



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

15-06-2026

"Hail Mary!

Beloved brother in the Lord, how are you, José María María? I don't want you to think I'm anxious, but in my private prayer with Our Lady, I spoke to her about your consecration and your circumstances. Do you know what I have learned from them?

That you should be more grateful than ever for having been told that you will not have to go to Fernando Po.

That now is not the time to do the spiritual exercises.

That in the newspaper *El Matí* you should desire that everything be entirely according to the will of God.

That you devote yourself as much as possible to making the Opera known. . . just as I told you our eldest sister, our Gemma, wanted! If only you knew how much her soul watches over the Opera.

How hard our Gemma works! At the very least, we must have faith and work with all our strength!

[...] Do not fear anything, José María María; Jesus wants courageous hearts and strong souls. If only you could understand how much Jesus loves you! Jesus loves you so much! Abandon yourself to Him! Love Him truly!

It is true that I need everyone every day, but in the middle of my misery I will never forget you in my prayers, asking much for you...

The love of my God is so great that my little heart cannot bear it, and I must say to Him:

"Go away, Jesus! Depart from this soul, [...] take care of her and place her in Your most holy Side, and there, in Your living, springing fountain, she will never thirst again! Yes, I want to drink of this divine water, beloved Jesus". Here is your creature; give her your love! Do you not know that I am your victim? Let me feel the torment of your precious Cross, which satisfies my soul and makes my heart rejoice. [...]

A warm greeting to everyone and may you receive the affection of this little sister, Magdalena."

After writing to José María Boada Flaquer on January 24 to propose the consecration to Mary, Magdalena sent him another letter from Banyoles on January 28, 1930.

In this letter, she once again reveals herself as the spiritual mother of this beloved son. She even shows a touch of anxiety, just as mothers do, and offers him very useful and practical advice. Above all, she urges him to devote himself as much as possible to making the Opera known, believing that this is what Gemma Galgani, our eldest sister, would want. She then insists on love: Jesus' love for him is great, and such love must be reciprocated with complete surrender.

In her humility, she confesses to José María that she needs everyone every day and entrusts him with her paradoxical situation: she feels that God's love for her is so great that she cannot bear it, because of her "little heart." She also reveals to him that she has offered herself as a victim and intercessor for all her spiritual sons and daughters. With inspired words, she highlights the beauty of the consecration made by José María and encourages him: "Fear

nothing. Jesus wants courageous hearts and strong souls”, as if to prepare him for the trials he would have to endure precisely because of his belonging to the Opera.

In fact, José María Boada's life came to a painful but extraordinary end.

Seriously ill with bronchopneumonia, he died on April 14, in 1941, in Banyoles. In his final moments, he insistently asked for the sacraments, but the parish priest refused to administer them because the Opera was under “privation of the sacraments” by the bishop of Girona. The bishop, through the apostolic nuncio, had agreed that he could receive them, but demanded that he first renounce his affiliation with the Opera.

It was then that José María, clear-minded and firmly convinced of his beliefs, dictated a statement to a notary: “I have nothing to retract, for in all conscience I do not believe I have deviated in any way from the teachings of Holy Mother Church... I feel I owe a special debt of gratitude to God for having taken me and sustained me along paths understood by very few, but which have allowed me to reach this decisive moment in my life with the certainty of my faith and my convictions”.

He even declared himself willing to renounce the consolations of the Church rather than betray his deepest convictions, willingly offering his life to God to bear a greater witness.

Because of this firm statement, he was forbidden to be buried in the Porqueras cemetery. Many people attended the funeral, including civil authorities: due to his notoriety, José María was, in fact, an earl and a highly respected lawyer. Everyone was utterly astonished when they found the cemetery gates barred.

Among the pain and canonical penalties afflicting the Opera, Magdalena silently suffered the unspeakable and arranged for him to be buried in the Casa Nostra property, in a designated spot called “Gethsemane.”

The following inscription is carved on José María's tomb:

***“Your determination at the hour of death,
shrouded in the halo of the bliss of human incomprehension,
you will have earned the divine promise that the kingdom of heaven is yours.”***

