

work for five years on the reconstruction of the church and to name the Spanish priest as its patron. Bishop Alejandro Goic consecrated the new chapel and placed a relic of St. Josemaría in the base of the altar. During the ceremony he asked the community to especially pray to their new patron for the sanctity of bishops, priests and religious.

### *A new church in Burgos*

On Friday, June 26th, the Archbishop of Burgos consecrated the new church for the parish of St. Josemaría Escrivá, upon the completion of the first phase of its construction. Archbishop Gil Hellin concelebrated with several priests from the diocese. He recalled that St. Josemaría often told lay people that the street was also their church: “We have to find God in daily life, in our home, in the office, on the playing fields, in the classroom, etc.”

## *#JuneforFamilies* on the Social Web

The feast of St. Josemaría this year marked the fortieth anniversary of his going to Heaven. It also fell within the Marian Year of prayer for the family that the faithful and cooperators of the Prelature are living. For this occasion, the Opus Dei website—

www.opusdei.org—offered thirty counsels of St. Josemaría regarding courtship, engagement, married love, family life, and the raising of children. Under the hash tag *#JuneforFamilies*, each day from June 1 to 30 some advice of St. Josemaría about the family was placed on the website. This initiative also made it easy to be united to Pope Francis’ request that we pray for all the families in the world and for the upcoming synod on the family.

## Blessed Oscar Romero and St. Josemaría

We reproduce here an interview with Msgr. Joaquín Alonso published on May 23 regarding the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Msgr. Alonso was a witness to the meeting that Blessed Romero had with St. Josemaría in 1974. The interview with Rodrigo Ayude was published in *La Prensa Gráfica* of El Salvador on May 23, 2015, under the title “Archbishop Romero was a man of God.”



Msgr. Joaquín Alonso (Seville, 1929) lived alongside Saint Josemaría in Rome and has worked closely with the Prelate of Opus Dei for many years. A

consultor theologian for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. In this interview he speaks of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was beatified on May 23rd in San Salvador.

*Msgr. Alonso, how did you come to know the future Blessed Oscar Romero?*

I met him in Rome, in 1974. On October 30 of that year he came to Rome (it wasn't his first trip here). Saint Josemaría had agreed to meet with him on November 8, and he asked me to do all I could to assist him. He had just been named bishop of Santiago de María, in El Salvador, a few days before undertaking the trip.

Bishop Romero remarked to me that his trip to the Eternal City was providential, since it was an opportunity to leave behind his habitual environment and get a broader perspective, as he put it, on the small corner of the world that was his responsibility back home. He felt keenly the weight of his responsibility for his new episcopal see, and he needed someone who could listen to his concerns and give him encouragement.

*Do you have any specific memories of those days?*

For me this visit was an opportunity to speak with Bishop

Romero at length and get to know him quite well. Our conversations were fraternal and very priestly. Among other things, Bishop Oscar Romero told me that, since the early 60s, he had been receiving spiritual direction from a priest of Opus Dei, Fr. Juan Aznar, who died in March 2004.

Later I came to know more details about his relationship with Fr. Juan Aznar. For example, he told him in a letter written in 1970: "You are the only person who truly understands my soul." And in 1973, when sending Christmas greetings, he remarked: "I never forget your wise counsels." Blessed Oscar Romero was a priest filled with gratitude, and I was moved to learn that he had died precisely when celebrating the Eucharist, the highest act of thanksgiving.

*How did the meeting between Bishop Romero and Saint Josemaría go?*

Saint Josemaría received him on the 8th of November. Their conversation lasted almost an hour and, when it ended, Bishop Romero told me that he had been deeply moved. He said that he had felt strengthened in his faith by Saint Josemaría's words and that the founder of Opus Dei had embraced him, making him feel loved and accompanied. Bishop Romero called Saint Josemaría a

“man of God” and took advantage of their meeting to invite him to come to Central America, which in fact became a reality in 1975.

Bishop Romero also had the opportunity on that trip to greet Blessed Paul VI, and he was happy to receive some words of encouragement from him. Afterwards he told me that this trip reminded him of his first years as a priest and seemed to him a gift from God.

*Did his contact with you continue in later years?*

I remember that on June 26, 1978, the third anniversary of Saint Josemaría's transit to heaven, he came to celebrate Holy Mass in the crypt of Our Lady of Peace, where the founder's mortal remains were then residing. I attended his Mass, along with Msgr. Francisco Vives. He gave a short homily filled with affection and gratitude to Saint Josemaría, and said that, right from the first moment of meeting him, he felt treated as a brother. And he also wrote these words in a letter.

As I said, this took place in 1978, a year after he had been named Archbishop of San Salvador. At that time, as he himself made known publicly, another priest of Opus Dei, Msgr. Fernando Sáenz, was giving him spiritual guidance.

*How did you react to news of his death?*

The tragic news was a great shock to me, while it also led me to want to accompany him with my prayer and have recourse to his intercession to ask for the Church in Latin America. I also gave thanks to God for the opportunity to get to know personally this man of God.

## Books of St. Josemaría, in Electronic Format

Ediciones Rialp has published *San Josemaría: sus libros*, an eBook with all the published writings of the founder of Opus Dei: *Camino, Surco, Forja, Es Cristo que pasa, Amigos de Dios, Santo Rosario, Via Crucis*, and *Conversaciones con Monseñor Escrivá de Balaguer* in Spanish. The edition includes a general index of topics and a search index for quotes from the Old and New Testaments in each of his works.

## *The Way of the Cross* in Vietnamese

In March, the Vietnamese translation of *The Way of the Cross* was published in Vietnamese under the title *ĐƯỜNG THÁNH GIÁ*. This is the third book of St. Jose-