

olvida Jaume Pujol agradecer a Juan Pablo II su confianza al nombrarle obispo, ni citar sus encuentros con Benedicto XVI.

El hilo cronológico del relato y de los escritos es una buena elección. La sencillez del texto también se agradece. Además, el obispo no ha escrito unas memorias exhaustivas, sino entretejido unos cuantos mimbres, dibujado una serie de puntos que perfilan su vida. Si no he entendido mal, lo identitario para mons. Pujol sería su origen catalán, su vocación al Opus Dei, su preocupación por la catequesis y la docencia, su cercanía hacia todos, su amor a la Iglesia universal y a la particular de Tarragona, cuyas líneas principales de actuación como arzobispo también nos presenta. Por supuesto, abundan los detalles sobre cada uno de esos aspectos. Por ejemplo, el pequeño Jaume ya hacía negocios con diez años, vendiendo palomas (p. 23); al acabar los estudios en el internado de los maristas en Pamplona, su clase no repitió afortunadamente la quema *ritual* de los libros y apuntes, especialmente de latín (p. 32); llegó a vivir a Roma el mismo día que empezaba el concilio Vaticano II, el 11 de octubre de 1962, muy poco tiempo después de haber pedido la admisión en el Opus Dei; su carrera académica estuvo desde el principio ligada a la catequesis y la enseñanza de la religión. Con todo, en el tintero han quedado muchas cuestiones, pues una dilatada vida no cabe en apenas cien páginas, seguidas de otras tantas de escritos pastorales. Ojalá que una segunda entrega de memorias amplíe las vivencias y ahonde las reflexiones en torno al contexto familiar, vocacional, docente y pastoral de esta personalidad de la Iglesia catalana y española.

Santiago Martínez Sánchez

Eric SAMMONS, *Holiness for Everyone: The Practical Spirituality of St. Josemaria Escrivá*, Huntington (IN), Our Sunday Visitor, 2012, 144 pp.

Eric Sammons converted to Catholicism from Evangelical Protestantism. Married and the father of six children, he is currently the Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Venice in Florida.

In this book, Sammons studies the core of the spirit of Opus Dei, namely, God's call to every person to be a saint, there, precisely where one lives and works. The author says that the message of Opus Dei is greatly relevant in the Church because it is addressed to all baptized, not just members of Opus Dei.

The book has two parts. The first one analyzes three essential aspects of the spirit of Opus Dei and also of the Christian life. One is the divine filiation. All the baptized have been configured to Jesus Christ, the Son of God made flesh. Another point is the meaning of freedom for those who know themselves to be creatures and children of God. God is love. He has also created every man through love and to love, and He invites everyone to love him and to love all the creatures. This truth helps Christians to exercise a complete and real freedom, the freedom from sin and error, the

freedom of the children of God, as Christ explained (John 8, 32). The third aspect is especially directed towards Americans. Sammons evokes the idea of a successful life, which is made possible through the professional triumph and the social recognition. He explains that the desire to improve is good provided that one has a transcendent vision of the human life. Indeed, St. Josemaría presented the desire for holiness as opposed to the desire of personal triumph. A truly successful life entails personal struggle to eliminate selfishness and mediocrity in oneself, together with generosity towards God and all mankind.

The second part of the book is dedicated to several means that are necessities for any normal Christian who wants to be saint. Sammons highlights four means: A) A plan of life or a daily program for one's relationship with God, including attendance of Holy Mass, some moments of personal prayer, and the offering of small mortifications. B) The professional work, because work is the ordinary mean of union with God for the Christian faithful. C) A healthy and loving relationship with others in the family life. D) Finally, the Christian apostolate, in the sense of giving witness of one's personal encounter with and love for Christ.

In the end, the author goes back to the beginning. He underlines that it is necessary that each Christian make a firm resolution to embrace the struggle for holiness. It is an impressive daring but, at the same time, it is possible with the grace of God and the generosity of the human heart. Sammons presents in this attractive way the message of St. Josemaría, although sometimes is not entirely accurate in describing his life and teaching.

José Luis González Gullón