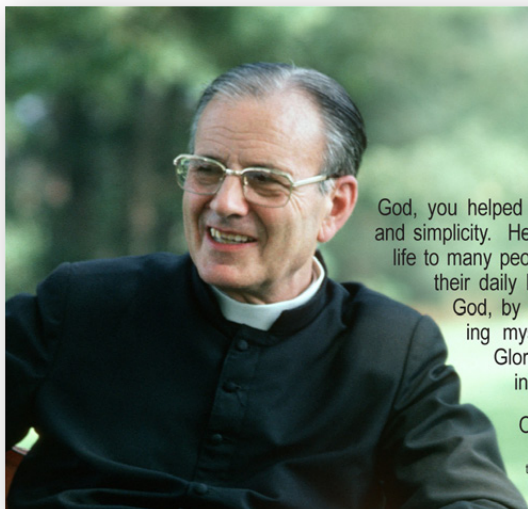


THE SERVANT OF GOD

# Joseph Muzquiz



BULLETIN NO. 2 | AUGUST 2015



**The Servant of God  
Father Joseph Muzquiz**

PRAYER  
for private devotion

God, you helped your servant Joseph work with generosity and simplicity. He spread the message of sanctity in secular life to many people, teaching them to find joy and peace in their daily life. Help me to seek first the kingdom of God, by sanctifying my everyday work and dedicating myself generously to the salvation of souls. Glorify your servant Joseph, and through his intercession, grant me the favor I ask of you.

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

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgement of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.

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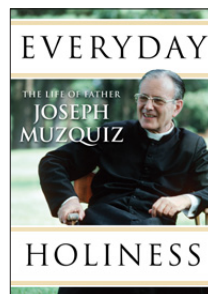
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**Related Publications**  
John F. Coverdale, *Putting Down Roots: Father Joseph Muzquiz and the Growth of Opus Dei*, Scepter Publishers, 2009.

Printed with ecclesiastical approval.

## A Documentary Film About Fr. Joseph



**Everyday Holiness:  
The Life of  
Fr. Joseph  
Muzquiz**,  
produced  
by Emmy  
Award-  
winning  
John

Paulson of Paulson Productions, was premiered in 2014 in multiple cities across the United States and broadcast on EWTN. Using hundreds of photographs and dozens of interviews with people who knew him during his lifetime, the 55 minute film traces the life of Fr. Joseph from his birth in Spain to his death in Boston, MA. The DVD is available through Scepter Publishers ([scepterpublishers.org](http://scepterpublishers.org)) and Ignatius Press ([ignatius.com](http://ignatius.com)). ◀

# Fr. Joseph and St. John Paul II



*"Thank you, my God, for placing in my heart such love for the Pope"* (The Way, 573). With these words St. Josemaría Escrivá expressed the intense love for the successor of Peter that he imparted to all those who came to Opus Dei.

I worked and lived with Fr. Joseph in New York for several years in the late 1970's when he was the head of Opus Dei in the USA. Like everyone around him, I soon realized that two people were at the center of his life. One was the "Father," as we call the head of Opus Dei in Rome. Fr. Joseph often talked to me about the Father, at that time Don Alvaro del Portillo (now Blessed Alvaro). He and Don Alvaro had been ordained together in 1944, and Fr. Joseph would recall their times together in those early years of Opus Dei in Spain.

The other person was the Pope. Fr. Joseph did not know many details about the Holy Father's life, as he did with Don Alvaro. But he prayed for him as the most important person on earth, and continually asked Our Lord to make him a good shepherd. Anything having to do with the Pope interested him. He would always read *L'Osservatore Romano* closely as well as all the Holy Father's

encyclicals, documents and articles. He meditated on the ideas he found there in his personal prayer, and he gave them particular emphasis in his preaching and talks.

Shortly after John Paul II was elected in 1978, Don Alvaro asked us to pray for his collaborators. By "collaborators" he meant people who worked with the Pope and helped him in his work as Pastor of the universal Church. Fr. Joseph mentioned this repeatedly, above all in his meditations but also in get-togethers. He encouraged everyone connected to the Work to make this their particular intention.

In October of the following year, John Paul II made his first, historic visit to the United States. His grueling schedule called for him to visit six cities in six days, with 52 homilies, speeches and addresses. The trip was ambitious for the Holy Father, and Fr. Joseph was ambitious to help him feel welcome everywhere he went.

Of these six cities, Opus Dei had centers in Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago. People involved in activities of the Work were able to attend the events in Philadelphia. We even had some people who attended the Pope's

Mass in Des Moines, Iowa. Fr. Joseph wanted everyone in each city to be totally prepared to encourage and to accompany John Paul II in every way possible. Wherever the Pope would speak, he wanted to have people who would applaud and shout for him and receive him with welcoming gestures. He encouraged us to carry signs and give loud cheers saying, "John Paul II, we love you!" and "Sto lat, sto lat, niech żyje żyje nam" ("Good luck, good cheer, may you live a hundred years"), a classic Polish song of celebration. We made badges with these phrases and many people, young and not so young, would hold these up and wear them wherever they went.

In the weeks before the Holy Father's arrival I traveled to Boston and Washington, D.C. to help organize things. I was also in close touch with people in Chicago as they made their plans, including having people from the centers of the Work in Milwaukee and St. Louis travel to Chicago for the events. At every step Fr. Joseph kept asking me how things were progressing. He was interested in every detail of these activities that would clearly show the Pope how much American Catholics loved him. In all of





these preparations he insisted that we had to pray for the spiritual fruits of the Pope's visit in our country and emphasized the good it would do for many souls, especially anyone who might want to learn more about the Catholic Church.

As the date approached, we saw how the press and television reporters tried to find shortcomings or weaknesses in John Paul II. They seemed determined to show that not everyone agreed with the Holy Father's teachings. Fr. Joseph prayed for the media to be more objective. Actually, their attitude changed once the Pope arrived and they could see him personally as he dealt with all kinds of people in every language in our diverse nation. John Paul II simply overwhelmed the media.

Archbishop Giovanni Cheli, the Permanent Observer at the Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, was a good friend of Fr. Joseph. The Holy

Father was coming principally to address the General Assembly of the United Nations. In New York he planned to stay at the Archbishop's residence in Manhattan and Archbishop Cheli came to talk to Fr. Joseph to ask his help. As a result some women of Opus Dei helped to prepare the house and to organize the Holy Father's meals, lending a hand to the people who normally took care of the housekeeping.

There was some concern that, during the Pope's stay at the Archbishop's residence and at other sites around New York City, the large crowds of good people might be pushed aside by small groups who were protesting the Church's teachings. The New York City Police Department knew we were there to welcome the Pope and wanted to make sure things were kept open for everyone. While they were making their preparations, a Police Inspector of Manhattan

and a captain came by our center to discuss with Fr. Joseph what they would allow us to do within security. They assured us they would cooperate with us in every way. In fact, under Mayor Ed Koch, who was Jewish, New York City prepared very well for the Holy Father's stay, setting up stages for the Pope's talks and meetings and supplying police and emergency personnel. Some people told Mayor Koch that it was unfair to spend tax money on the Pope, since he was a religious figure. The mayor responded, "The Pope is the spiritual leader of us all."

The Holy Father arrived in Boston on October 1 and celebrated Mass in the Boston Commons in the middle of a huge rainstorm. The entire place was filled with mud and hundreds of thousands of people. They showed tremendous cheerfulness in a difficult situation at the very beginning of the Pope's trip. In New York we prayed for them

as we watched everything on television. While we watched, we looked to see if anyone we knew would appear. Fr. Joseph was happy to know that many people in the Work were there.

John Paul II's arrival in New York the next day coincided, happily, with the 51st Anniversary of Opus Dei's founding. We were ready to make him feel at home. Throughout the trip, Fr. Joseph was always delighted to hear that people in the Work had been able to greet the Pope personally. Some women sang to him that morning in Boston as he left for New York. A bishop from Boston later told Fr. Joseph that the Holy Father was quite moved by it. A group sang for him at Archbishop Cheli's residence in New York and when the Archbishop told the Pope that they were members and friends of the Work he responded, "They are very faithful to the Church and they work seriously and well." In both Washington and Chicago the Holy Father went out to the balcony to sing along and laugh with groups of people singing outside his residence.

Fr. Joseph hoped to be able to greet His Holiness personally or at least be near him. But, being a humble man, he would never do anything to make it happen. He really followed St. Josemaría's advice "to do and disappear." He was able to attend the Pope's Mass at Yankee Stadium and he was



invited as a VIP at St. Patrick's Cathedral. But he never did have the chance to greet the Holy Father personally. Still, he was overjoyed just to be close to the Holy Father and to pray for him with more fervor.

It is hard to describe the diligence and total focus he had during the Holy Father's visit. He was glued to the full-time coverage on the television. If he had to go out for some pastoral task, he would ask us what had happened as soon as he came in the door. I remember how moved he was to see His Holiness quietly praying his Rosary during a concert of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Fr. Joseph was also happy afterwards to receive some items connected to this historic visit. We received the china and napkins from his lunch at the home of the Permanent Observer, a picture of Our Lady blessed by the Pope, and the table used for the Holy Father's vestments at the Mass in Boston,

which belonged to a member of the Work. Fr. Joseph gave all these items to Arnold Hall, a conference center near Boston, where they are still kept.

Helping the Pope to relax in the middle of a packed schedule could seem to be a sign of excellent organization. But for Fr. Joseph it was simply a way of imitating St. Josemaría's desire to "see Peter" and pray constantly for him.

Fr. Joseph's love and veneration for the Holy Father were complete. He lived fully the founder's words: *"If you're generous, if you correspond, with your personal sanctification you can bring about the sanctification of others, the kingdom of Christ, the 'Omnes cum Petro ad Iesum per Mariam' All with Peter to Jesus through Mary"* (The Way, no. 833). For those of us who knew him, Fr. Joseph's love for our Holy Mother the Catholic Church and for the Holy Father remain an unforgettable inspiration.

—Rev. Michael Barrett

# Favors Obtained



## The MRI Found Nothing

From February to June my grandmother had headaches on a daily basis. Our family was afraid that she had a brain tumor, because her mother had suffered a tumor on the spinal cord at the same age. Her doctor advised an MRI, and we all began praying. For my part, I turned to Fr. Joseph and began saying his prayer card every day.

Right before my grandmother went in for the MRI, she said the headaches were beginning to level off. She went in anyway, and the scan found nothing. I strongly sensed the hand of Fr. Joseph in this, and I have begun spreading devotion to him in thanksgiving for this favor.

—D.P., Chicago, USA

## I Didn't Need the Test

On November 2011, my husband and I moved from Bolivia, South America, to Arizona, USA. As soon as

we settled we went to the Department of Motor Vehicles to inquire about getting our driver's license.

I had a California license which had expired three years before and was informed that I had to pass a written and driving test. I was having problems with my right knee that required future surgery and had trouble driving, so only my husband did the tests and got his license.

Six months later, he developed a heart condition and his Cardiologist advised to avoid driving. We both saw the urgency of getting my driver's license. I practiced a little, but was not totally familiar with the car. I started praying to Father Joseph to please help me not to flunk and pass the tests.

When my number was called, the attendant asked me to show an ID. I took out my passport and my old California license. She looked at both, checked a book and said "It is OK, you do not need to take ANY TEST" (Thank you F. Joseph!) and proceeded to give me my license. —M.B., Arizona, USA

## A New Bus Route

My son's family was having difficulties with the transportation of their two daughters to school. This problem was causing problems at their house. My wife and myself started a novena to Father Joseph Muzquiz to intercede; at the ninth day a new bus route started solving this difficult problem.

Thanks Fr. Joseph for interceding!! *Gratias tibi, Deus, gratias tibi.* —R.A., San Juan, Puerto Rico

## Enough for a Down Payment

My husband and I were on a beach in Florida, on vacation, when my cell phone rang. It was my daughter, Jeannine, telling me that another daughter, Lorrie, had been hit by a car and was on her way to the hospital. I had no idea how badly she was hurt, so I took out the prayer card of Father Joseph and asked him to intercede on her behalf. Twenty minutes later we learned that





the car had knocked her down and run over her foot, but she had been discharged from the hospital. The damage to her foot was soft-tissue, no broken bones. She had to have therapy, and her foot hurt for several days, but she was soon able to go back to work. The driver's insurance company offered a cash settlement which helped Lorrie and her husband put down the down payment on their house. Thank you Father Joseph! —*H.M., Florida, USA*

## Job and Visa

This is a note to say, thank you, to Father Joseph Muzquiz for a favor granted. My daughter has been studying in the US on an exchange program from her University in Australia. After completing her last semester she was hoping to work there on internship in her career before returning home. So I prayed hard to Fr Joseph, for a job to do her internship and also extension of visa and accommodation. It is not easy to find a job in her profession. However Fr Joseph got her the

interview, the job, visa and accommodation! I thank him sincerely for this. —*R.G., Australia*

## Fast Response

My husband and I were in a very difficult economic position, in which among other things, we had to find another apartment to move to in a very short period of time.

At the same time, we were reading John Coverdale's book *Putting Down Roots* and how easily Father Joseph found houses in the beginnings of Opus Dei in the USA.

I asked Father Joseph's help to get us a suitable, nice and affordable one.

The following morning my husband visited a realtor in the flat we now live in. —*G.F., Buenos Aires, Argentina*

## I Sold the Van

I resigned from my job in order to pursue my studies abroad and I needed to sell my van within a short period. I asked Father Joseph's intercession to help me sell it for a good

price as I needed the money for my studies. Many persons said it would be difficult to get the higher price as the market was not favorable.

Thanks to Father Joseph's intercession, I did get it sold and at the price I wanted.

I am most grateful for his intercession at such a short notice! —*C.W., Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago*

## A Tax Write Off

When it was still winter and the ground was snowy and frozen, our well went dry. Having no time or money to cope with the situation, I pleaded to Fr. Joseph to pray for us. My husband called a reputable person who sent someone out the next day. This worker told my husband we needed to drill a new well. The next day the owner of the company came himself. By the time he got there the water had completely come back. He suggested we refracture the well so that it doesn't happen again. We didn't. The water has been there ever since.

While walking around the land, the contractor became very animated with the idea that our property was a perfect place for geo-thermal drilling as an alternative heating and cooling source. And we could write it off of our taxes! —*M.H., Massachusetts, USA*

# Closing Session



ON THURSDAY, May 22, 2014, Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, presided over the closing session of the diocesan phase of the cause of canonization for Father Joseph Muzquiz which took place at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center.

At the session's conclusion, the file boxes containing the evidence gathered through the diocesan investigation, including declarations from witnesses and other documents, were sent under seal to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. This ended the local stage in Father Joseph's cause of canonization and the process has now moved to Rome.

Soon after his cause was opened in June 2011, Cardinal O'Malley had said: "We need

to hear more about priests, religious and lay people who faithfully lived their vocation to holiness in contemporary times. Father Muzquiz showed us that the virtue of everyday heroism can be achieved by all people of good faith who open their heart and soul to the gift of God's graces."

At the closing session Cardinal O'Malley said that "although the process is just beginning, even reflecting on the holiness of life of this great priest is of benefit to all of us. I pray that this cause will advance quickly and that many others will continue to be touched by the testimony of his life and his holiness."

Afterwards, noting the many faithful of Opus Dei in the Boston area, Cardinal O'Malley

made the following comments in an interview: "We are so blessed by the presence of many people who are living the spirituality and the charism of Saint Josemaría Escrivá in Opus Dei. It was our great blessing to have Father Joseph here in the Archdiocese for so long ... touching the lives of so many people. So today is a very happy day. The Church exists to make saints, and so when we are able to recognize the heroic sanctity in some of our brothers and sisters, it is a great encouragement to all of us to live our baptismal call of discipleship with the same generosity and joy and fidelity that we find in the lives of people like Fr. Joseph." ◀