



PRAYER

O God, You granted your priest Blessed Josemaria countless graces, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the Christian's ordinary duties. Grant that I too may learn to turn all the circumstances and events of my life into occasions of loving You and of serving the Church, the Pope and all souls with joy and simplicity, lighting up the pathways of this earth with faith and love. Deign to grant the canonization of Blessed Josemaria and, through his intercession, grant me the favor of . . . (make your request). Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.
Glory be to the Father.

This Bulletin is distributed without charge. Those wishing to help defray the printing and distribution costs of the Bulletin can send their tax-deductible contributions to:
Bulletin on the Life of Msgr. Escriva, 330 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10025.

Website:
www.opusdei.org

This Bulletin is published with the ecclesiastical approval of the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.



Blessed JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA

Founder of Opus Dei

HIS LIFE

Josemaria's parents and his childhood

ENCOUNTERS

Dualtech, a school with a social mission

A CURE

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Bulletin

May 2001, New York



Can you find God in your daily work?

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service.

The Cover: Dualtech, a technical
training school in the Philippines



JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA

CENTENNIAL OF HIS BIRTH

Blessed Josemaría Escrivá was born in Barbastro, Spain, on January 9, 1902. He was ordained to the priesthood in Saragossa on March 28, 1925. On October 2, 1928, in Madrid, by divine inspiration he founded Opus Dei, which has opened up for the faithful a new path to sanctity in the midst of the world, through the practice of their ordinary work and the fulfillment of their personal, family and social duties.

On February 14, 1930, Blessed Josemaría Escrivá, by God's grace, understood that Opus Dei was meant to develop its apostolate among women as well. And on February 14, 1943, he founded the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, inseparably united to Opus Dei. Opus Dei received the definitive approval of the Holy See on June 16, 1950. On November 28, 1982, it was erected as a personal Prelature, a juridical form desired and foreseen by Blessed Josemaría Escrivá. When he surrendered his soul to God on June 26, 1975, Opus Dei had spread to six continents, with over 60,000 members of 80 nationalities, serving the Church with the same veneration for and complete union with the Pope and bishops that Blessed Josemaría Escrivá always lived. The Founder of Opus Dei was beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 17, 1992, in Rome. His body rests in the Prelatic Church of Our Lady of Peace (Viale Bruno Buozzi 75, Rome).

January 9, 2002, will be the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Blessed Josemaría Escrivá. Between that date and January 9, 2003, many commemorative events will take place throughout the world. In January of 2002 a congress organized by the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross will be celebrated in Rome with the title "The Greatness of Ordinary Life." During the year 2001 various events are being held in preparation for the centenary.

In addition to providing a good occasion to reflect upon Blessed Josemaría's teachings, the centenary will also be marked by solidarity with the needy. To mention just one example, some faithful of the Prelature, together with other people, have decided to put into operation on this anniversary a professional school in Lagos, Nigeria, which will provide job training to young people of limited resources.

The principal objective of all the activities organized for the centenary is to bring many people closer to God and help them to discover the joy of a Christian life.

"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch"

The approaching centennial of Blessed Josemaría

Next January 9th is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Josemaría Escrivá. I give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for this unique figure in the Church, to whom our Lord entrusted merciful plans for humanity.



Using Blessed Josemaría as a most faithful instrument, God has once again reminded the men and women of the century which has just ended, and of all the ages to come, that he calls all of us without exception to holiness—each in the specific circumstances in which his human vocation has placed him. And not to a watered-down holiness, but to the perfection of charity. The founder of Opus Dei, moved by grace, has brought a message of great novelty—"as old as the Gospel and, like the Gospel, new," he used to say. It is a message that can move so many noble spirits, reminding them that they are called to be "not just *alter Christus*, but *ipse Christus*, Christ himself," in their professional work, in their family, in the ordinary circumstances of their life.

This exemplary priest did not limit himself to transmitting that "news." With the spirit of Opus Dei, which by divine will saw the light of day on October 2, 1928, he began on earth a specific and effective way of carrying out God's universal salvific will: a "way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the Christian's ordinary duties," as the prayer said daily by millions of people puts it.

"This newness of the Work," wrote Opus

Dei's founder years ago, "is not the novelty of a merely human event. It is the newness of the things of God, who as a good Father provides for his family with things both old and new (cf. Mt 13:52). A newness...which doesn't grow old, since it is a sharing in the only 'good news,'

and provides the Christian faithful with a marvelous way to return to the spirit with which the first Christians lived the message of salvation.

"Our Lord wanted to raise up his Work when in most countries both the 'elite' and entire populations seemed to be distancing themselves from the Source of all grace; when even in long-standing Christian countries people were using the sacraments less frequently; when whole sectors of the laity seemed to be asleep, as if their operative faith had vanished.

"The Work, quietly and modestly, but vibrating with a divine spirit, was an instrument of our Lord to awaken those who were asleep, making use of their voices. And these ordinary men and women would say to the rest—to their companions at work, to their brothers and sisters or children, to their students or teachers: *hora est iam nos de*

Josemaría Escrivá

From Blessed

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Letter, January 25, 1961, no. 13)



somno surgere, 'it is full time now for you to wake from sleep' (Rom 13:11); so that in novitate vitae ambulemus, so 'we might walk in newness of life'" (Letter of January 25, 1961, no. 13).

How can our acts of thanksgiving to the Blessed Trinity not abound for the mercy he has shown towards his creatures? But our gratitude can't be limited to mere sentiments: it must be shown in specific deeds. As the old adage goes: "love means deeds, not sweet words."

I would also like to remind you that "when God marks us out and gives us his grace to strive for sanctity in the everyday world, he also puts us under an obligation to do apostolate. I want you to realize that, even looking at things humanly, concern for souls follows naturally from the fact that God has chosen us" (*Friends of God*, no. 5). "Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ," writes Pope John Paul II in his apostolic letter outlining the Church's pastoral program for the new century, "cannot keep him for themselves; they must proclaim him. A new apostolic outreach is needed, which will be lived as [an] everyday commitment"

(*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, no. 32).

Duc in altum! Put out into the deep, the Holy Father is urging us. He asks us to leave behind the tranquil harbor of inactivity and comfort, which so often holds Christians back. Now is the time to launch out courageously into all the seas of the world, collaborating personally, without fear of anything or anyone, in the new evangelization of society. The Master himself is inviting us imperiously to fish for souls, as he did Peter and the first Twelve: "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (Lk 5:4). It is the time for apostolate, the moment to show, with specific daily deeds, the zeal for the salvation of souls that is a distinctive mark of Christ's disciples and an unmistakable sign that we are really seeking union with God, sanctity.

To leave an abundant catch of fish at Christ's feet, to bring souls close to God, we have to be in constant touch with the Trinity. Listen once more to the Holy Father: "We have to learn to pray.... Prayer develops that conversation with Christ which makes us his intimate friends: 'Abide in me and I in you' (Jn 15:4). This reciprocity is the very substance and soul of

The photographs on this page were taken during the past Jubilee year during which many people who came to Rome as pilgrims also visited the Prelatic Church of Our Lady of Peace, where Blessed Josemaria is buried.



the Christian life, and a condition for all true pastoral life. Wrought in us by the Holy Spirit, this reciprocity opens us, through Christ and in Christ, to contemplation of the Father's face. Learning this Trinitarian shape of Christian prayer and living it fully, above all in the liturgy, the summit and source of the Church's life, but also in personal experience, is the secret of a truly vital Christianity, which has no reason to fear the future, because it returns continually to the sources and finds in them new life" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, no. 32).

The founder of Opus Dei, based on his personal experience and that of thousands of souls, assures us that the path that leads to the loving contemplation of the Blessed Trinity ordinarily begins with vocal prayer. The person who prays with love and perseverance, if he does not abandon his effort to pray well in moments of difficulty or dryness, if he goes frequently to the living sources of grace—confession, the Eucharist—if he makes an effort to live in the presence of God throughout the day, attains in the end a true interior life: "First one brief aspiration, then another, and another...till our fervor seems insufficient because words are too poor...this gives way to intimacy with God, looking at God without needing rest or feeling tired" (*Friends of God*, no. 296).

Someone might think that these reflections are the same as always. He would not be wrong. Personal contact with God in prayer, frequenting the sacraments, concern for souls, form the foundation of all Christian life. But one has to put them into practice with more tenacity, with greater fidelity, in a word, with more love. The words of John Paul II in his apostolic letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* are relevant here: "It is not therefore

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Josemaria Escriva

"The Work, quietly and modestly, but vibrating with a divine spirit, was an instrument of our Lord to awaken those who were asleep, making use of their voices. And these ordinary men and women would say to the rest—to their companions at work, to their brothers and sisters or children, to their students or teachers: *hora est iam nos de somno surgere*, 'it is full time now for you to wake from sleep' (Rom 13:11); so that in novitate vitae ambulemus, so 'we might walk in newness of life.'"

(Letter, January 25, 1961, no. 13)

a matter of inventing a 'new program.' The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition; it is the same as ever. Ultimately, it has its center in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfillment in the heavenly Jerusalem" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, no. 29).

The Blessed Virgin, Star of the new evangelization, who illumines the new millennium with her brightness, is the quickest and surest path to encounter, follow and love Christ. As Blessed Josemaria wrote in *The Way* more than sixty years ago, and reaffirmed throughout his life as the proven fruit of his experience: "To Jesus we always go, and to him we always return, through Mary" (*The Way*, no. 495).

Rome, February 28, 2001

+Javier Echevarría

Prelate of Opus Dei



Christian Parents

He was born in Barbastro at about ten o'clock at night on January 9, 1902. His parents were José Escriva and Dolores Albas

The Escrivas came originally from Narbonne in France, but had been settled for centuries in the Catalonian district of Balaguer. José's parents had been landholders in Fonz, and when still a young man he moved to Barbastro to establish himself as a merchant. He began working in the "Cirilo Latorre" textile company, and later, with two others, set up a company known as "Successors to Cirilo Latorre," which afterwards became "Juncosa and Escriva."

The family of Dolores Albas was from Ainsa, capital of the Sobrarbe region of Spain in the foothills of the Pyrenees. Her paternal grandfather, Manuel Albas, moved to Barbastro, where he married. He had four children, of whom the oldest, Pascual, married Florencia Blanc. The couple had fifteen children, of whom the next to last was a girl, Maria Dolores, who became the mother of the founder of Opus Dei.

José Escriva and Dolores Albas were married on September 19, 1898, in the Cathedral of Barbastro, and moved into an apartment adjacent to the central plaza. Their first child, Maria del Carmen, was born there, and their second, José Maria (who years later, out of devotion to St. Joseph and our Lady, joined his first two names into one). Afterwards came three girls—Maria Asuncion, Maria de los

Dolores and Maria del Rosario—and when the family was residing in Logroño, another boy, Santiago.

Doña Dolores was a pious woman, graced with a natural dignity and serene beauty. Those who knew her described her as patient and good natured, open and friendly in her conversation. She was a tireless worker, and had a lot of common sense.

José Escriva was enterprising, methodical, hardworking and honest. At home he was very affectionate and devoted to his family. He was a man with many friends, sincere, generous and cheerful, elegant in his dress and measured in his conversation. He was generous to the poor, a great alms-giver, as Blessed Josemaria used to say. He was especially kind towards his employees. His concern for their religious life led him to organize Lenten conferences for them, which they were free to attend or not. The Escriva's were highly esteemed and well-liked in Barbastro, where they had many friends and, on Doña Dolores' side, numerous relatives. Their financial situation was quite comfortable and their future seemed to be secure.

From Blessed Josemaría Escrivá

Shame only for sin

"When I was a child, there were two things that really bothered me: having to kiss the lady friends of my mother who came to visit, and wearing new clothes. I would hide under the bed and stubbornly refuse to come out. My mother would give a few gentle taps on the floor with one of the canes that



my father used, and in the end I would crawl out—for fear of the cane, not for any other reason. Afterwards my mother would say to me affectionately: 'Josemaria, be ashamed only of sin.' Many years later I came to realize the depth of meaning those words contained."

Letter, March 24, 1931
and Meditation, February 14, 1964

Blessed Josemaria was born healthy and strong, but at the age of two he suffered a grave illness. The doctors gave up hope for him, and one night they told his father, José, that the child would die within a few hours. His parents begged our Lady for his cure with great intensity. Doña Dolores promised our Lady of Torreciudad, a title of the Blessed Virgin much venerated in that region, that she would bring the child on a pilgrimage to her shrine if he was cured. On the following morning, one of the doctors asked, "What time did the boy die?" Don José replied, "He didn't die, in fact he's perfectly well." The boy was brought by his parents to the shrine of Torreciudad and offered at the feet of our Lady. Recounting this great favor of our Lady, his mother used to say, "My son, you were more dead than alive. God must have left you on earth for

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something great."

His mother's teachings

I remember my mother well. Now that I am "seven" years old—you know I don't count the zero after the seven—I still recite in the morning and at night the prayers my mother taught me. The piety in my life has always owed a great debt to her. She brought me to her confessor when I was six or seven, and I was very happy. I can't remember ever seeing her unoccupied. She was always busy with something. She did needlepoint, sewed or mended articles of clothing, or read. I have no remembrance of ever seeing my mother idle. And she was not an unusual person. She was an ordinary, lovable person, a good mother of a Christian family, who knew how to take advantage of her time.

Letter, July 29, 1965 and Get-togethers, October 21, 1972 and November 3, 1972

Josemaria Escrivá

As a Christian family, the Escrivas observed certain practices of piety in common. These included Mass together on Sundays, praying the rosary, taking part in Saturday devotions in a nearby church, midnight Christmas Mass.... From a very early age, Josemaria learned his first prayers from his parents. Doña Dolores personally prepared her son for his first con-

fession and accompanied him to confession on the set day.

The boy was a great friend of his father. He awaited impatiently for his father to return from work, and opened the door for him or went out to meet him. He would often put his hand in his father's coat pocket looking for a piece of candy or, in winter, hot chestnuts. Don José would take him to fairs in Barbastro and neighboring towns or simply walk around the city with him. The walks provided an opportunity for intimate father-son conversations, answering the boy's questions and exchanging confidences.

But deep sorrow soon entered the Escriva home. Between 1910 and 1913, the three youngest children all died, in reverse order starting with the youngest. Seeing his family suffer, Josemaria began to realize the depth suffering can sometimes reach, while also learning, from his parents' example, how to face up to it in a Christian way. He became more reflective. And one day, thinking of the order of his three sister's deaths, he told his mother: "Next year it's my turn." His mother replied: "I've offered you up to our Lady. She will take care of you."

Then came the suffering brought on by the collapse of Don José's business. His father was forced to start out anew in Logroño, where he moved with his whole family in 1915.

Blessed Josemaria's first years in Logroño were divided between the Institute for Secondary Education and his family. The move to the new city was difficult for him at first. But he soon adapted, thanks to his father's example and advice, and his own ability to win friends, a fruit of his loyalty towards his companions. During these years, he dedicated many hours to the study of history and literature, reading broadly in



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I was never beaten at home. Only once did my father give me a slap, not a very hard one. They never forced their will on me. They kept me short of money, very short, but left me free.

Meditation, February 14, 1964

Josemaria Escrivá

these areas. In 1918 he obtained his diploma at the Institute of Logroño with excellent grades.

Text by E. Toranzo

Drawings from the book "The Life and Adventures of a Donkey at the Waterwheel...and his Little Watchmaker," by P. Monckeberg.

Josemaría Escrivá

At home more than in school

"God our Lord was preparing things so that my life would be normal and ordinary, without anything unusual. He disposed for me to be born in a Christian home, like many in my country, of exemplary parents who practiced and lived their faith. They left me with great freedom right from my boyhood, but at the same time watched over me attentively. They tried to give me a Christian formation, and I acquired it there, at home, more than in school, even though when I was three they sent me to a school run by nuns, and when seven to one run by a religious order of priests."

Meditation, February 14, 1964

Smiling, in spite of everything

I have always made those I had around me suffer a lot. I didn't provoke catastrophes, but our Lord, to hit me, who was the nail (pardon me, Lord), landed one blow on the nail and a hundred on the horseshoe. I saw my father as the personification of Job. He lost three daughters, one after the other in consecutive years, and then lost his fortune. And life went on. My father reacted with heroism, after becoming sick, as I now realize, from undergoing such great misfortunes and worries. He was left with two children and my mother. And he found the strength to bring us forward, not sparing himself any humiliation to provide us with a decent life. He might have remained in a position that was outstanding for those times, if he had not been a Christian and a gentleman, as they say in my country. I can't remember a harsh gesture from him. I recall him as always calm, with a cheerful look. And he died worn out, when he was only 57. He died exhausted, but he was always smiling. I have a holy pride. I love my father with all my heart, and I believe he has a very high place in heaven, because he bore in such a dignified, marvelous, Christian way, all the humiliation that came with finding himself out on the street. I don't think he needs suffrages. If he needs them, I make them right now. I saw him suffer cheerfully, without showing his suffering. And I saw a courage which was a school for me."

Meditation, Feb. 14, 1964 and a get-together, May 18, 1970



Doña Dolores (1877-1941)

Doña Dolores was a pious woman, graced with a natural dignity and serene beauty. Those who knew her described her as patient and good natured, open and friendly in her conversation. She was a tireless worker, and had a lot of common sense.



Don José Escrivá (1867-1924)

Jose Escrivá was enterprising, methodical, hardworking and honest. At home he was very affectionate and devoted to his family. He was a man with many friends, sincere, generous and cheerful, elegant in his dress and measured in his conversation. He was generous to the poor, a great almsgiver, as Blessed Josemaria used to say. He was especially kind towards his employees. His concern for their religious life led him to organize Lenten conferences for them, which they were free to attend or not.

Twenty-Five Years Later

A documentary on Blessed Josemaría's catechesis in Argentina

The Founder of Opus Dei arrived in Buenos Aires on June 7, 1974, and remained until June 28. Besides many from the capital, people from all over Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay came to be with Blessed Josemaria. The gatherings were held in theaters and auditoriums. In one of the theaters, close to five thousand persons took part on two occasions. There were also frequent small family gatherings with faithful of Opus Dei and their families in La Chacra, the center where he stayed.

Imprint of a Saint presents a collage of scenes from these get-togethers, with questions from those present and Blessed Josemaria's answers. The years have gone by, but those who took part have never forgotten those days.

"He was very kind to me; he told me I was a true artist," said Teresa Vega de

Vergara, a Paraguayan who played some of her country's "polkas" on her harp.

"I was struck by the idea of living poverty with joy, and this is something I also learned in the Work," comments Maria Clinton. In one of the get-togethers she told him: "Father, I have always been poor, but I would like to have a lot of money so I could give it all to you."

"I often remember Josemaria's great love for the poorest and those most in need. His example has helped me to love them more each day," said the Most Reverend Alfonso Delgado, now Archbishop of San Juan, as he reminisced about a get-together that Blessed Josemaria had with priests.

"Meeting Blessed Josemaria was the most important thing that has happened to me in my life," says Angel Vera, a retired police sergeant who was one of those providing security for Blessed Josemaria in Argentina.



The documentary ends with some words of Blessed Josemaria that have left a real "imprint," deepened by his smile, his gestures, his look, his affection and his prayer.



“Students who had fire in their eyes”

Ramon Santos talks about Dualtech a school with a social mission



The sanctification of work is one of the central teachings of Blessed Josemaria. Opus Dei began its apostolic work in the Philippines in 1964.

The Philippines in 1982 was a fast-growing economy. But so was the rest of the world, especially the Middle East. Many Filipino skilled workers, seeing this potential of earning high dollar salaries, left the country to work abroad. The situation continues to the present. And while there was an economic boom in the past decade, the number of families living in poverty has increased.

It was to solve the two problems of the shortage of skilled workers and the growing poverty in the country that a group of businessmen in Manila, under the impetus of the teachings of Blessed Josemaria Escrivá, decided to begin the Dualtech Training Center. Dualtech is a

vocational training school for high school graduates, workers, and unemployed youth from low-income families.

Ramon B. Santos, 73, one of Dualtech's first supporters and recently retired from one of the country's top corporations, became the President of Dualtech in 1999. He finds his task of pushing Dualtech to fulfill its social mission in the new millennium a very exciting challenge.

How did you get involved with Dualtech?

Actually, I first got involved in 1982, when I was the president of a large manufacturing company here in Manila. I was attending an out-of-town seminar sponsored by the Center for Research and Communication, run by some members of Opus Dei, where a professor challenged us to do something for the poor. After our deliberations, we decided to put up this school together with a German NGO (non-governmental organization), and in October of that year, Dualtech was born. My company had a long period of cooperation with the school, and I can say our management was satisfied with the results. We sent many workers to Dualtech and we also trained many of their students.

You retired in 1998. What made you decide to take on Dualtech?

Right from the start, I liked what I saw: dedicated teachers, parents who were concerned with their children, and students who had fire in their eyes. One day, before I accepted the position here, I met a group of students. They looked poor and malnourished, but you could see their ambition. I knew right then and there that we could make a big difference in the futures of these boys and their families.

Where does the name “Dualtech” come from?

We coined it. It comes from “Dual Training System,” the German apprenticeship system that we adapted to our local setting. A Dualtech student spends one day a week taking theory instruction in the school, and spends the rest of the week (five days) in the factory, where he is trained by a supervisor or by an experienced worker. This dual combination of theory and practice guarantees that a graduate from any of our country's public schools can become a very skilled worker in two years.

The poorest areas around Manila from which many of Dualtech's students come.



How many students have you trained so far?

We estimate that since 1982, we have trained over 20,000 workers, high school graduates, unemployed youth, and engineers in all of our training programs. Of these, over 2,000 students have been trained in our 2-year and 3-year programs and are now employed in industry. Presently, we have 1,200 students at our Dualtech Canlubang



and Dualtech Manila campuses. We train around a hundred workers from industry each month.

What accounts for your high employment rate?

We have very competent faculty members and a high equipment-to-student ratio. But what is distinctive is that our courses are enhanced by activities aimed at helping the student attain a high level of moral uprightness, good work habits, and a level of culture better than most workers. This is why some of our client industries hire our students even before they graduate. They have quality skills and good work attitudes. I would say, a Dualtech graduate is a good example of what Filipino workers can become.

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So you have a work values program to go with their technical training?

That's right. Each student has a tutor, a teacher or supervisor who acts as his older brother, someone who is ready to help him in anything: difficulties in class, family problems, the demanding pace of in-factory training, or his social life. In fact, I am assigned some students myself. I enjoy talking to them and helping them sort out their problems: money, girls, parties, peer pressure... everything you can think of. I love talking to our students. I also learn from them.

The students also have the opportunity to see a priest. We ask some priests of Opus Dei to visit the school regularly. We don't force the students to see the priest, but most of them see him anyway. For many of them, it's their first opportunity ever to talk one-on-one with a priest.

So, all your students are Catholic?

No, not at all! There are Dualtech students who are non-Catholics and even non-Christian, but each is given the opportunity to have personal guidance and to receive Christian formation. During their stay with us, each section attends an out-of-town retreat and seminar. Here they are taught about the need to live an upright moral life, the importance of good citizenship, personal discipline, and the value of work done well and with the highest degree of human perfection, for the service of God and others. We are firm believers of these values taught by Blessed Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei. It is very moving to see

our students come to realize the value of work and of planning for the future. They see that there's a bright future ahead of them if they work hard and live as upright human beings.

The parents must be very happy with the school.

I would say so. Regularly, the parents are asked to attend activities in school, get-togethers with the teachers and the management staff, or courses on parenting. Two years ago, while attending one of these get-togethers, the parents of one of our students realized that the boys were getting benefits far beyond what their parents were expecting. They decided to help the school expand its scholarship program. They organized activities for other parents and got them to participate more actively in the fund-raising for the students. The parents formed themselves into a board that raises funds on a regular basis to help the school.

Are all your students on scholarship?

All of them! We charge a minimal tuition fee, which is necessary for them to appreciate the value of the course. But most are unable to pay even that small amount, especially now that we are in an economic crisis. The father of the family may



Dualtech was founded in 1982. Since then they have graduated twenty thousand skilled workers.

Dualtech offers courses in electromechanics and in precision engineering.



get laid off from work, or the mother get sick, or a relative die. In any close-knit Filipino family, the problem of one becomes the problem of all.

How does the school survive?

Barely! We stay alive with the help of our friends in the industries. First of all, with the Dual System, the companies that train our students shoulder a big portion of the training cost. The rest we try to fund with the help of other foundations, individual donors, and companies that believe in what we are doing and who want to help. Since our costs increase every year, the need for more help also increases. It's a continuing challenge to look for people who can help.

Let's get to the technical training proper. What courses do you offer?

We have two courses in our dual training program. The first is in Electromechanics, a two-year course. A graduate in this course can repair, operate, and maintain air-conditioners, computers, motor vehicles, telecommunication systems, and the like. They can design and fabricate things like electric motors, pumps, and drive

systems. The second course is a three-year program in Tool and Die Making. A more attractive term is "precision engineering." In industry, tool and die making is a highly paid profession, since they make the dies and molds that all manufacturing companies need. Aside from Dualtech, there are only 1 or 2 other schools in the whole country offering these courses, and the demand for graduates is very high.

Are you planning to put up more Dual Training schools?

We are helping put up a vocational school similar to Dualtech in Lagos, Nigeria. We have a staff member who is now working as a consultant there, who e-mails us his regular reports and consults us on how to run the school. They started their school year in March of 2000 and they have fifty students.

You know, I think our students are very lucky because they found Dualtech. But I think that Dualtech is luckier. We continue to exist because we manage to find people like them who need us and the help we can give, and who are eager to learn our message of loving their work and doing it well.

Interview by: John Joseph Velasco

Photographs: Dualtech archives

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Ramon B. Santos, 73, is one of the first promoters of Dualtech. He became president in 1999. He feels that helping Dualtech to fulfill its mission in the new millennium is a very attractive challenge.

A Mother's Testimony

The story of a Peruvian girl and her miraculous cure



A recent photo of Helen Katy. She is now perfectly well and very grateful to Blessed Josemaria.

Helen Katy is the oldest of four children. Her mother, Elena Gallo de Flores, is an employee in a company that provides water purification services in Piura, while her father, Enrique Flores, is a Peruvian Air Force petty officer. Helen was attending a primary school for the children of Air Force personnel in Piura. One day, Elena noticed that

her daughter was constantly scratching her leg. Checking more closely, she found some small red spots. She told herself it was probably a common allergy that would disappear in a short time. After the child went to bed, Elena, who was actually quite worried, got up to check on her. Entering quietly so as not to waken her, she was alarmed to see that her daughter's pillow was spotted with blood.

On the following day, her husband took the child to the Air Force medical dispensary. The doctor told him that it was a question of capillary weakness and recommended an immediate blood test. The result of the examination indicated that the child had low blood platelets and, as a result, her blood was not coagulating normally.

Enrique returned home worried. He and his wife decided to bring their daughter to the Air Force hospital in Lima. Elena got a leave of absence from work and made the trip to Lima with Helen.

At the hospital

At the hospital, they were met in the emergency room by Dr. Consuelo Astete, who examined the girl, and, given the seriousness of the case, had her hospitalized.

Dr. Jorge Vargas, who then took charge of Helen, ordered new blood tests and discovered that the platelets were continuing to decline and had reached a level well below acceptable limits. The diagnosis by specialists was "severe idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura." Dr. Vargas informed Elena of the gravity

of the child's sickness and asked her to call her husband in Piura and tell him to come to Lima. Elena spent that night in vigil. The doctor had asked her to watch over Helen, who was steadily weakening.

Results from new tests did nothing to alleviate the doctor's concern. When he came to examine the child at eleven in the morning, he turned to her mother and gave her a prayer card of Blessed Josemaria Escriva that Dr. Consuelo Astete had sent him two days before for Elena

The cure

When she received the prayer card of Blessed Josemaria, Elena began to say the prayer insistently with great fervor, begging for her child's life. From time to time she placed the card under Helen's pillow. Although she had never heard of Blessed Josemaria, when she looked at his picture, Elena felt her faith strengthened.

The doctors thought her daughter's death was imminent. On the morning of September 22, she was tested again, and at three in the afternoon Dr. Vargas brought the test results. He had good news. On seeing Elena he told her: "Madam, your faith has worked wonders. The platelets have increased to 140,000. Tell Doctor Astete that saying the prayer card has brought about a miracle."

It was a sudden and total cure. Her daughter was completely healthy and did not need any further treatment.

Elena has never doubted that the cure was due to the intercession of Blessed Josemaria Escriva. Before returning to Piura, she brought her daughter to Mass, to thank God for her cure.

A prayer card in her knapsack

Helen is now 17. Her family doctor periodically gives her a blood test, but the platelets have always remained normal. Now she is preparing to enter the National University of Piura, where she hopes to study computer science. Since the day Helen left the hospital, she always carries in her knapsack the prayer card that she calls "the miracle prayer card." She carries it wherever she goes and tells her friends the story. She asks Blessed Josemaria for help in exams and for many other things.

Elena says that, although she has passed through hard times financially, she has learned the importance of values other than purely material ones.

Taken from *Semina*,
Piura, June 4, 2000
Fabiola Morales

Blessed Josemaria, a Pioneer of Ecumenism

An Interview with Evgeny Pazukhin
author of "Life and Work of Blessed Josemaría"

Fifty-six years old, a Russian, with an adventurous life behind him. He is the first person of the Orthodox faith to write in depth about Blessed Josemaria.



work is a creative cooperation between man and God. This idea entered my heart and my mind in such a natural way that I decided on the spot to write a short

How did you first learn about Blessed Josemaria Escriva and what influence has he had on you?

When my wife was translating *Friends of God* into Russian eight years ago, I read the first homily that she translated, "God's Work." Previously I had read some calumnies about Opus Dei in the Soviet press, but I had never heard of Josemaria Escriva. A key idea in this homily is that

essay on the subject. After that I was eager to know more about the teachings of Opus Dei's founder. Msgr. Escriva strongly confirmed me in my Christian faith.

What was it that led you to write a book about the founder of Opus Dei?

I thought that giving the Russian reader the great Christian idea of the Work of God, of

sacrificial work and creative prayer, which this Catholic priest felt and lived with great strength and expressed with extraordinary depth, would be a marvelous way of fostering true Christian life. I was also attracted by the immense ecumenical potential of his personality and writings.

What distinguishes your book from other biographies?

I have tried to explain the message of Blessed Josemaria in such a way that the Russian reader will grasp both its antiquity and its great novelty.

What interest does this book have for the Russian reader?

In Russia, as in many countries, there is a widespread, almost schizophrenic, opposition between ordinary life and spiritual life in the religious consciousness of most people. Contemplation in the midst of the world, lay spirituality, Christian materialism, are intuitions developed by Blessed Josemaria which can effectively help to overcome this tragic rupture.

Russia was very much present in Blessed Josemaria's thoughts. He often meditated on the sorrowful destiny of the countries in the East where atheism was imposed with violence and cruelty. He always prayed that the great right to seek God, to contemplate him and to do his will would become a reality for these "peoples of the East." God has heard his prayer.

With his great knowledge of both Western and Eastern theology, and his rich spiritual experience, Blessed Josemaria was open to all the children of God, to all men

and women of good will regardless of their beliefs or their nationality. From Msgr. Escriva, Russians can learn respect for the dignity and freedom of the human person, which is so needed in Russia.

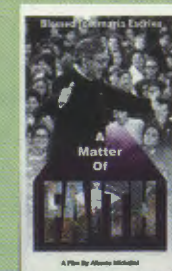
What features of the personality of Opus Dei's founder are emphasized in your book?

The most important feature of Blessed Josemaria's personality is his identification with Christ. The basic lesson that his life teaches us is that we are called to make Christ's Sacred Humanity our own, to become divinized, to live all human realities, except sin, in a holy way, as St. Paul teaches us. Blessed Josemaria Escriva tells each one of us: "Everyone, a saint!"

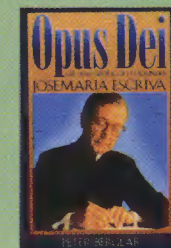
Evgeny Pazukhin was born in St. Petersburg in 1945. He studied Russian Language and Literature. From the beginning of the seventies, until the fall of Communism in Russia, he gave clandestine courses in philosophy, exegesis, history of the Church, Christian culture, etc., while working as a boiler stoker to support his family. In the nineties, with other intellectuals, he founded the Vladimir Soloviev Society for Religion and Philosophy. The cover of his book is shown at the right.



Vazquez de Prada, *The Founder of Opus Dei: Vol. 1 - The Early Years*



A Matter of Faith Testimonies about Blessed Josemaria's message: a VHS video



Opus Dei: Life and Work of its Founder by Peter Berglar



A Gift of God Video on Blessed Josemaria's life, including get-togethers with him.

Healing and Faith

In May of 1992, my mother fell gravely ill. The diagnosis was ominous: acute lymphoid leukemia

According to medical literature, she had only a 25-30% chance to survive for five years. Even though there was still room for hope, you can easily imagine how small this figure seemed to me. That month, my mother received a prayer card with a relic of Msgr. Escriva from a priest of the Work. I decided to attend the beatification ceremony in Rome and to request a cure. Members of the Work also prayed a lot for this favor.

At the end of May my mother completed the first cycle of chemotherapy without major problems, obtaining the complete remission of her illness. Thus she was admitted to the second chemotherapy cycle, which lasted for two years, during which she came close to dying, as a consequence of side-effects and the weakening of the immune system produced by cytostatic drugs. I would like to add that, without our knowledge, she interrupted the chemotherapy before it was completed. She subsequently revealed this to us, convinced as she was that our Lady and Blessed Josemaria had granted her complete healing. And this is what actually happened. My mother is cured according to the standards of the World Health Organization; five years have passed since the final remission.



From among the many letters received we are publishing reports of favors from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Today she lives a normal life, taking care of her family and her closest friends. However I think she has received an even greater grace: that of faith. In fact, a good part of her day is dedicated to prayer and apostolate.

Catania, Italy

A transformed aunt and uncle

After fifteen year of married life, my uncle and his wife separated following many arguments. For the next ten years, they lived apart. Since it was becoming apparent that one of their six children was turning out badly, I decided to take the first steps towards reconciliation. I entrusted the matter to Blessed Josemaria. After a novena, I visited both of them. Bit by bit, they appeared to be moving towards reconciliation. I wrote each of them a long letter.

Three months later, they informed me of their decision to start married life anew, but with a true Christian home this time. I gave thanks to God for this turn of events and asked Blessed Josemaria to help their efforts. My uncle and aunt agreed to begin preparing for baptism. A year later, the priest, who was very happy with their progress, administered the sacraments of baptism and marriage.

After giving thanks for this second step, I asked for the conversion of the children. This is now happening, and all 6 children have begun preparing to receive baptism. I give thanks to Blessed Josemaria for his help in obtaining all these favors.

Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast

Happier than ever

My parents lived together for twenty years, in a civil marriage. For reasons I

am unacquainted with, they were not married in the Church. For years I had heard them speaking of a Church wedding, but it seemed more a dream than a definite plan. But this dream became a reality on August 15, 1999, the date on which my parents received the sacrament of matrimony.

It had all begun two months earlier when I spoke with a priest of Opus Dei. We agreed to start a novena to Blessed Josemaria, asking that he intercede with God for my parents' marriage. On the seventh day of the novena, my parents told me they had decided to get married.

Washington: the chapel of the Catholic Information Center has been dedicated to Blessed Josemaria.

I wish to thank Blessed Josemaria for helping to get my parents to be married in the Church. Since that day our life at home has been even happier.



Chapel of Blessed Josemaria Escrivá



FAVORS

*Santa Ana,
El Salvador*

A rapid recovery

On December 23, 1999, my sister-in-law was bleeding heavily from fibroids; so much so that her blood count was dan-

gerously low and a stroke or heart attack was a real possibility. We took her to the emergency room where she was given four pints of blood.

I gave her a picture of Blessed Josemaria and told her he would take care of her.

When her iron count was stabilized, she had emergency surgery, on Christmas day. A week later she had recovered sufficiently to be up and about. Since then she has recovered quickly and has gone back to work. She now looks better than she has for years.

Similar cases have not fared so well or seen such a quick recovery. I think that her rapid recovery was due to the intercession of Blessed Josemaria Escriva. Furthermore, in 1976 or 1977, my mother had cancer. I prayed to Blessed Josemaria Escriva and she was completely cured. I wrote you a letter to that effect. My mother has since died, but from other causes.

New York, USA

Mother and child are well

When my sister delivered her baby, she had a massive hemorrhage which led to

profound shock (the vital sign monitor for her heart appeared to be going flat). The priest administered the sacrament of anointing of the sick. Her husband (my brother-in-law) prayed the founder of Opus Dei's prayer card and asked for the intercession of Blessed Josemaria Escriva. My sister recovered—and felt she had really been helped by that prayer. She was safe, and the baby also, and he has been given the name Leonardo Ardyani Escriva Pamungkas in gratitude to Blessed Josemaria. We have made copies of the prayer card and it has been prayed by hundreds of people.

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

An armed robbery

Early one Sunday I was traveling by car with another woman to Naivasha, about 50 miles from Nairobi. It was early and there was not much traffic. We entered a heavy fog, and two men with pistols stopped us. As soon as I saw them I said to Blessed Josemaria: "Father, we are in your hands." My companion told me later that she prayed: "Father, help us."

The two men got into the car and asked for money. They took what I had, which wasn't much, but they didn't harm us. After making us drive a short distance they got out of the car and let us continue on. My companion was carrying quite a bit of money, which they did not take. We also had a video camera and another camera in the car, but they failed to see them.

Everyone who heard the story said it is a miracle. I know that we owe it to our

Father that they did not hurt us or rob anything of value.

Nairobi, Kenya

My husband was reluctant to go to confession. I managed to persuade him to do so after 30 years of marriage—we've been married for 38 years—but after that he did not want to do so any more. Now, with the motive of the Jubilee, I asked him to go again, but without success. With great faith, I asked Blessed Josemaria to move him to do this. The following day I asked him again if he would like to go to confession. This time, without any objection, he told me that he would. He went to confession and now he receives communion and has gained the Jubilee indulgence. This is the reason that I am giving thanks for the intervention of Blessed Josemaria.

Guadalajara, Mexico

We are grateful for the many letters we receive. They are a testimony of the devotion with which so many persons the world over pray to God through the intercession of Blessed Josemaria Escriva. We are able to include in the *Bulletin* only a small selection from among them. They describe events of vital significance as well as simple anecdotes.

We also wish to express our appreciation to all those who send contributions to help defray printing and distribution costs of the *Bulletin*, which is free of charge. These contributions also help further those apostolates that stem from Blessed Josemaria's love for souls.

A QUOTE... Mama Ngina Kenyatta

MY 30 YEARS' COOPERATION WITH OPUS DEI



In October 1967 I officially opened Kianda Student Residence, where I met some of the young people of Opus Dei who had come to Kenya to pass on the teachings of their founder, Blessed Josemaria Escrivá. Over the years I have seen how the spirit of these teachings has affected the lives of very many young people. They have not only been given academic and professional training, but especially spiritual values, so important for our society.

Students who have passed through their hands know how to look for God in the ordinary things of daily life, working well because they see him everywhere. I have also taken those values and offer my day to him as best I can.

What I most appreciate is how this spirit doesn't stay with the people of Opus Dei, but spreads out to reach many others.

I am happy to continue cooperating with this work of God with which I have been bonded for thirty years.

Ngina Kenyatta, January 31, 2001