



a l'ombra de l'alzina
a la sombra de la encina
à l'ombre du chêne
all'ombra della quercia
Magdalena Aulina

15-02-2026

In the shade of the oak tree

“Dearest sister in Christ: I received your letter. Even though you don't really tell me much, I can read everything you left unsaid.

Take courage, Carmen. Nothing should frighten you about the future. Jesus organizes everything well. When He arranges something, He already puts everything in order. Why, little sister, should you worry about tomorrow? Don't think about anything, and with great love take care of your beloved parents.

Jesus is now placing them on your path so that you may become holy there. And since Jesus is now asking you to take care of your parents, do not fear tomorrow, Carmen. Do you think that Jesus does things halfway? Oh, Carmen, prepare yourself to be ready to sanctify every moment, and you will accumulate great treasures of wealth for eternity. Without fear, without apprehension, abandon yourself to His holy will, always willing to do whatever our Jesus wants and when He wants it. Oh, little sister, let us prepare our souls with great love, full of faith in the work that the good Jesus places before us.

Take care of your parents, cheer them up and sweeten their old age as much as possible. Jesus wants us to take great care of them. You must not leave them until Jesus wants you to.

Rejoice, little sister, and throw yourself on our Jesus. On Jesus, who is all love. On Jesus, who is all peace and charity. Do you think your dear Jesus would want you to leave them? No, Carmen! Tell Jesus that you are his, and all his. Perform acts of great love towards him. Join in with those of our Mother, who loves you and expects much from you. Carmen, seek Mary. To her, who is the mother of our loves, repeat often and with great faith: I want to love Jesus with your heart, O Mary, and with the heart of Jesus I want to love you, O Mary.

On 15 October 1929, Magdalena wrote this letter to her friend M. Carmen Prat Ferrer, who was caring for her elderly parents in Barcelona.

Carmen wanted to give herself completely to Jesus, but Magdalena encouraged her to stay with them until Jesus decided differently.

Carmen Prat and Magdalena Aulina had met in Barcelona the year before, at the meetings of Spiritual Exercises of the Opera. Carmen explained: "There, I met that young woman, so simple, so humble, so full of God, who radiated a special spirituality. Joyful, kind, attentive, friendly. She inspired in my soul a greater interest in God's cause, in true service to the Church. I was surprised to see her so young, with so many ideals and such open-mindedness, which imparted to me an unconditional love for Jesus through the Virgin Mary, to whom she was deeply devoted". Carmen joined the Opera in 1933.

In this letter – including the recommendations she gives – Magdalena reveals the great respect she had for her parents, Narciso Aulina Font and Carmen Saurina Brugué.

Magdalena Aulina's mother died on 13 February 1931. This changed the situation in the Aulina's home, although the former maid, Francisqueta Vinyals, a person of absolute trust, continued to take care of everything with great loyalty and competence. However, it was clear that Mr Narciso needed attention and company in his loneliness. So, Montserrat Boada stayed in Banyoles to accompany Mr Narciso, while Magdalena continued her apostolic work in Barcelona. Narciso died on 6 August 1934 at his home in Banyoles.

On this 15th of February, we take the opportunity, from Magdalena's letter to Carmen Prat, to reflect on what the Apostle Paul writes, exhorting children to obedience and respect towards their parents, emphasizing that this is pleasing to the Lord, and admonishing parents not to exasperate their children, but to educate them with love and wisdom. Paul's teaching emphasizes the reciprocity of duties between parents and children: children must obey and honour their parents, while parents must love, educate and not exasperate their children. This creates a balanced and harmonious relationship within the family, based on mutual respect and love.

«Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not become discouraged»

(Colossians 3:20-21).

On one hand, children owe their parents respect, attention, and obedience. The call to honour, also present in the Old Testament (Exodus 20:12), reinforces the concept of respect and gratitude towards parents, who have given life and cared for their children.

On the other hand, there is the commitment of parents, which can be viewed from two perspectives. On the negative side, there is the need to avoid exasperating children through incomprehension, excessive severity, or the imposition of a lifestyle. But there is a much more important positive aspect: that of education, training, example and witness. Being parents involves a pedagogical art that requires patience, love and time. Christian education involves teaching the values and principles of faith, accompanied by discipline that teaches children respect for rules and responsibility.

And, in this edition of 'All'ombra della quercia' (In the shade of the oak tree), we would like to pay special tribute to the centenary of the inauguration of the "Church of the Holy Family", built by Magdalena Aulina in Banyoles and inaugurated on 2 February 1926.

Magdalena was deeply convinced that Jesus, Mary and Joseph represented the model per excellence for every family, both in times of joy and in times of difficulty that life brings with it. The Holy Family, in fact, is a shining example of respect, love, care, education and training, as well as sharing family responsibilities and dignity in work.

