for priests and souls, under the protection and guidance of the Blessed. Virgin. No doubt Mgr. José María Lahiguera was in tune with the Heart of Christ the Eternal High Priest. *Sister María Jesús García OSC.*



- We cannot but keep alive our gratitude to him that was always so close to our Congregation and lavished us with so many details of delicacy and affection. *Mª Pilar García, A.P.C.S.*



- We cannot praise enough the very fond memories we have of so blessed Father, especially when he was also our Visitor. His kindness, sweetness and at the same time his firmness and zeal for the holiness of us all, do not fade from our minds. *Franciscan Poor Clare –Descalzas Reales– Madrid*



- He was a man inflamed with zeal for our growth in the Christian life and holiness. He spoke to us with energy and firm eagerness, as a man who wants to infuse his convictions into his audience. I still can remember the motto he repeated every year. «Do not forget the three S's: Be Saint, Sound and Wise», summing up what he wanted us to be in a near future. I saw him as a man with an extraordinarily pure heart. All of us who were in touch with him had the feeling that we had been with a saint. *Fr. Andrés O.C.S.O*



- They talked to me highly about him at the Carthusian monastery of Miraflores, Burgos. Especially the Vicar, who, while he was Prior in Valencia, had dealt quite often with Father José María. From now on, I consider myself your collaborator in making José María and his priestly message be known. *Adalberto Abad Medrano.*



- The years 1959 to 1969 were marked by God, ever provident, by giving us Bishop Don Jose M<sup>re</sup>. Garcia Lahiguera as Religious Advisor for our Congregation. Because of my responsibility as Vicar General, I had close experience of his extraordinary fidelity and spirituality and at the same time simple and firm action. He was for us all an instrument of God's Spirit. I found many important aspects in his attitude and teachings, in his counsel and constant and generous dedication to the demanding mission that the Church entrusted to him in that difficult circumstance for our Congregation at that time. *Isabel Movilla, R.S.A.*



«The lifetime of the consecrated soul is dedicated to God, magnetized to holiness, to praise, to the blessing of the Lord, toward gratitude; in a word, to the sacrifice of the Mass. The consecrated soul lives on earth only for God, to bless Him, to praise Him, to thank Him, being «*hostiam laudis*». The «*Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te*» we repeat in the Gloria of the Mass and we will repeat endlessly in Heaven for eternity is, even from now on, the life of the consecrated soul»

*Venerable José María García Lahiguera*



## Reported favors

- I had been teaching religion in a Public School for several years, when I entrusted José María García Lahiguera to settle my legal status as a teacher. It was a long process until we were recognized as members of the faculty, registered with Social Security and offered to sign a fair contract. At the time of my retirement, I was granted an extension to continue working long enough to qualify for a minimum pension. However, by mistake, I was retired two days earlier than required for the pension. I prayed José María to help me from heaven, and the matter was resolved. I also asked that the first 6 courses I worked in precarious conditions were counted when calculating my pension. Against all odds, I was granted all that, so I wish this favor to be published, and my gratefulness for the intercession of José María be known. *E. V. - Alicante.*



- Only a letter to tell you how grateful I am to Venerable Don José because he has granted me another favor. I got such a strong pain in both arms that I could barely get dressed or eat, etc. I prayed to God through the intercession of Venerable Don José and I have already improved considerably. I promised a donation and to report it on the newsletter in gratitude for his goodness. *María Luisa Tovar - Cáceres.*