

of love. They may be tender reminders that these funny, smelly bodies are intended for glory. The roses just might hold a deeper significance. We may discover, like Dante, that Paradise itself is a rose of eternal mystery, inter-layered with an endless pattern of meaning, redolent with fragrance,

and radiant with overwhelming beauty.

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BOOK REVIEW

Dudley Cleary

Cures through the intercession of Josemaría Escrivá (Flavio Capucci, Scepter, New York 2002).

This book consists of a selection of 18 extraordinary cures presented to the Holy See for the causes of Beatification and Canonization of St Josemaría Escrivá who was declared a saint on October 6, 2002. Pope John Paul II called him “the saint of ordinary life” yet he turns out to be a miracle worker for the glory of God. The accounts remind us of the pages of the Gospel where Jesus performed miracles for all those simple people who had faith in him – beggars, lepers, centurions and synagogue officials. The miracles described include the disappearance of a tumour the size of an orange and the restoration of cancerous hands. St Josemaría, now and during his lifetime, encouraged this great faith which helps one acquire “that familiarity and confidence which prompts us to ask God, like children, for the moon” (*Christ is passing by*, 64).

(continued from page 64)

A dismal experience

One afternoon in a parish, despite the parish priest’s opposition, I wished to hear individual confessions. I was there until 2 o’clock in the morning. And many of the faithful who came

told me they had not been to confession in years.

Following that experience, I am convinced that we cannot deny our people the possibility of a personal meeting with Christ through the sacrament.