



PRAYER

*O God, You granted countless graces
to Blessed Josemaria your priest,
choosing him as a most faithful
instrument to found Opus Dei, a way of
sanctification through daily work
and the fulfilment of the ordinary duties
of a Christian. Grant that I too
may learn to turn all the circumstances
and events of my life into opportunities
to love you and to serve the Church,
the Pope and all souls with joy and
simplicity, lighting up the ways of the
earth with the brightness of faith and love.
Deign to grant the canonisation of Blessed
Josemaria and, through
his intercession, grant me the favour
I ask of you . . . (here make your petition). Amen.*

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

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Blessed
**JOSEMARIA
ESCRIVA**

Founder
of Opus Dei

REPORT

A Surgeon's
Hands

INTERVIEW

Las Gravileas:
Training in
Handicrafts

HIS TEACHINGS

A Life of Faith

Bulletin

Number 12

Spring 2002, Montreal



October 6, 2002
**The Canonisation
of Josemaria Escriva**

CONTENTS

PREFACE

A Divine Paradox 3

OCTOBER 6, 2002

The Canonisation of Josemaria Escriva 5

JANUARY 9, 2002

The Centennial of His Birth 7

INTERVIEW

A Training in Handicrafts 10

HIS TEACHINGS

A Life of Faith 14

REPORT

A Surgeon's Hands 16

A QUOTE

Cardinal König 19

More information about Blessed Josemaria and Opus Dei is available on the Internet at www.opusdei.ca. You can also subscribe to a free e-mail news service.

Cover: The Beatification of Josemaria Escriva, May 17, 1992

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

On February 14, 1930, Blessed Josemaria Escriva saw that God meant Opus Dei to carry out its apostolate among women as well as men. Thirteen years later to the day, he founded the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, which is inseparably united to Opus Dei. The Holy See gave definitive approval to Opus Dei in 1950; and, on November 28, 1982, established it as a personal Prelature, a juridical figure desired and foreseen by Blessed Josemaria. When Blessed Josemaria gave up his soul to God on June 26, 1975, Opus Dei had spread to six continents, with over 60,000 faithful of 80 nationalities, serving the Church with the same veneration for and union with the Pope and the bishops that Blessed Josemaria Escriva had. 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, is the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Blessed Josemaria and many commemorative events are taking place throughout the world in this centennial year. The main objective of the activities organized for the Centennial is to inspire many people to draw closer to God and discover the joy of a truly Christian life.



JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA
CENTENNIAL OF HIS BIRTH

A Divine Paradox

A Meeting of the Ordinary and the Extraordinary

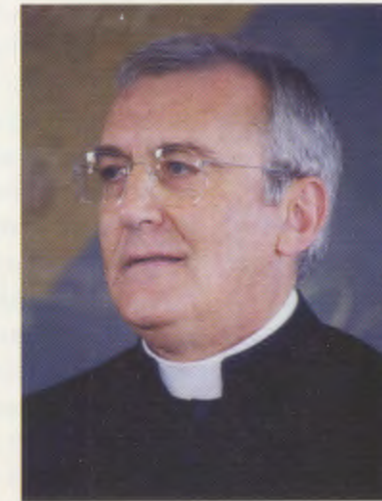
On December 20 the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints approved a miracle attributed to the founder of Opus Dei: the cure of an orthopedic surgeon who had chronic radiodermatitis, an incurable skin condition.

Those who knew Blessed Josemaria personally during his lifetime, and those who have met him through his writings,

might find this paradoxical. The founder of Opus Dei was an apostle of ordinary life and daily work, of the normal and the commonplace. When faced with extraordinary events, Blessed Josemaria would say: "I have no need of miracles. There are more than enough in the Scriptures. But I do need the fulfillment of your duty, your correspondence to grace." (*The Way*, no. 362).

The spectacular and showy did not appeal to him. He preferred the heroism of the commonplace, the little events of ordinary life. "Have no doubt: any kind of flight from the honest realities of daily life is for you, men and women of the world, something opposed to the will of God" (*Conversations...*, 114).

Nevertheless, from heaven, Blessed Josemaria Escriva has obtained favors that go

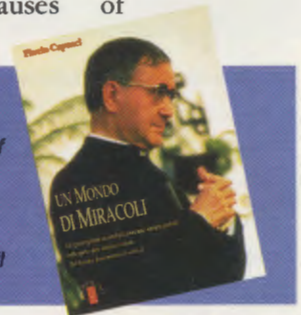


beyond what is ordinary. Two of them have been officially approved as miraculous cures by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. These are the two miracles that opened the way, respectively, to the beatification and the canonisation of Opus Dei's founder.

Both involved medical cures. Many people have sought out Blessed Jose-

maria's intercession for other types of needs, particularly spiritual ones. Among the many favours he has obtained, those of a spiritual nature far outnumber the medical cures. However, these kind of favours are difficult to prove objectively. Only medical procedures and technology (analyses, X-rays, clinical or surgical reports, etc.) provide experimental verification of phenomena that have no natural explanation. That is why miracles in causes of

"Un mondo di miracoli," Ares 2002. Describes 18 cases of extraordinary cures attributed to the intercession of Blessed Josemaria. An English edition will soon be available.



October 6, 2002: The Canonisation of Josemaria Escriva

“Today I only want to say, Thank you!”

Blessed Josemaria Escriva will be proclaimed a saint on October 6, 2002. Pope John Paul II made this announcement at a public consistory held on February 26 in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican in the presence of numerous cardinals, bishops and other guests. At the same consistory, the Holy Father set the dates of canonisation for eight other Blesseds.

“Today I only want to say, Thank you!”

These were Bishop Javier Echevarria's first words upon hearing the news. The Prelate of Opus Dei expressed his gratitude to the Most Holy Trinity, to the Church, to the family of Blessed Josemaria and to all of the priests, religious and laity “who in any way contributed to his education and training.” He also thanked all the poor and sick people “who generously gave the only thing they had and turned their suffering into prayer for the founder of Opus Dei's priestly work.”

“He was the father and teacher of many persons on the road to sanctity and apostolate,” said the Undersecretary of the

Pontifical Council for the Laity, Guzman Carriquiry Lecour. “He gave voice to God's dreams for all of us,” affirmed Monsignor Domenico Sigalini, of Italian Catholic Action. Carla Cotinoli, of the Focolari movement, expressed her joy at the news, saying that the Church recognizes in Blessed Josemaria a charism by which “the laity can contribute effectively to renewing the world of work, politics, economy, art and communication, and to breathing new life into many environments of society.” Giancarlo Cesana, of Communion and Liberation, saw in this charism “all the attraction and strength of Christianity as a reality that transforms and fills all of life's circumstances with meaning, even the most routine and commonplace.”

From her convent in Coimbra, Sister Lucia of Fatima expressed her happiness at the news of the upcoming canonisation. Sister Lucia met with Blessed Josemaria a number of times, and it was due to her encouragement that Opus Dei began its apostolic work in Portugal.

Father Brian Kolodiejchuck, M.C., the postulator of the Cause of Canonisation of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, noted the new saint's concern for the poor: “in the poor, Mother Teresa saw Christ himself. In Blessed Josemaria's life we also find a great



acles not only serve to reveal the divinity of the Messiah. They also signify the first steps of our salvation, tangible proof of a God who is love and who comes to share his life with us.

In our faith, what is extraordinary and what is natural join hands. Blessed Josemaria, a very human and very supernatural saint, while declaring that he was not “miracle-minded” (see *The Way*, 583), encouraged everyone to foster a deep faith in God, to have “that familiarity and confidence which prompts us to ask him, like children, for the moon!” (*Christ Is Passing By*, 64).

The Holy Father has announced that he will canonise Blessed Josemaria Escriva on October 6. If we want to be faithful to all that he has taught us, we should never forget that the Church has raised him to the altars above all because each day he strove to be “faithful in what is small” (Mt 25:21).

A number of poster exhibits have been organized on the occasion of the centennial of Blessed Josemaria's birth. The picture below is taken at a travelling exhibit in France.

Flavio Capucci
Postulator



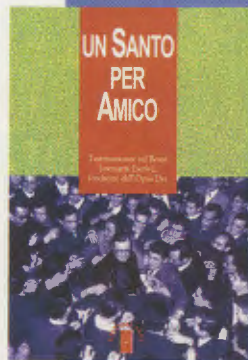
canonisation almost always involve medical cases.

Any miracle is always, first of all, a revelation of God's presence and action. Nevertheless, theologically, a miracle also contains a salvific dimension. In Christ, the summit of God's self-manifestation, mir-

commitment to helping Christ in the person of those in need... The poor, the sick, the abandoned were the weapons he used in his battle to start Opus Dei."

Hundreds of cardinals and bishops from all over the world have joined in the chorus of congratulations, from Antonio Maria Rouco of Madrid and Juan Jose Omella of Barbastro (the founder's birth-place), to the Vicar of Rome, Camillo Ruini, the Archbishop of Vienna, Christoph Schönborn, the Archbishop of Cologne, Joachim Meisner, and many others. Cardinal Norberto Rivera, Archbishop of Mexico City, recently said: "This long-awaited news has brought everyone great joy, especially us Mexicans. I am particularly happy that our Lady of Guadalupe has reunited Juan Diego and Josemaria Escrivá on their road to the altar: both of them loved her deeply and both were pilgrims to Tepeyac. In 1990, with the recognition of their heroic virtues, they were declared venerable on the very same day."

On February 26, Monsignor Flavio Capucci, the postulator of the Cause of Blessed Josemaria Escrivá, presented the book *Un santo per amico* ("A Saint for a Friend"). This book



gathers the testimony of various Church figures who knew Blessed Josemaria between 1924 and 1946, the year when he moved to Rome. Monsignor Capucci emphasized that "the personal history of Josemaria Escrivá and of the institution that he founded are characterized by ecclesial communion, which is a common note in the lives of the saints." The numerous declarations of esteem

and affection for the new saint from persons unrelated to the Prelature bear witness to this reality.

The President of the Pontifical Institute Regina Mundi, Sister Fernanda Barbiero, S.M.S.D., also took part in the presentation of the book. She highlighted the "ecclesial mind-set" of the founder of Opus Dei, reflected in his statement that his only desire was "to serve the Church as the Church wanted to be served."

The Clementine Hall during the consistory which set the date of the canonisation of Josemaria Escrivá



On the Centennial of Blessed Josemaria

Commemorative Projects Throughout the World

January 9, 2002 marked the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the founder of Opus Dei. Special centennial events are being held in many countries to reflect upon his message: the search for holiness in ordinary life. Also on this occasion, many bishops and other prominent figures have spoken about Blessed Josemaria and his teachings.



Chicago, Madrid, Hong Kong and Abidjan.

In March of this year, a critical edition of *The Way* was published in Spain. It is the most widely read book by the founder of Opus Dei: more than four and a half million copies have been printed and sold in forty different languages.

Since March 2002, an Internet website makes available the published works of Blessed Josemaria in various languages at www.escrivaworks.org.

Study conferences on the founder of Opus Dei's teachings have been organized in Fatima, Madrid, Tegucigalpa, Zurich, Cologne, Sao Paulo, Helsinki and Santiago de Chile, among other places.

Also in commemoration of the centennial, two parish churches have been dedicated to Blessed Josemaria: in Barbastro, where he was born, and in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

International Congress on "The Greatness of Ordinary Life"

More than 1200 people from 57 countries and a broad range of professions attended a conference in Rome sponsored by the Pontifical University of the Holy

Over the course of the year

Faithful of the Prelature of Opus Dei and their friends are launching social projects in several countries in honour of Blessed Josemaria and under the impulse of his teachings. The *Institute for Industrial Technology* in Lagos, Nigeria, opened its doors this past semester. The school will provide technical training for underprivileged youth in one of the poorest areas of Lagos. Similar projects will be inaugurated in the next few months in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Venezuela and Spain.

In France a poster exhibit has been organized on the life and teachings of Blessed Josemaria. After its initial stay in Paris, the exhibit will travel to Lyon, Marseilles, Toulouse and other French cities. Similar exhibits will take place in London,

Cross from January 7 to 12. Entitled "The Greatness of Ordinary Life," the conference focused on the impact of the founder of Opus Dei's teachings in areas as diverse as education, the arts, the family, business, ethics, science, and the media.

In the opening address, Bishop Javier Echevarría recalled the core of Blessed Josemaría's message: holiness is not just for a few, but is open to all of God's children.

Nine major addresses, 100 written presentations and 18 round-table discussions were offered on the program. Among those taking part were Professor Janne Haaland Matlary from Norway, a well-known political figure in her country; Georgio Rumi, Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Milan; the Kenyan theologian and priest Charles Nyamati; Evgeny Pazukhin, a Russian Orthodox philosopher and author of the first biography in Russian of Opus Dei's founder; and Rabbi Angel Kreiman, international vice-president of the World Council of Synagogues.

On the morning of January 12,



conference participants were received by the Holy Father in Paul VI Hall. The Pope recalled that "Blessed Josemaría Escrivá placed at the center of his own preaching the truth that all the baptized are called to the fullness of charity" and that "the Lord wants to enter into a loving communion with each of his children, in the midst of their

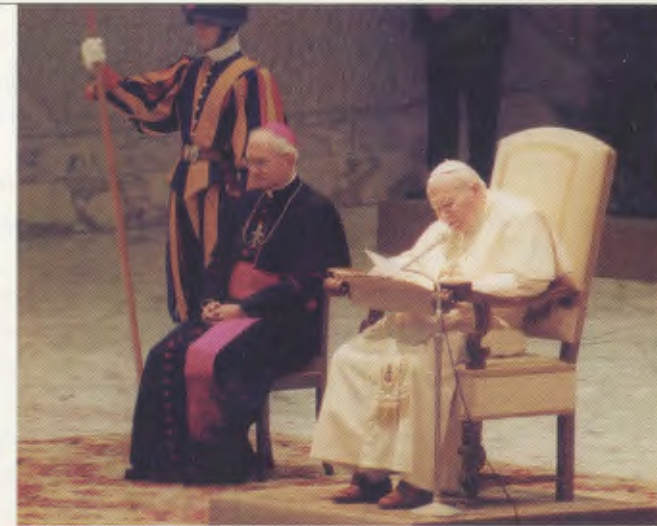


Some participants in the Congress on "The Greatness of Ordinary Life"

everyday occupations, in the daily circumstances in which each person's existence is lived out."

"Daily activity," continued the Pope, "is understood as a precious means of union with Christ, capable of becoming the setting and the material for sanctification, the training ground for the exercise of virtues, the dialogue of love as it is expressed in deeds." For each baptized person who wants to faithfully follow Christ, "the factory, the office, the library, the laboratory, the workshop, the confines of the home can be transformed into meeting-places with the Lord, who chose to live thirty years in obscurity," added Pope John Paul II, referring to the years that Jesus spent in Nazareth.

The Pope explained that "the little events of day hold within them an unsuspected greatness, and it is precisely by living them with love towards God and towards one's brethren, that it is possible to overcome from



The Holy Father during his audience of January 12 in Pope Paul VI Conference Hall

the very start any divorce between faith and daily life, a divorce which the Second Vatican Council denounces as one of the 'gravest errors of our time.'" Following his remarks, the Pope personally greeted organizers and participants, as well as some fifty children accompanied by their parents.



Cardinal Antonio Rouco, Archbishop of Madrid: "The history of the Church and the saints is, in the words of the founder of Opus Dei, the history of Christ who is passing by. Through Blessed Josemaría and his Work, Christ is passing by once more in our times."

Francesco Cossiga, ex-President of Italy: "Today is a great day for the Church and also for the charism of the laity, since the proclamation of Josemaría Escrivá's sanctity is a recognition of the role of the laity in the Church. For me, the terms lay piety and lay asceticism bring to mind two great saints: Francis de Sales, the first to write a book about prayer for the laity, and Josemaría Escrivá, a great apostle of the laity."

Antonio Ramalho Eanes, ex-President of Portugal: "Josemaría Escrivá dedicated himself to the Work of God...with exemplary self sacrifice and a true sense of the Church's place in the modern world. He did so by means of the old but ever new paths of humility



and love, assisting those most in need."

Cardinal Joachim Meisner, Archbishop of Cologne:

"When someone is beatified or canonised, he becomes part of the common heritage of the Church. Blessed Josemaría is and always will be the founder of Opus Dei, but now he belongs to all of us in the Church."

Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago:

"Blessed Josemaría was a

man anchored in God's love. This is precisely what enabled him to remain firm in the midst of the crises of his times."

Rosalina Tuyuc, Member of Parlement in Guatemala:

"One of Blessed Josemaría's homilies says: There is only one race on



earth, the race of the children of God. Here in Guatemala, which is truly multi-ethnic and multi-lingual, we need to listen to this holy priest's clear message."

Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris:

"Divine providence made it possible for me to celebrate Mass ten years ago on the occasion of Josemaría Escrivá's beatification. And now I will be able to celebrate his upcoming canonisation with all of you."



Cardinal Paul Shan Kuo-Hsi, S.J., Bishop of Kaohsiung: "Since discovering this little book (*The Way*), I have used it frequently for my prayer. It not only guides one to the heights of Christian spirituality. It also teaches us Christians how we should love our Mother the Church."

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, Vicar for the diocese of Rome:

"The spirit that Blessed Josemaría has borne witness to is a firm point of reference along the route of the third millennium."



Training in Handicrafts

“Above and beyond social distinctions, we are all children of God”



Like many women in the Guatemalan countryside, Alicia needed to improve her family's financial situation. An opportunity arose when the person for whom she was working suggested that she take courses at Las Gravileas, and even paid her tuition for the tailoring and dressmaking class. Her two sisters followed her example. Now Alicia runs a small tailoring shop out of her own home.

The most needy

Las Gravileas Handicrafts Training Centre for Women was opened

in 1997 in Santa Catarina Bobadilla, a village in the province of Guatemala Antigua.

Built in the traditional colonial style, the centre offers courses in such subjects as baking, confectionery, tailoring and dressmaking, floral designs, textile design, and a great variety of handicrafts typical of the area. Some four hundred and fifty women take part in its courses, most of them Kaqchikel speaking Indians from the district of Sacatepéquez, about 45 minutes from Guatemala City.

Most of the families in this area live in one-room houses made of adobe, wood or bamboo, with sheet-metal roofs and dirt floors. The kitchen is usually an open-air fireplace in the yard. Only 65% of the homes have drinkable water, and this is often just for several



“Every soul is a marvelous treasure; every person is unique, indispensable. Each is worth all of the blood of Christ.” With these words, Blessed Josemaria encouraged his children to undertake social development projects. The photo below shows the buildings of the school.



hours every fourth day.

No proper drainage exists and the sewers are open trenches. The unhygienic conditions of the villages explain the high level of infant mortality.

The main source of work for the women is farming on small plots of land, raising animals (mostly chickens, rabbits and pigs), and handicrafts. Some find employment as day-labourers on farms or as housekeepers. Over two-thirds of the women are illiterate.

With this situation in mind, Las Gravileas was set up to provide training for women in handicrafts to help them improve their standard of living. Ana

Marina, for example, discovered that she had a knack for baking and confectionery. Now she no longer cooks over a fireplace, since her first earnings enabled her to buy a stove and start making pastry and special breads which she can sell at a good price. In addition, she now works at Las Gravileas as an instructor.

The Formula

One of the characteristics of the centre is personalized instruction. Vera de Kuhsiek, the director of Las Gravileas, explains: “We try to reach each of our students personally, taking an interest in her home situation and the difficulties she may have to overcome. We want to help all of them improve not only financially, but also humanly and as Christians. Therefore, the activities are not limited to giving technical training. We also strive to transmit an optimistic and open vision of life, based on the conviction that, above and beyond cultural or social distinctions, we are all equal because we are all children of God. Drawing light from the teachings of Blessed Josemaria Escriva, we help them see that all work, whether intellectual or manual, has great value if it is done well, and with a desire to serve God and our fellow men and women.

“It is very gratifying to see how

the environment in which the students and their families live has been changing. Since Las Gravileas was built, the neighbours have begun to sweep in front of their homes and to repaint the facades of their houses. And many of them

have installed bathroom facilities and are trying to keep their homes cleaner and more orderly. We see more and more children with their faces washed.

"At first, it wasn't easy," she continues. "But now little by little the centre has become their second home. Even the husbands, who sometimes were opposed to their wives coming here for instruction, have changed their mind after seeing that they have now become better wives and mothers."

Human and spiritual improvement

Another aim of the centre is to help the women sell the products they learn how to make. Therefore, all the courses include a certain amount of basic information about running a business. Students learn

to calculate production costs and to estimate demand, and about everything else connected with a handicrafts business, including quality control. Exhibits are also organized by Las Gravileas to inform the public about the students' products.

On Thursday evenings, those who are interested attend courses of Catholic instruction. Through this, many of the women have discovered the importance of living their faith deeply and of receiving the sacraments frequently. Some have asked to receive the sacrament of matrimony and had their children baptized.

"I am very thankful to Blessed Josemaria," says Irene, "because the religious instruction and the training courses at Las Gravileas have changed my life. At the training centre I received many



pointers on how to raise my children, how to deal with my husband, how to improve my work and keep my house cleaner and more orderly.

"I learned many important things about God, about marriage, the Eucharist, the Holy Father. I also learned that work can be offered to God and become a way to holiness. I try to do apostolate with my friends, so that they too can learn how to draw closer to God and benefit from what I've received."

Like Irene, other students at Las Gravileas have gotten to know the spirit of Opus Dei and now have great devotion to Blessed Josemaria. "When they put care into their homes and the way they dress, when they make an effort to smile and to help each other, when they aren't satisfied with work poorly done, they are bringing to life the essential message of Opus Dei: to seek holiness amid the ordinary tasks of each day," explains Vera de Kuhsiek. "It is very common to find the prayer card of Blessed Josemaria in their kitchens or homes, or even on the little altars many Guatemalan Indians have in their homes."

Las Gravileas relies on the support of international organizations, private businesses and individual contributors. "To train one student costs us ten dollars a month," said Ms. de Kuhsiek. "Quite

a small sum given the benefits it provides for the women and their families; but it becomes quite large if you take into account that we are trying to provide training for more than 500 women."



Las Gravileas
Training Centre for Women
Santa Catarina, Bobadilla
Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez
Guatemala, C.A.

Text and photos:
Natividad Quintanilla

Above, a street in
the neighbourhood
of San Antonio,
Aguascalientes

A Life of Faith

A Homily by Blessed Josemaria on October 12, 1947

You hear people saying sometimes that there are fewer miracles nowadays. Might it not rather be that there are fewer people living a life of faith? God cannot go back on his promise, "Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession. . . ."

Consider Chapter Nine of St. John. "And Jesus saw, as he passed on his way, a man who had been blind from birth." Our Lord "spat on the ground, and made clay with the spittle. Then he spread the clay on the man's eyes, and said to him, Go and wash in the pool of Siloe (a name that means, Sent). So he went and washed there, and came back with his sight restored."

What an example of firm faith the blind man gives us! A living, operative faith. Do you behave like this when God commands, when so often you can't see, when your soul is worried and the light is gone? What power could the water possibly contain to cure the blind man's eyes? Surely some mysterious eye salve, or a precious medicine made up in the laboratory of some wise alchemist, would have done better? But the man believed; he acted upon the command of God, and he returned with eyes full of light.

This is the way we Christians must travel. We have to cry out ceaselessly with a strong and humble faith, "Lord, put not your trust in me. But I, I put my trust in you." Then, as we sense in our hearts the love, the compassion, the tenderness of Christ's

gaze upon us, for he never abandons us, we shall come to understand the full meaning of those words of St. Paul, *virtus in infirmitate perficitur*: If we have faith in our Lord—in spite of our failings or, rather, with our failings—we shall be faithful to our Father, God. His divine power will shine forth in us, sustaining us in our weakness.

If we turn now to St. Mark we will find another blind man being cured. As Jesus "was leaving Jericho, with his disciples and a great multitude, Bartimaeus, the blind man, Timaeus' son, was sitting there by the wayside, begging." Hearing the commotion the crowd was making, the blind man asked, "What is happening?" They told him, "It is Jesus of Nazareth." At this his soul was so fired with faith in Christ that he cried out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."

Don't you too feel the same urge to cry out? You who also are waiting at the side of the way, of this highway of life that is so very short? You who need more light, you who need more grace to make up your mind to seek holiness? Don't you feel an urgent need to cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me?" What a beautiful aspiration for you to repeat again and again!

"And Jesus stopped, and told them to call him." And now begins a dialogue with God, a marvelous dialogue that moves us and sets our hearts on fire, for you and I are now Bartimaeus. Christ, who is God, begins to speak and asks, *Quid tibi vis faciam?*

"What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man answers, "Lord, that I may see." How utterly logical! How about yourself, can you really see? Haven't you too experienced at times what happened to the blind man of Jericho?

I can never forget how, when meditating on this passage many years back, and realizing that Jesus was expecting something of me, though I myself did not know what it was, I made up my own aspirations: "Lord, what is it you want? What are you asking of me?" I had a feeling that he wanted me to take on something new, and the cry *Rabboni, ut videam*, "Master, that I may see," moved me to beseech Christ again and again, "Lord, whatever it is that you wish, let it be done."

Now it is St. Matthew who tells us about a moving episode. "And behold a woman who for twelve years had been troubled with an issue of blood, came up behind him and touched the hem of his cloak." What great humility she shows! "She said to herself, 'If only I can touch the hem of his garment, I shall be healed.'" There are always sick people who, like Bartimaeus, pray with great faith and have no qualms about confessing their faith at the top of their voices. But notice how, among those whom Christ encounters, no two souls are alike. This woman, too, has great faith, but she does not cry aloud; she draws near to Jesus without anyone even noticing. For her it is enough just to touch his garment, because she is quite certain she will be cured. No sooner has she done so than our Lord turns round and looks at her. He already knows what is going on in the depths of her heart and has seen how sure she is: "Have no fear, my daughter, your faith has saved you."

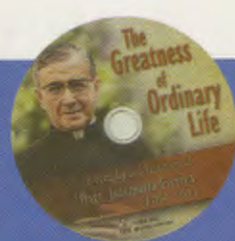
Do you see now how our faith must be? It must be humble. Who are you, and who am I, to deserve to be called in this way by Christ? Who are we, to be so close to him? As with that poor woman in the crowd, he has given us an opportunity. And not just to touch his garment a little, to feel for a moment the fringe, the hem of his cloak. We actually have Christ himself. He gives himself to us totally, with his Body, his Blood, his Soul and his Divinity. We eat him each day. We speak to him intimately as one does to a father, as one speaks to Love itself. And all this is true. It is no fantasy.

Let us try to become more humble. For only a truly humble faith will allow us to see things from a supernatural point of view. We have no other alternative. There are only two possible ways of living on this earth: either we live a supernatural life, or else an animal life. And you and I can only live the life of God, a supernatural life. "For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and suffers the loss of his own soul?" What use to man are all the things of the earth, all that our intelligence and will can aspire to? What is the point of all that, if it is all to come to an end and sink out of sight; if all the riches of this world are mere theater props and scenery, and if after all this there is eternity for ever, and ever, and ever?

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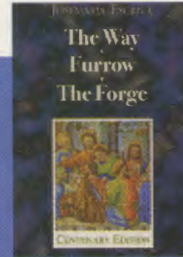
Critical edition of "The Way" 2002



CD-ROM on the life and writings of Blessed Josemaria, 2002



Book of Testimonies published in Germany



Combined edition of "The Way", "Furrow", and "The Forge"

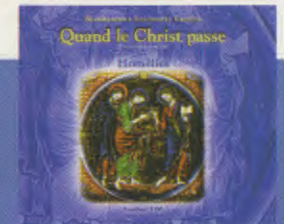


First edition of "The Way" in Latvian, 2002.



Dei in various countries in response to the teachings of Blessed Josemaria.

"Sowers of Peace and Joy." A program by the French producer, Philippe Riberre, which shows some of the social development projects being carried out by faithful of Opus Dei.



French CD edition of the book "Christ Is Passing By," Quebec, 2002.

The Hands of a Surgeon

Cure of cancerous chronic radiodermatitis

Manuel Nevado Rey was born in 1932 in Herrera de Alcantara, in the province of Caceres, Spain. He graduated from the University of Salamanca Medical School in 1955. That same year he began his specialization in General and Orthopedic Surgery in a prestigious surgical center in Santander. There, he began to work with the type of X-ray machine orthopedic surgeons were then using to diagnose and set fractures.

In subsequent years he carried out all types of general and orthopedic surgery. In 1962 he transferred to Almendralejo in the province of Badajoz, where he worked until 1980 as Medical Director and Head of General and Orthopedic Surgery in a hospital run by the Sisters of Mercy. He continued to use X-rays in his surgical work, and stopped doing so only in 1982, when he began working in a government operated hospital in the town of Zafra, also in Badajoz.

Signs of cancer

The first symptoms of chronic radiodermatitis began to appear in 1962. His wife recalls perfectly that her husband began to lose the hair on the back of the fingers of both hands and to develop small red spots, especially on the middle fingers of the left hand, lesions typical of the first phase of radiodermatitis.

The lesions on his hands worsened over the years, with symptoms corresponding to the second phase of the disease: the

development of abnormal red spots of varying intensity, hyperkeratosis, warty lesions and ulcers. The pain gradually became so intense that around 1984 or 1985 he was obliged to restrict himself to minor surgery.

Given the clinical description by various doctors and by the patient himself, the doctors

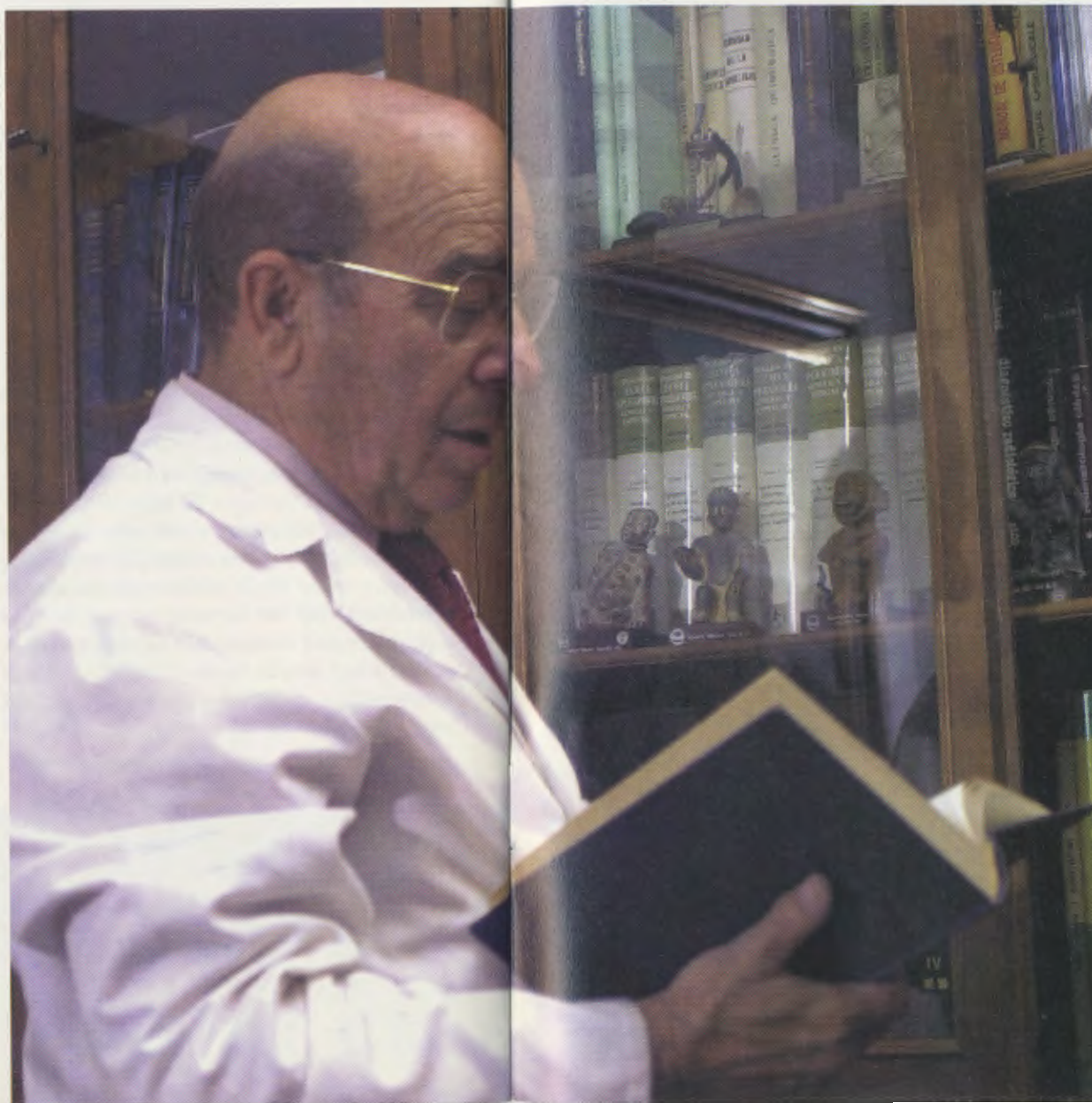
who studied the case came to a unanimous conclusion. Dr. Manuel Nevado Rey, in 1992, had suffered a cancerous degeneration of his skin disease. He was in what is known as the third phase of radiodermatitis.

The cure

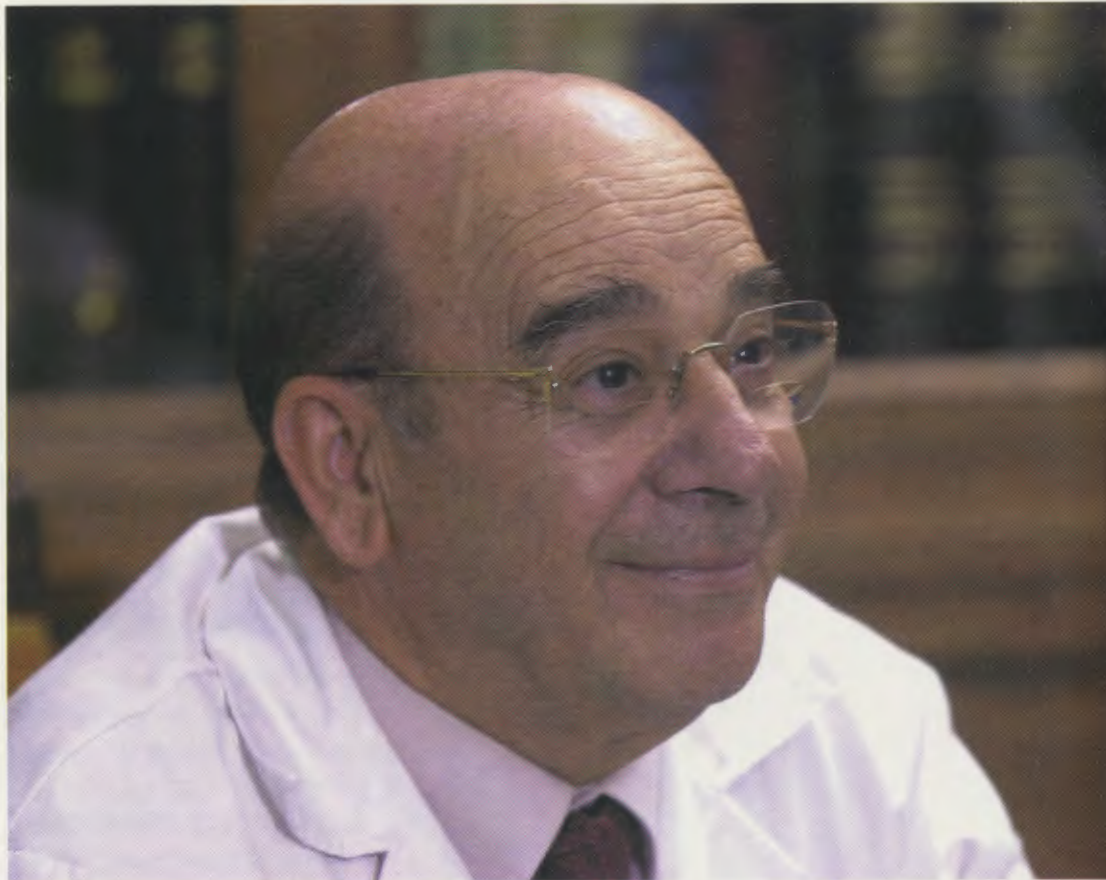
At the beginning of November, 1992, Doctor Nevado made a trip to Madrid that included a stop at the Ministry of Agriculture. Luis Eugenio Bernardo, an agricultural engineer at the Ministry, noted that the visitor's hands, especially his fingers, were very red, "like raw flesh."

"I offered him a prayer card with the prayer to the founder of Opus Dei, Josemaria Escriva, who had just been beatified," recalls Bernardo. "I suggested that he put himself under his protection and ask him to cure his hands."

Doctor Nevado, although he was somewhat surprised by the suggestion, began to ask for a cure through the intercession of Blessed Josemaria. He testifies that "from the day I was given the prayer card and began going to Blessed Josemaria Escriva's intercession, my hands began to improve. Within about two weeks the lesions disappeared and my hands became as they are now, perfectly healed."



Doctor Nevado, consulting a book in his office.



**A complete and lasting cure.
Patient able resume surgery**

The cure was so complete that Dr. Nevado was soon able to begin working as a surgeon again. As he said in his testimony: "I was afraid that the radiodermatitis would metastasize, which would probably have had fatal results. But instead it was fully cured, and I can only attribute this to the intercession of Blessed Jose-maria Escriva."

Based on the testimonies taken and the documentation assembled on July 10, 1997, the medical consultants for the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints unanimously

*The cured hands
of Dr. Manuel Nevado Rey*



concluded that it was a complete and permanent cure, a true *restitutio ad integrum*, that is to say, a regeneration of healthy tissue in the place of what had been diseased and cancerous skin. Existing medical literature does not record any similar case.

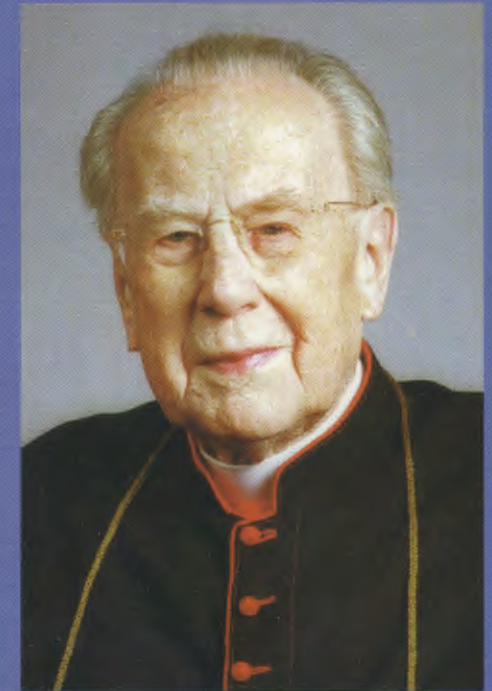
On January 9, 1998, the theological consultants for the Congregation, when asked to state their opinion regarding the preternatural character of the cure and the causal relationship between the invocation of Blessed Josemaria Escriva and the disappearance of the infirmity, gave a unanimous positive vote.

On September 21, 2001 the Ordinary Congregation of Cardinals and Bishops who are members of the Congregation unanimously confirmed the miraculous nature of the cure of Doctor Nevado and its attribution to the intercession of Blessed Josemaria Escriva.

The reading of the corresponding decree on the miracle took place on December 20, 2001, in the presence of the Pope.

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 all the apostolates that stem from Blessed Josemaria's love for souls.



Cardinal Franz König, Archbishop Emeritus of Vienna

"Escriva now belongs to the common heritage of the Church.

I met Blessed Escriva de Balaguer in Rome during the Second Vatican Council. I'd been told that he was promoting the role of the laity in everyday life, in the world of work. He wanted the Church to be active in the world through the laity, without Roman collars or bishops' sashes. In my opinion he was a man with a great heart and broad vision. He followed events in the Council closely, and spoke about what was happening all over the world. I soon realized that in him the Church was very much alive."

*La Vanguardia (Barcelona, Spain),
December 21, 2001*