## Hooked by Jesus-Eucharistic

I was hooked by Jesus-Eucharistic, friend and companion. I felt the call to announce everybody the boundless love of God, of that Jesus of the Gospel who became incarnate, the same who lives now among us in the Eucharistic, and who is not always welcomed by everyone.

I devoted my whole life and pastoral work to the Eucharistic. In Huelva, I spread the Good News: the Gospel and the Eucharistic. And I did so in schools, in working-class districts, in arable farms and in catechism classes. In Malaga, I wanted to be closer to the people and I worked in the seminarians' eucharistic education, for whom I built a new seminary.

And I found that there were other people who felt the same as me! That is why I founded the Familia Eucarística Reparadora (FER) [Eucharistic Reparation Family], a family with room for everyone:

- ✓ RIE Children's Eucharistic Reparation (children)
- ✓ JER Youth Eucharistic Reparation (youth)
- ✓ UNER Eucharistic Reparation Union (adults)
- ✓ MEN Eucharistic Missionaries of Nazareth (religious)
- ✓ MESN Secular Eucharistic Missionaries of Nazareth (lay consecrated)
- ✓ MED Diocesan Eucharistic Missionaries (priests)



## My life in a few lines

- 1877 I was born in Seville on the 25th of February
- 1901 I was ordained a priest
- 1902 On the 2nd of February I went to Palomares and discovered an abandoned Tabernacle
- 1905 My first destination: Huelva
- 1907 I founded a eucharistic magazine: The Grain of Sand
- 1910 I founded the UNER
- 1916 I was consecrated Bishop of Malaga
- 1920 I initiated the construction of a new seminary in Malaga
- 1921 I founded the Eucharistic Missionaries of Nazareth
- 1935 I was named Bishop of Palencia

Saint Manuel González died on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1940. He was buried in Palencia cathedral, next to the Tabernacle, as was his desire. He was beatified by John Paul II on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2001 and canonized by Pope Francis on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

## Misioneras Eucarísticas de Nazaret

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# Captivated Eucharist



There was a moment in my life when I felt that the Lord was calling me to a greater intimacy, to share my life with Him. That encounter changed my life forever. as a new birth in my eucharistic and missionary heart. I found out a new way of understanding and living my faith and my vocation.

Was just a newly ordained priest when my superiors gave me a mission in Palomares del Río, a small village in Seville. How happy and excited I was! What bright plans I imagined on my way there! I was picturing the church teeming with people! And the whole village looking forward to the mission!

When I arrived there, the sacristan was waiting for me. I asked him a lot of questions: 'Is everyone excited about the mission? Is the church big? Will be there enough room for so many people?' But the sacristan shattered all my enthusiasm and expectations: 'The church is half in ruins, people have come into the habit of not coming there and I don't think many of them are going to the mission.'

## A deserted Church

Downhearted, I headed to the Tabernacle of the church to give me strength for the mission. But what a Tabernacle! How I had to gather all my strength so that my faith and courage did not disappear!

I did not run away. I stayed there for a long time and there I found my mission plan and the encouragement to carry it out. But above all I found...

Kneeling there in front of that pile of rags and dirtiness, my faith was seeing through that wormeaten little door a so quiet, so patient, so neglected, so good Jesus image looking at me. Yes, it seemed to me that, after looking around that desert of souls, His sad and supplicant look told me a lot and asked me even more.

That look reflected a great wish to love but also a huge distress since no one wanted to be loved. A look that reflected all the sad passages of the Gospel: the sadness of 'and there was no shelter for them in Bethlehem', the sadness in His words: 'And you? Do you want to leave me too?,' the sadness of Judas' betrayal, Pedro's denial, the soldier's slap, of being abandoned by everyone... A look that tore me apart and that I never forgot.

#### A new mission

About me, I can tell you that that afternoon, at that short time I spent in the Tabernacle, I glimpsed a task for my priesthood that I had never dreamed of: being the priest of a town that did not love Jesus Christ, so I love Him on behalf of the whole town. Serving Him with my feet to take Him wherever He wants to go. With my hands to give alms on His behalf, even to those who do not want them. With my mouth to talk about Him and to comfort on His behalf, and shouting in His favor when they insist on not listening... until they listen to Him and follow Him... What a splendid mission!