

Testimonies of priests trained by Fr. José María



He was a guiding light for priestly spirituality. He lived and preached ontological holiness "with obsession," seeking to give a sense of depth to priestly holiness. He presented holiness without burden, in a joyful way, which made me see that one must approach God and others with love and humor. He often visited the sick; I can say it was one of the most beautiful tasks. He was always willing to hear confessions during retreats, spiritual exercises, and other gatherings. Whenever I went down to the seminary chapel, I was struck by the sight of him kneeling before the tabernacle. He had a deep love for the celebration of Holy Mass and he instilled this passion in everyone under his care. His spirit of detachment was also palpable in the Servant of God. I think Father José María instilled in us a style of priestly spirituality.

Fr. Isaiah Barroso.

A guiding light for priestly spirituality

He was a man who celebrated Mass with profound piety and dedicated much time to prayer. He lived what he preached. In a gentle way, he instilled in us a zeal for the glory of God, the commitment a priest must have to the salvation of souls, prayer, love for sinners, and above all, a great love for the person of the Savior. In those days, it was common for young priests to be assigned to mountain villages, in difficult conditions, but such was the priestly spirit he instilled in us that we went to our assignments with the awareness that it was a good place to grow in holiness. The celebration of the Eucharist was central to his life, and he made us experience it as such. The same was true of the recitation of the Divine Office, which he never considered a burden but something joyful. He spoke to us about how to visit the sick, sparing no effort. In the face of adversity, he carried himself in such a way that he inspired in us the spirit of service and the ability to never complain. I don't recall ever seeing him discouraged. His faith in the Lord was greater than any adversity that might arise.

Fr. Antonio García del Cueto.

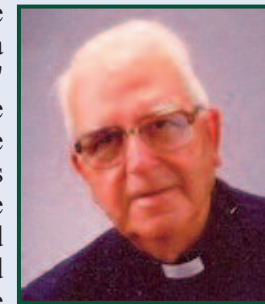


I know from his own confession that he never had the slightest doubt about his vocation. When he was ordained a priest, he promised "to ask for nothing, to refuse nothing," which was certainly a guiding principle throughout his life. We

The spiritual renewal of the seminary was evident

always had him available in the confessional or in his office. His prudence and his ability to be demanding without harshness and kind without concessions impressed us. The spiritual renewal of the seminary was evident. He knew how to introduce the spirituality proper to the secular clergy. I witnessed the fervor with which he celebrated the Eucharist and his extraordinary Marian devotion, which he instilled in all those around him. I want to emphasize that Father José María's holiness was a continuous way of living, as if it were the most natural thing in the world, his total surrender to God. It was enough to hear him preach about Christ to realize that Christ was everything to him, and to feel drawn to the figure who captivated his mind and heart. He was convinced that love for God was not authentic if it was not poured out for the good of others. This explains his tireless zeal. Whenever someone caused him pain, his main concern was finding the right moment to make them understand that he still loved them.

Fr. Salvador Muñoz Iglesias.



His work led to a complete spiritual renewal of the groups entrusted to him, especially in the seminary. He constantly repeated that the sole reason for our presence there was to prepare us for the priesthood by living, from that moment on, priestly holiness. He radiated a profound life in God. He had but one ideal: to be and live only as a priest, always as a priest, and entirely as a priest. And this priestly ideal was soon embodied in his offering himself with Jesus Christ as a victim for those whom the Father has given his Son.

Fr. Luis José Alonso.



Prayer for private devotion

Holy Father, source of all holiness, who deigned to confer upon your faithful son José María the fullness of the priesthood, thus identifying him with Jesus Christ, the eternal High Priest: We humbly pray that you grant us the grace we implore, trusting in his intercession, so that one day the Church, which he loved and served with the total offering of his life, may raise him to the honor 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.

Reported graces

- I entrusted my sister's healing to Father José María. She had surgery for a malignant lung tumor that had metastasized to her brain. At her last check-up, her oncologist told her she is cancer-free. I give thanks to God and to Father José María for his intercession. M. E.
- The first child of some friends was born with a serious heart condition, incompatible with life according to the doctors. Despite everything, the parents did not hesitate to continue with the pregnancy, and many of their relatives and friends began to entrust them to Father José María. Against all odds, after a process that included several surgeries and very difficult moments, the child is thriving, full of vitality, to everyone's joy. We are grateful for the Father's intercession and ask him to continue watching over him. C. G.



Valencia, 1976

Acknowledgments

Barcelona: M.^a Lourdes Tristany. **Cáceres:** Pilar Gómez Moreno (Plasencia). **Castellón:** Primi Domingo. **Huelva:** José Rodríguez Vargas; Rocío Sevilla. **Lugo:** Áurea Peteira (Villalba). **Madrid:** M.^a Concepción García Vicente-Tutor; Juan Carlos García García; José Ignacio Piñar Mañas; Manuel Martín Martín; P. José Luis Lorient (Villarejo de Salvanés). **Navarra:** Mercedes Remón Huarte; M.^a de la Barda Muro; Jesús Latorre (Fitero). **Toledo:** Rafael José Barrera Reuelta. **Valencia:** P. Rigoberto; Francisco Martínez Codoñer (Massanassa); Enrique Giner Giner.

2026

Newsletter on his life
and fame of holiness

N.º 20



Venerable
**José María
García Lahiguera**

Archbishop

Founder of the
Oblate Sisters of Christ the Priest

CENTENARY OF HIS PRIESTLY ORDINATION MAY 29, 1926-2026

«I am a priest, what joy! I wouldn't trade it for anything. Nothing can take this joy away from me. Even though life's events sometimes darken my life, even though problems, sorrows, and pain surround me, the gentle breeze of joy is always present. I can forgive sins, I can give life to souls, I can comfort the sinner, I can take the lost sheep and carry it on my shoulders. I can say, "I absolve you," and Christ will absolve you through me. I will lend Him my voice; I will lend Him my hands... "This is my body," "This is my blood." "Take and eat," "Take and drink." What joy! What peace! He wanted to make me like Him: for us to be one. The gift is so great that I need eternity to give thanks for it properly. My children, this gift is a present that the Lord gives me for you. So, join us in praise, sing with us, give thanks with us, for God has bestowed the gift of the priesthood upon the Church.»

(Valencia, 1976, Homily on his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination).



Valencia, 1976

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