

# Decree of canonization

## LITTERAE DECRETALES

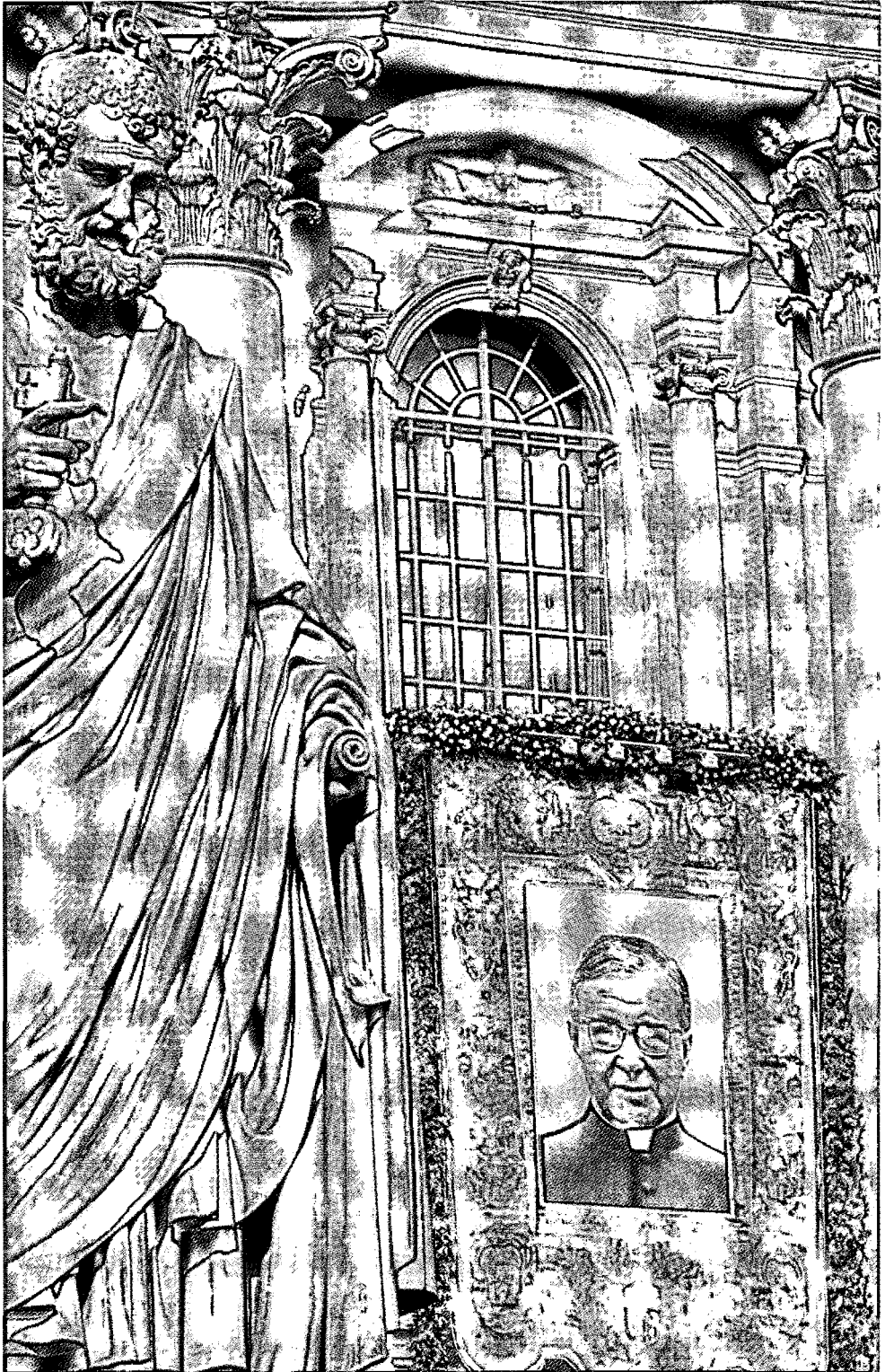
### Beato Iosephmariae Escrivá Sanctorum honores decernuntur

IOANNES PAULUS PP II *Servus Servorum Dei*  
*ad perpetuam rei memoriam*

*Domine, ut videam!* (cf. *Lc 18:41*), *Domina, ut sit!*, *Omnes cum Petro ad Iesum per Mariam!*, *Regnare Christum volumus!* (cf. *1 Cor 15:25*), *Deo omnis gloria!* (cf. *Canon Romanus*, doxologia). Iaculatoriis his precibus Beati Iosephmariae Escrivá vitae narratio apte comprehendi potest. Harum primam alteramque vix sedecim annos natus recitare coepit, cum primum indicia animadvertit divini de se ipso consilii. His verbis ardens cordis eius studium exprimebatur, videndi nempe quid ab eo Deus quaereret, ut id ipsum sine mora exsequi conaretur, amantissime adimplens voluntatem Domini. Tertia vero prex iaculatoria frequenter legitur in iis quae novensilis sacerdos scripsit, ubi significabatur quomodo studium quo avebat animas Deo lucrari in unum conflueret cum firma voluntate servandae fidelitatis erga Ecclesiam cumque incensissima devotione erga Deiparam Virginem Mariam. *Regnare Christum volumus!*: apte haec verba complectuntur constantem eius sollicitudinem pastoralem diffundendi inter omnes viros ac mulieres vocationem qua omnes invitantur ut in Ipso dignitatis filiorum Dei participes reddantur. Qui quidem filii filiaeque eum in finem vivant, ut Ipsi soli serviant: *Deo omnis gloria!*

Haec autem omnia ad effectum deduxit cum cotidianis sui muneris officiis incumberet, quamobrem merito ipse dici potest “sanctus vitae ordinariae.” Etenim et vita eius et id quod verbis ac scriptis tradidit innumerabilem docuerunt christifidelium multitudinem – e laicis praesertim, qui diversissimis professionibus sunt intenti – communissimos labores convertere in orationem, in ceterorum hominum servitium inque viam sanctitatis.

Beatus Iosephmaria Escrivá de Balaguer Barbastrí in Hispania, die IX mensis Ianuarii anno MCMII natus est. Presbyteralem ordinationem die XXVIII mensis Martii anno MCMXXV recepit. Die vero II mensis Octobris anno MCMXXVIII lumen a Domino accepit, ut divinum consilium erga se videret, eodemque die Opus Dei condidit. Nova itaque in Ecclesia vivendi exstitit ratio ut homines, nullo habito discrimine stirpis, coetus vel culturae, conscii sibi fierent se cunctos ad caritatis perfectionem atque ad apostolatam vocari, uniuscuiusque in mundo proprio servato loco. In ordinariis igitur vitae adiunctis est et locus in quo Dominus nos vocat et cardo circum quem responsio vertitur amoris plena. Docet ergo Iosephmaria Escrivá de Balaguer laborem, si divina gratia iuvante atque vivificante exerceatur, fontem esse inexhaustae fecunditatis: est enim instrumentum quo Crux ita exaltatur et in culmine ponitur universae humanae actuositatis, ut veluti mundus intus transformetur secundum Christi Spiritum et cum Deo reconcilietur.



Quam Iosephmaria tum ipse, tum per Societatem Sacerdotalem Sanctae Crucis, quam die XIV mensis Februarii anno MCMXLIII condiderat, pro sacerdotibus dedit operam, efficit ut fulgidum esset exemplum sollicitudinis circa cleri sanctitatem et fraternitatem.

Anno MCMXLVI Iosephmaria Romam se contulit ibique, pro suo apostolico studio, constanter laboravit ad christianum nuntium per omnes orbis terrarum partes propagandum, plene semper adhaerens Romano Pontifici cunctisque ecclesiis localibus servire cupiens. Multa eaque varia incepta suscepit ad promovendam personae humanae dignitatem, quae et in bonum humanae consortionis redundarent et ad Evangelium diffundendum multum conferrent.

Complura itinera fecit in Europae et Americae nationes, ubi catechesi tradendae indefessam navavit operam. Fama enim sanctitatis eius multitudines virorum ac mulierum ad eum audiendum attrahebat.

Die XXVI mensis Iunii anno MCMLXXV, tempore meridiano, cordis ictus correptus animam Deo reddidit. Eius corpus asservatur in ecclesia praelatitia Operis Dei, Sanctae Mariae de Pace dicata, quo christifideles e cunctis nationibus ad orandum frequentes conveniunt.

Iosephmariae Escrivá de Balaguer post mortem, fama sanctitatis eius late diffusa est eiusque intercessionem tribuuntur multae sanationes, quae per scientificas cognitiones explicari non posse videntur ac plurima spiritualia subsidia.

Conditoris Operis Dei sollemnem Beatificationem Nos Ipsi peregrimus, die XVII mensis Maii anno MCMXCII, in foro Vaticanam Basilicam Sancti Petri Apostoli prospiciente.

Cum vero in dies augesceret beneficiorum numerus Beati Iosephmariae Escrivá de Balaguer precibus a christifidelibus acceptorum, Causae Actores unam sanationem elegerunt eandemque Apostolicae Sedi cognoscendam exhibuerunt, ut eidem Beato sanctorum honores decernerentur.

Super huiusmodi mira sanatione processus in Emeritensi Augustana-Pacensi Curia archiepiscopali actus est anno MCMXCIV; deinde felici exitu apud Congregationem de Causis Sanctorum consuetae factae sunt inquisitiones ac die XX mensis Decembris anno MMI decretum super miraculo coram Nobis est promulgatum. Deinde, auditis faventibus sententiis Patrum Cardinalium et Episcoporum a Nobis in Consistorium convocatorum die XXVI mensis Februarii anno MMII, decrevimus ut Canonizationis ritus die VI mensis Octobris eodem anno celebraretur.

Hodie igitur in foro Sancti Petri Basilicam Vaticanam prospiciente inter Missarum sollemnia, coram ingenti christifidelium multitudine, hanc sumus formulam elocuti: Ad honorem Sanctae et Individuae Trinitatis, ad exaltationem

fidei catholicae et vitae christianae incrementum, auctoritate Domini nostri Iesu Christi, beatorum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli ac Nostra, matura deliberatione praehabita et divina ope saepius implorata, ac de plurimorum Fratrum Nostrorum consilio, Beatum Iosephmariam Escrivá de Balaguer Sanctum esse decernimus et definimus, ac Sanctorum Catalogo adscribimus, statuantes eum in universa Ecclesia inter Sanctos pia devotione recoli debere. In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti.

Quod autem decrevimus, volumus et nunc et in posterum vim habere, contrariis minime officientibus rebus quibuslibet.

Datum Romae, apud Sanctum Petrum, die sexto mensis Octobris, anno Domini bismillesimo secundo, Pontificatus Nostri vicesimo quarto.

*Ego Ioannes Paulus  
Catholicae Ecclesiae Episcopus*

*Marcellus Rossetti, protonot. apost.*



*Following is an English translation of the decree:*

#### DECRETAL LETTERS

Honors of Sainthood are Decreed for Blessed Josemaría Escrivá  
POPE JOHN PAUL II *Servant of the Servants of God*  
*for a permanent record of the matter*

*Domine, ut videam!* [Lord, that I might see!] (cf. Lk 18:41), *Domina, ut sis!* [Lady, that it might be!], *Omnes cum Petro ad Iesum per Mariam!* [All together with Peter to Jesus through Mary], *Regnare Christum volumus!* [We want Christ to reign!] (cf. 1 Cor 15:25), *Deo omnis gloria!* [All the glory to God!] (cf. Roman Canon, Doxology). In these aspirations one can trace the entire life story of Blessed Josemaría Escrivá. He was barely sixteen when he began to recite the first two aspirations, as soon as he had the first inklings of God's call. They expressed the burning desire of his heart: to see what God was asking of him, so that he might do it without delay, lovingly fulfilling the Lord's will. The third aspiration appears frequently in his writings as a young priest and shows how his zeal to win souls for God went hand in hand with both a firm determination to be faithful to the Church and an ardent devotion to Mary, the Virgin Mother of God. *Regnare*

*Christum volumus!* [We want Christ to reign!]: these words aptly express his constant pastoral concern to spread among all men and women the call to share, through Christ, in the dignity of God's children. God's sons and daughters should live for the purpose of serving Him alone: *Deo omnis gloria!* [All the glory to God!]

He framed this program of Christian holiness in the context of one's normal daily duties and tasks, for which reason he may rightly be called "the saint of ordinary life." Indeed, his life and message have taught countless Christian faithful, particularly laypeople, engaged in the most varied professions, to transform their ordinary work into prayer, service of others, and a path towards holiness.

Blessed Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer was born in Barbastro, Spain, on January 9th, 1902. He was ordained a priest on March 28th, 1925. On October 2nd, 1928, the Lord gave him the light to see what He had planned for him: on that day, he founded Opus Dei. Thus, a new pathway of life was opened in the Church, so that all men and women—without distinction of race, class or culture—might realize that they are called to the fullness of charity and to the apostolate, each in his or her own place in the world. Indeed, the ordinary circumstances of life are the place where the Lord calls us and the hinge upon which our loving response turns. Josemaría Escrivá teaches that work, if it is carried out with the help of God's life-giving grace, is a wellspring of inexhaustible fruitfulness. It is a means of lifting up the Cross and placing it on the summit of all human activity, so that the world is transformed from within, as it were, according to the Spirit of Christ, and reconciled with God.

Josemaría Escrivá's work on behalf of priests, both on his own and through the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, which he began on February 14, 1943, makes him a shining example of concern for priestly holiness and brotherhood.

In 1946, he moved to Rome and there, out of apostolic zeal, he constantly labored to spread the Christian message throughout the world, always fully in union with the Roman Pontiff and desirous of serving all the local churches. He inspired a vast range of initiatives to promote the dignity of the human person, to the great benefit of society and the further advance of the Gospel.

On his many trips to the countries of Europe and Latin America, he carried out a tireless work of catechesis. His reputation for holiness drew many men and women to hear him.

On June 26, 1975, at noon, he was stricken by a heart attack and rendered his soul to God. His body now lies in the prelatial church of Opus Dei, dedicated to Our Lady of Peace, where faithful from around the world frequently go to pray.

After his death, Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer's reputation for holiness spread, and many scientifically-inexplicable cures, as well as hundreds of thousands of spiritual and material favors, have been attributed to his intercession.

We ourselves solemnly beatified the Founder of Opus Dei on May 17, 1992, in St. Peter's Square.

As the number of favors attributed by the faithful to the intercession of Blessed Josemaría continued to grow, the Promoters of the Cause chose one cure and presented it to the Holy See so that, after careful examination, it might permit Blessed Josemaría to be numbered among the saints.

In 1994, a process was initiated regarding this miraculous cure in the Archdiocesan Curia of Badajoz, Spain. On December 20th, 2001, after the customary investigations were concluded in the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints with an affirmative result, the decree on the miracle was promulgated in our Presence. Then, having heard the favorable opinions of the Cardinals and Bishops gathered in Consistory on February 26th, 2002, we established that the rite of Canonization be celebrated on October 6th of the same year.

Therefore, today, in a solemn Mass in St. Peter's Square, before an immense multitude of the faithful, We have pronounced the following formula: In honor of the Blessed and Undivided Trinity, for the uplifting of Catholic faith and the increase of Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ and that of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and our own, after careful deliberation, having called frequently upon God's help, and with the advice of many of our brother Bishops, We declare and define Blessed Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer to be a Saint, and We inscribe his name in the catalogue of the Saints, ordaining that, throughout the universal Church, he be devoutly honored among the Saints. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

And what We have declared, We desire to be in force both now and in the future, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome, at Saint Peter's, the sixth day of October, in the two thousand and second year of our Lord, the twenty-fourth of our Pontificate.

*I, John Paul  
Bishop of the Catholic Church*

*Marcello Rossetti, protonotary apostolic*