



a l'ombra de l'alzina
a la sombra de la encina
à l'ombre du chène
all'ombra della quercia
in the shade of the oak tree

Magdalena Aulina

15-05-2026

“Hail Mary!

Mum, how are you? I don't know, but whenever I write to my brothers, I can't bring myself to end the letter without sending you a warm greeting and saying a few words to you. How are your walks going? I'm sure that if you keep at them, you'll soon be able to do a bit more.

You must be happy, dear Mum, mustn't you? You can't imagine how many times I've prayed to my Jesus for you. Well, do you know what I'm asking Him now? Don't be angry with me, Mum! Because I'm asking my Jesus, through Mary and our Gemma, to grant you the grace to be always joyful, for the fruit of joy is a heart at peace.

You have that, and Jesus knows it well. Try not to give credence to that multitude of thoughts that do you no good and seek only to steal the peace and joy from your heart.

Mother, be strong! Jesus will help you greatly and will not abandon you. When he sees in a soul a willingness to love and a docile heart, he takes care of everything, saying to the soul: 'You, follow me.' Mother, do not be afraid! Jesus – that Jesus who loves his whole flock so dearly – is waiting for you. Do you not remember that little picture in which Jesus places his divine hand on your forehead, looking at you with such love? And that hand of Jesus, which takes your arm and lifts you up, looking at you with love – what does that little picture, which fate has assigned to you, say? I have often joined you in spirit to pray together. Do you like it? Well then, rejoice and make the most of every opportunity that Jesus places in your path, day after day.

I thought I might play a game with you, and this game must consist of laughing all the time; and when tears come to your eyes, send them to me, saying very quickly: 'Tears, I don't need you in my game, go all to Magdalena.' In this game, when the will does something of its own free will, Jesus takes part too. Give it a try and carry on with confidence. You'll see what wonderful things we'll achieve!

Jesus likes to watch souls when they play, to receive a little of his goodness. Well, let's see what you'll explain to me, my dear mother, about this game. Don't worry, it's very simple...

Please give my best regards to Dad, because I don't know how to thank Jesus for such kindness towards all my brothers; towards all of them, and also towards the servants.

Please accept all the appreciation I have for you in Jesus, and your youngest daughter prays fervently for you,

Magdalena of Jesus, Mary and Gemma”.

Montserrat Flaquer Vila (born in 1859) was the mother of a large family: married to Tomás de Aquino Boada Borrell, she had eight children, three of whom died in early childhood. In 1929, Magdalena met the Boadas in Barcelona, where she often travelled for medical appointments and spiritual meetings, and was welcomed into their home as one of the family. There is no doubt that her presence played a decisive role in the change in their lives. The five brothers felt a brotherly affection for Magdalena, which she returned. She came suddenly, and they welcomed her without knowing her charisma and without her mentioning it; instead, she spoke of the work she was doing. The three Boada sisters were inspired by Magdalena and dedicated themselves to the Work, while her two brothers, José María and Tomás, made a significant contribution to its development. This is a testament to how

Magdalena's 'joy' and charismatic strength were contagious and capable of bringing about transformation and inspiring vocations.

In this letter dated 27 January 1930, written in Catalan and sent from Banyoles to Mrs Montserrat Flaquer just a few months after meeting her, Magdalena speaks enthusiastically of the "grace of joy", in an effort to console her elderly mother, who was going through a difficult time. Finally, she suggests "a game" to her. It involves laughing and smiling, wiping the tears from her face: tears she can safely send to Magdalena, who is more than happy to receive them.

Magdalena suggests the "game of joy", almost as a "strategy", which is striking in its disarming simplicity and innocence. In fact, Magdalena does not propose a spirituality built on burdens or severity, but a genuine "pedagogy of the smile". Joy is not merely a transitory emotion, but a spiritual fruit that preserves peace of heart and does not allow the multitude of thoughts to steal one's serenity.

How often do our thoughts and worries steal our peace? Magdalena encourages us not to give them attention, and challenges us not to be mere spectators, but to act and respond with courage and creativity, so that we may be builders of peace, hope and joy. Not because everything is going well, but because Jesus cares for us.

Reading this letter, it becomes clear Magdalena's tenderness, her gentle spiritual motherhood, which does not merely offer comfort but reaches out to embrace the pain and tears of others, transforming them into prayer.

There emerges a spirituality that is simple, genuine and unpretentious, yet at the same time strong and profound, accessible to everyone. Magdalena Aulina is not an unachievable model, but a true travelling companion, friend and confidant. A deeply Marian spirituality, centred entirely on and through Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother. Her Work/her Opera was founded in 1916, specifically in May – the month of Mary.

And Magdalena was called to the Father's House on 15 May 1956.

Today, we celebrate the 70th anniversary of her dies natalis/her birthday.

We ask Jesus, through Mary, for the grace of true joy.

We entrust our thoughts and tears to Magdalena Aulina,

confident that she will take care of them and transform them into prayer, joy and peace of heart.



Magdalena Aulina with her "mum" and brothers Montserrat and José María Boada