

us, and above all on the intercession of our Lady and St. Joseph. It was quite significant that his first departure from the Vatican, on the morning following his election, was to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, to place his pontificate at the feet of our Mother, the refuge and salvation of the Roman people and of the entire Church.

During the weeks that have gone by since then, there has been much discussion of the burden that has fallen on the shoulders of the Roman Pontiff, to whom is especially entrusted the unity of faith and communion in the Church. To be able to carry that weight joyfully, the Pope seeks above all the help of God, the assistance of the Holy Spirit, the closeness of our Lady, the intercession of the saints. But he also asks for (and I don't mind repeating this once more) the affection and prayers of all Catholics and of many other people of good will. Let's not leave him alone! May he be able to count on our daily prayer, backed up by sacrifice and the offering of work that is well finished. In a special way let us unite ourselves to him at Holy Mass, the best moment, the most sublime one each day, to beseech God our Lord, with words of St. Josemaría: "*omnes cum Petro ad Iesum per Mariam!*" — that we may all go to Jesus, closely united to the Pope, through Mary" (*The Forge*, no. 647).

✠ Javier Echevarría
Prelate of Opus Dei

“With Christian Consistency,” *Mundo Cristiano*, (May 2013)

I am grateful for the invitation to present a few reflections as *Mundo Cristiano* celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. At a time when many publications appear only to quickly disappear, a publication that lasts for a half century gives a respectable vintage to a magazine.

From the beginning of Opus Dei, St. Josemaría Escrivá made clear that his children could work in any honest task, through which they were to seek sanctity and carry out apostolate. And he used to give some specific examples: the world of industry and craftsmanship, manual work, teaching at its various levels, fashion, work in the home, research, finance, etc. Included here, he would also often cite publishing and the press, with their strong evangelizing repercussions. St. Josemaría had been a teacher in the first school of journalism begun in Spain after the civil war; and years later, in 1958, he encouraged the beginning of the Institute of Journalism, which later became the School of Communications at the University of Navarra. It was the first time in Spain that those studies were made possible in a university setting. He also encouraged similar projects in other cities on different continents.

All the faithful of the Prelature of Opus Dei try to carry out their respective professional tasks with Christian consistency (“unity of life,” our founder called it), and with an apostolic aim: whether a teacher, nurse, taxi driver, or street vendor. And also those who work in journalism, no matter how far their specialty—sports, fashions, politics or daily news—may seem from theological concerns.

There comes to mind what St. Josemaría once told a journalist who asked him about university journalism: “Journalism is a great thing, and so is university journalism. You can contribute a good deal to promote among your fellow students love for noble ideals, and a desire to overcome personal egoisms. You can foster an awareness of social problems, you can encourage fraternity” (*Conversations*, no. 86). In this context, I also recall how happy he was to see, fifty years ago, the first issues of *Mundo Cristiano*. Its first director, Fr. Jesús Urteaga, is surely also happy to see, from Heaven, the current progress of the magazine.

In the past, publications with religious content would usually offer various articles of a spiritual nature: the life of a saint; a section of letters or consultations, answered by a learned priest; an edifying story for children and formative pastimes. Times have changed, and it is more than likely

that a publication with a profile like this would now find it difficult to attract many readers. In a magazine “for the family,” readers now expect to see articles about automobiles, computers, cooking, sports, fashion, television.... And these expectations need to be met. But this in no way conflicts with the need to always maintain Christian consistency and offer content that will inspire people to get to know their faith better and grasp its meaning more fully. This includes information about the Holy Father and matters of interest for the life of the Church: from the Second Vatican Council, when *Mundo Cristiano* was born, to the present Year of Faith.

I am confident that the magazine, within the natural evolution every living reality undergoes, has tried to do so during these past fifty years.

“Bring to all the
fire and the joy
of Christ”
Avvenire, Italy
(May 20, 2013)

This year the solemnity of Pentecost is celebrated in the month of May, which is also the month of our Lady. Mary teaches us to welcome the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. As Pope Francis