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*This Newsletter is published with ecclesiastical approval.*



# JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ DE BALAGUER Founder of Opus Dei

**NEWSLETTER No. 1**



Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer y Albás was born in Barbastro (Spain) on 9 January 1902. He attended school in Barbastro and Logroño and did his ecclesiastical studies in the Pontifical University of Saragossa, where he was awarded a licenciante in Theology. He was later to obtain a doctorate in Theology in Rome.

He studied civil law at the University of Saragossa and subsequently gained a doctorate at the University of Madrid. In 1960 he received an honorary doctorate in Philosophy and Letters from the University of Saragossa. He was the first Chancellor of the Universities of Navarre, Spain and of Piura, Peru.

After being ordained on 28 March 1925, he began his work as a priest in country parishes and, from 1927 onwards, he worked among the poor and the sick of the outlying districts and hospitals of Madrid. Some years later, he was appointed Rector of the Real Patronato de Santa Isabel in Madrid, a task which he carried out until 1946 when he moved to Rome.

He was a Consultor to various Pontifical Commissions and Congregations of the Holy See, a Domestic Prelate to the Holy Father and a member of the Pontifical Roman Theological Academy.

On 2 October 1928, in Madrid, he had founded Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in the middle of the world and a haven of fervent Christian life in every environment. On 14 February 1930, Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer founded the Women's Section of Opus Dei, and on 14 February 1943, within Opus Dei, the Sacerdotal Society of the Holy Cross. Opus Dei was definitively approved by the Holy See on 16 June 1950.

Through a life of constant prayer and penance, with a continuous and unconditional self-surrender to the will of God, the Father – as he is called by his sons and daughters in Opus Dei and by many thousands of people throughout the world from all walks of life – for forty seven years fostered and directed the expansion of Opus Dei throughout the world. At the time of the Founder's death, Opus Dei had spread to the five continents, with more than 60,000 members, of 80 different nationalities.

The Holy Mass was the root and centre of the interior life of the Founder of Opus Dei. A deep sense of his divine filiation moved him to seek in all things the most complete identification with Jesus Christ, to have a tender and strong devotion to Our Lady and St Joseph and a continual and confident friendship with the Holy Guardian Angels, and to be a sower of peace and joy along all the paths of the earth.

On repeated occasions, Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer had offered his life for the Church and for the Roman Pontiff. Our Lord accepted that offering and the Father, in a truly saintly way, gave up his soul to God in Rome, on 26 June 1975, in the room where he worked, with the same simplicity which characterized his entire life.

His body lies in the Crypt of the Oratory of Our Lady of Peace, Viale Bruno Buozzi 75, Rome, continually accompanied by the prayer and gratitude of his sons and daughters, and of the countless people who have come closer to God, drawn by the example and teaching of the Founder of Opus Dei.

Cover: Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer in a get-together in Aralar University Residence, Pamplona, October 1972.

## Fiat, adimpleatur

At midday on 26 June 1975 Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer y Albás, by God's will the Founder and first President General of Opus Dei, departed from this earth. He died quietly, **without a fuss**, just as he had wished to. At that moment many men and women were pausing in their work to say the *Angelus* and to contemplate the wonderful mystery of the Word made flesh.

The Father, as many thousands used to call him, was in Heaven.

Within a few hours the news spread round the world. Press, radio and television voiced it in many languages and within the many souls he loved so well tears turned into prayer. It seemed as if a voice, backed by generous deeds, was repeating St. Paul's claim to Timothy: *bonum certamen certavi, cursum consummavi, fidem servavi* (2 Tim 4:7): I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith!

At the beginning of each year he used to write on the first page of the liturgical calendar he used for celebrating Holy Mass and reciting the Divine Office: **in laetitia, nulla dies sine cruce!** – with joy, no day without the cross. With that aspiration he wanted to accept generously in advance any sorrows that Our Lord might send to try him during the year ahead. But on the last calendar, as if foreseeing his death, he departed from his usual custom and wrote a phrase which he had repeated millions of times: **Fiat, adimpleatur . . .!** – May it be done, may it be fulfilled . . . In *The Way* (no. 691) he encouraged us to say in the face of tribulation or adversity, **very slowly, as if relishing it, this powerful and manly prayer: "May the most just and most lovable will of God be done, be fulfilled, be praised and eternally exalted above all things . . ."** And he added: **I assure you that you will find peace.** Less than six months had passed when there came for him his *dies natalis*, as the early Christians used to call it, when he attained that peace which never ends.

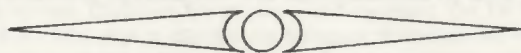
Dr. Alvaro del Portillo who is the person who by God's will was closest to Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer during the last forty years of his life – and who is now his successor as President General of Opus Dei – has written: *The Father always believed in God with an heroic faith. His faith was so firm that he used to repeat that he hardly needed it, because he saw God in everything. So solid was it that, as he put it graphically more than once, his faith was so thick you could cut it with a knife. That is why we ought to recall with full*



assurance those words of our Lord: *etiam si mortuus fuerit, vivet. Et omnis qui vivit et credit in me, non morietur in aeternum. The Father lives, and because he has believed with an immense love, he will live forever. That is what he himself had preached to us on so many occasions: that for us death means no more than a change of house. Our Father is with God in our Home in Heaven.*

Monsignor Josemaria Escrivá de Balaguer has not died. He lives. And, for all his children, as Dr. Alvaro del Portillo has also recalled: *That statement he made in several Latin American countries in response to appeals that he return – I shall come back, to stay – has become a reality.*

The aim of this *Newsletter*, which will be published periodically, is to recount details from the life of the Founder of Opus Dei which are now history, and to show how the force of his spirit continues to be fruitful. There will appear in it examples from his life and his teaching, and the testimony of people from all over the world who have been and are being transformed by the heroic zeal of his priestly soul.



## Heaven and eternity

*Passages from the writings of Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer*

**T**his world, my children, is slipping from our grasp. We cannot waste time, for it is short. We must earnestly commit ourselves to the task of our personal sanctification and to the apostolic work which Our Lord has entrusted to us. We must *spend* our time faithfully and loyally, and administer well, with a sense of responsibility, the talents we have received.

**H**ow well I understand St. Paul's exclamation to the Corinthians: *Tempus breve est!* – how short indeed is the time of our passage through this world! These words ring deep down in the heart of a Christian who wants to be consistent, as a reproach to his lack of generosity and as a constant invitation to be loyal. Brief indeed is our time for loving, for giving, for making atonement.

**F**or us, death is Life. But we must die old. To die young is *uneconomical*. When we have given everything, then we can die. Meanwhile, let us work hard and for many years. We are willing to go to meet Our Lord whenever he wants, but we ask him to let it be as late as possible.

We must desire to live, in order to work for Our Lord and to love all souls dearly, souls of all races, of all tongues, of all nations. We are all brothers, we are children of God, and alas, there are so many who instead of sowing love, sow hatred . . . Do you see how necessary it is that we live long, continually sowing a great love for peace?

**N**o, we do not die! We change our home and nothing more. Together with faith and love, we Christians have hope, a sure hope. It is no more than saying *see you later*. When we die, we ought to take our leave saying, 'see you later'.

God does not act like a hunter, who waits for the smallest slip on the part of his prey to shoot it down. God is like a gardener who cares for the flowers: he waters them, he protects them, and he only cuts them when they are at their best and in full bloom. God takes souls to himself when they are ripe.

**L**et us imagine what Heaven will be like. *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the mind of man to imagine the things God has prepared for those who love him. Can you imagine what it will be like to arrive there, and meet God, and see that beauty which pours into our hearts, and satiates without satiating our desire? I ask myself many times a day: what will it be like when all the beauty, all the goodness, all the infinite wonder of God pours into this poor clay vessel that I am, that we are. And then I understand well why the Apostle wrote: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard . . . It is worth every effort, my children, it is indeed worthwhile.*

**T**hose in love try to see each other. People in love have eyes only for their love. That's logical, isn't it? The human heart feels this need. I would be lying if I denied my eagerness to contemplate the face of Jesus Christ. *Vultum tuum, Domine, requiram!* – I will seek your countenance, O Lord. I love to close my eyes and reflect that the moment will come, when God wills it, when I will be able to see him, not as a *confused reflection in a mirror . . .*, but *face to face*. Yes, my children, my heart thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come to see the face of God?



# 2 October 1928

In 1917, when he was fifteen years old, Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer had the first *intimations* that God wanted something from him. Our Lord made use of an insignificant event to stir his soul.

At the time his family was living in Logroño, on Calle de Sagasta, in a house on the corner of Rua Vieja, near the iron bridge over the Ebro. He used to go each day to the school on the Calle del Marqués de Murrieta, which had a door on that of Salmerón. He used to go along the Calle Ancha, and one day, when snow covered the city with its freezing mantle, half way down as he was passing what was then the School of the Marist Brothers, he saw the footprints left by the bare feet of a discalced Carmelite who had been walking in the snow. It was a trivial thing, but those footprints penetrated his young soul, making him reflect on what a man is capable of doing out of love for God.

Years later he recalled those memories. **There come to mind so many manifestations of God's Love during my adolescent years, when I sensed that Our Lord wanted something of me, something though I knew not what it was. Ordinary events and details, seemingly without significance, and yet He used them to place within my soul a divine restlessness. And so I well understand that love so human and yet so divine of Theresa of the Child Jesus, whose heart is moved when in**



Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer as a seminarian in Saragossa, 1923.

turning the pages of a book, she comes across a picture of the wounded hand of the Redeemer. Things of this kind happened to me as well, and they stirred me, and they led me to daily

**Communion, to purification, to confession and to penance.**

Eleven years were to pass after that event in Logroño, before he knew clearly what God wanted of him. During that time, Josemaría finished secondary school and began to study for the priesthood while still in Logroño. Afterwards he went to Saragossa, where he studied for a doctorate in Theology at the Pontifical University. He was later to present the corresponding doctoral thesis in Rome. During the same period in Saragossa he read civil law. After his ordination he began to exercise his ministry first in Saragossa and then in Madrid.

Day by day his interior life matured

and deepened. He loved to contemplate God, made man, as he appears to us in the Gospels.

One day, in his personal meditation, he came across that passage which tells the story of Bartimeus (Mk 10: 46–52), and he heard Our Lord asking that man who had been born blind: *quid tibi vis faciam?* – what do you want me to do for you? And he listened to Bartimeus' answer: *Rabboni, ut videam!* – Master, that I may see. In his homily, "Life of Faith", he tells us: **When meditating on this passage many years ago and realizing that Jesus expected something of me, though I myself did not know what it was, I can never forget how I made my**



"From the moment when Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer had the first intimations that God wanted something of him, something which he did not know, he began to ask for light in order to know the will of God – *ut videam!*: that I may see! – and he kept repeating a confident invocation so that whatever Our Lord wanted would be done: **Domine, ut sit!**, Lord, that it may be! In 1960 this plaster statue of Our Lady of Pilar was brought to him in Rome. While the Founder of Opus Dei was still in the seminary, on the feast of Our Lady of Ransom in 1924, he had carved on the base of the statue this aspiration: **Domina, ut sit!**, My Lady, that it may be!" The statue was kept in Saragossa by some relatives and he had completely forgotten about it. It expresses vividly how he had been praying for so many years, before Opus Dei was born.





The house of the Vincentian Fathers and the Milagrosa basilica on the Calle García de Paredes, Madrid, as they were in 1928.

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 that *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.

On 2 October 1928, Opus Dei was born.

Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer was only twenty six years old and had been a priest since 28 March 1925.

On that second of October he was spending a few days on retreat at the Madrid residence of the Vincentian Fathers in the Calle García de Paredes, on the corner of Modesto Lafuente, beside the Basilica of the *Milagrosa*. It was the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. On that day a clear light entered his mind and the yearnings of his heart, restless for many years, found their full answer. The

bells of the church of Our Lady of the Angels could be heard chiming in the distance. They have never stopped ringing in my ears, he would say many years later.

Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer was now the Founder of Opus Dei. God wanted him to dedicate his life to promote the fulness of Christian life among people who live in the middle of the world and who are involved in the most diverse occupations and activities. Jesus, the divine sower, had planted the seed in his soul, in a clear and unmistakable manner.

Years later, he was giving a meditation on the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels; he was putting into words his own personal prayer: It is natural that I should say a few words to you today, as I begin a new year in my vocation to Opus Dei. I was young then, like many of you: twenty six years and good

humour – that was all I had. If I had known everything that was to happen, I would have died.

God chose to place this wonderful seed of his Work in the heart of that poor priest, wanting him to begin in obscurity, without noise, but decisively and tenaciously. For Our Lord, as Scripture says, “chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, he chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, he chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are (1 Cor 1:27–28); and certainly he likewise looks for instruments who, insignificant though they may be, have sufficient defects for him to be able to make use of them, so that people can see more clearly that the Work is his.

That feast of the Holy Guardian Angels was always present in the life of Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer. On one occasion, when he was with some of his sons, he asked himself out loud: Father, did the Work really begin on 2 October 1928? And this was his reply: Yes, my son, it began on 2 October 1928. From that moment on I never had any tranquility and I began to work, reluctantly, because I did not like the idea of being the founder of anything; but I began to work, to move, to do: to lay the foundations.

I started working and it was not easy: souls slipped through my fingers like eels in water. Besides, the lack of understanding was savage, because what today is common teaching the world over was not so then. Anyone who says otherwise does not know the truth of the matter.

I had, I repeat, my twenty six years, God’s grace and good humour, and nothing else. But just as men write with a pen, Our Lord writes with the

leg of a table to make it clear that it is He who is doing the writing: that is what is so incredible, so marvellous. All the theological and ascetical doctrine, all the juridical doctrine had to be created. I found before me a break in continuity, a gap of centuries: there was nothing. Humanly speaking, the whole Work was a crazy venture. That is why some people said that I was mad, and that I was a heretic, and so many other things besides.

God arranged things in such a way that I did not have a penny to my name, again so that it would be clear that the Work was His. Imagine how I must have made those who lived around me suffer! It is only right that I mention my parents here. With what joy, with what love did they bear so much humiliation! I had to be ground the way wheat is ground to prepare the flour for baking bread; that is why Our Lord struck at what I loved most . . . Thank you, Lord! Because this batch of wonderful bread is already spreading the aroma of Christ (2 Cor 2:15) the world over. Thank you for these thousands of souls who are giving glory to God all over the world. Because all of them belong to you.

Three days after Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer’s death, Dr. Alvaro del Portillo wrote: For this year he had suggested that we call upon Our Lord with the same aspiration he used during those years of divine intimations: *Domine, ut videam!, ut videamus!, ut videant!* Here was a hunger for God’s light, for himself and for each one of us; a petition for divine light for all men so that they might know how to discover the divine ways on earth. He has ended his life on earth with the same prayer with which he prepared himself in his youth to fulfil heroically what God was asking of him.



# Under his spiritual influence

*With constant prayer and penance, with the practice of the human and supernatural virtues and working full of hope, Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer inspired and guided the growth of Opus Dei throughout the world for forty seven years.*

*The principal task of the Work is the formation of its members so that each one, individually, may carry out his Christian apostolic work in the world and in society.*

**The essential apostolate of Opus Dei, in the words of its Founder, is the apostolate each member carries out in his own place of work, with his family, among his friends – an apostolate which does not attract attention, which cannot easily be expressed in statistics but which yields holiness in thousands of souls who keep on following Christ, quietly and effectively, during their ordinary everyday work.** (*Conversations with Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer, n.71.*)

Nevertheless, as he himself replied when asked by a journalist: **Opus Dei, as a corporation, with the help of very many people who do not belong to the Work and who often are not Christian, also fosters 'corporate' activities through which it seeks to contribute towards solving the many problems which face the world today: educational institutions, welfare centres, schools for professional development and advancement, and so forth.** (*Conversations with Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer, n.84.*)

We shall be describing here, very briefly, some of the many apostolic works (each with its own characteristics, springing from the needs of a particular place and time) which have arisen through the inspiration of the Founder of Opus Dei.

## Centro ELIS, Rome

At half past seven on the evening of 21 November 1965, under a greyish Roman sky, the buildings of the Centro ELIS and of the nearby parish church of St John the Baptist were lit by floodlight. Many people were carrying lighted torches, which formed a kind of pathway expressing the filial affection and veneration of these people for Pope Paul VI, who had just inaugurated this apostolic undertaking.

The doors of the Centro ELIS were open wide to the warm Roman night, and Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer was waiting by the Pope's car to bid him farewell and to thank him for the three long hours he had spent in this corporate work of Opus Dei in the Tiburtino district of Rome.



**I wanted to wait for him on my knees,** Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer commented the following morning, **as a priest who loves the Pope and the Catholic Church with all the love of his heart.**

But the Holy Father had raised him to his feet, breaking protocol to give him a long and affectionate embrace. Resting his hands on the shoulders of the Founder of Opus Dei, Pope Paul said: *Tutto, tutto qui è Opus Dei – Everything, everything here is Opus Dei.*

The Centro ELIS project (the name comes from the initials of the Italian Words for Education, Work (Lavoro), Instruction and Sport) had its origins in the pontificate of Pope John XXIII. Following a suggestion of the then Sostituto of the Secretariate of State, Monsignor Angelo Dell'Acqua, Pope John decided that the funds which had been collected to honour Pope Pius XII on his eightieth birthday should be used to set up a social work in a poor suburb of Rome, which was in need of welfare and

educational activities. The Pope decided to entrust the project to members of Opus Dei.

The Centre consists of a group of residential and school buildings with extensive sports facilities. Next to the Centre is the parish church of St John the Baptist al Collatino, which the Pope has entrusted to priests of Opus Dei.

The various functions of Centro ELIS can be summarised as follows:

**SCHOOLING AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.** There is a secondary school, with both day and night classes, and a centre for professional training which specializes in electro-mechanics and industrial design.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.** Numerous activities for people of all ages, young and adults, are held in the buildings of the residence. Centro ELIS also has a library which is open to the public.

**SPORTS TRAINING.** In the different sections of the Sports Group, boys are in-





structured in the practice and skills of popular sports.

**YOUTH HOSTEL.** The Hostel offers accommodation in a warm family atmosphere to groups of workers and students who come to Rome from all over the world for congresses and conferences or simply to visit the Eternal City.

Independent of these activities, the Women's Section of Opus Dei runs the **SCUOLA ALBERGHIERA FEMMINILE INTERNAZIONALE** (Women's International Hotel Training School) which organises specialised training for hotel industry staff and for domestic assistants.

All those connected with Centro ELIS – teachers, pupils, parents – are offered human and Christian formation which

enables them to set about their professional, family and social duties with a mature sense of responsibility. Specifically religious activities are organised in such a way that people are free to take part in them or not, within an atmosphere that encourages responsible individual decision.

A few words of Pope Paul VI, spoken on 21 November 1965, clearly reflect the aims which the members of Opus Dei, inspired by the apostolic spirit of their Founder, are pursuing in their work in Tiburtino: *It is a work of the heart, a work of Christ, a work of the Gospel; all of it is directed to the good of those who use it. It is not just a hostel, not just a workshop, not just a school; nor is it just any sports field: it is a centre where the atmosphere is made up of friendship, confidence and cheerfulness; where life is given its proper dignity, its genuine meaning, its true hope; it is the Christian way of life that is being affirmed and displayed here, that wants to express itself in many things of vital interest to our age.*

On the same occasion, the President General of Opus Dei summed up the wishes of the Association when it accepted from the Holy See the task of creating the Centro ELIS: **Opus Dei has accepted with special gratitude this task of offering professional, human and Christian formation to young working people: not only because, as I often repeat, Opus Dei wants to serve the Church as the Church wants to be served, but also because the task that has been entrusted to Opus Dei here corresponds perfectly to the spiritual and apostolic characteristics of our Work. The Work, in fact, both in the formation of its members and in its apostolates, has as its foundation the sanctification of the professional work of each individual.**

## Letters received

### NO NEED TO OPERATE

Two days after the death of Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, a young lady, M. C., who works in a beauty salon, told me she was very sad because they had told her that her father, D. C. P., was going to lose the sight of an eye as a result of an injury which detached the retina. Even though they were going to operate, the doctors held out no hopes. As I am convinced of the sanctity of Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer and I know that he is very close to God, I told her to ask him with a lot of faith, or rather, as he himself used to teach us, not to ask but to say: 'I want you to do this for me', as when a child asks something of its father and is completely sure that it will be done. And so she prayed and with only the preparatory treatment that her father was given, he began to get better, and is now recovering without any need for an operation.

(M. de L. A., de G. – Mexico City)

### THE X-RAYS PROVE IT

On 2 September last, a doctor friend of mine told me that while he was recovering from a delicate surgical operation in which there had been a serious complication affecting both lungs, and especially the left one, he asked our Lord for a cure through the intercession of Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer. Within forty-eight hours the complaint had disappeared. In his judgement, this was a case of an extraordinary cure which could not be explained medically. 'It was not autosuggestion', he told me, 'because the X-rays are there to prove it. But', he added, 'the most important thing is the interior renewal that I have experienced. From now on I want to direct my life towards God, to be more demanding on myself and to be more concerned about others.'

(X. X. – Madrid)

### SUNDAY MASS

A. de I. told me that she was finding it difficult to get to Mass on Sundays, as her husband liked to spend the weekends at the seaside and they used to get back very late.

It occurred to her to ask Monsignor Escrivá to solve the problem somehow.

That very day, when her husband came home, he told her that he had gone into the Church to pray for a friend who was sick and that he had promised Our Lord never to miss Sunday Mass again.

(M. D. M. R. – San Salvador)

### BEFORE THE WEDDING

My sister was going to get married and the bridegroom, who is a mechanic, did not want to go to Confession before receiving the sacrament of Matrimony. He even said he would go to Communion without going to Confession. I tried



to make him see that if he did this without being in a state of grace he would be committing a sacrilege.

When I heard that Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer had died, I entrusted the matter to him, since I was sure he was already in heaven. On the 28th, in the morning, my future brother-in-law went to Confession.

(A. P. M. – Palma de Mallorca)

### **SHE BEGAN TO WALK**

D. A. was born in 1969. Her mother had had German measles during pregnancy and the little girl had rickets. She was also mentally retarded and was suffering from partial infantile paralysis.

When she was two years old, the doctors diagnosed the case as follows: 'The patient will never be able to walk, due to partial infantile paralysis and mental retardation'.

When the little girl was four years old, she started going to a Rehabilitation Centre in Caracas, but treatment had to be interrupted because her parents could not afford it and also because they lived a good distance from the Hospital Centre.

So, from February 1973, she had no treatment. Her parents put all their trust in God and offered the sick girl to the 'Holy Child of La Cuchilla', a title greatly venerated in this little village of Zea, in the Andes State of Mérida. Her parents had the simple but strong faith of the peasants of this part of Venezuela.

Since they lived near an agricultural education school run by teachers who are members of Opus Dei, they came to know the spirit of the Work and to love its Founder.

When Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer died on 26 June 1975, the faith and affection of this family led them to ask him to intercede before God for their daughter.

Her father's prayer was: 'Monsignor, you preached so much about God while you were in the world and now you are surely beside him; if you can, help me and intercede before God the Father for the cure of my daughter.'

On 3 July 1975, at ten in the morning, to their great surprise the little girl, who was sitting on the ground as always, asked them with gestures and her few words to put her sandals on. Her mother then said to her: 'If you walk, I will put them on for you and take you out into the patio'. 'Yes, I walk mummy . . .', the little girl replied. Her mother put the sandals on for her and the little girl, who had never walked before because she couldn't keep her balance, began walking.

The child carried on walking all on her own, all round the house and practically for the whole of the day. She was very happy; she liked walking and was so pleased. I must point out that whenever she had seen other children playing previously, she had become sad because she could not join them.

Since then the girl has been getting stronger and walking better each day.

Her parents are fully convinced that God has granted them this favour through the intercession of Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer.

(X. X. – Aldea La Sanjuana, San Juan de Colón, Venezuela)

### **HE SAVED MY LIFE**

Mr. J. B. B., who is the father of a good friend of mine, was brought by plane to Santiago to have an operation for a blood clot in his leg. When he arrived at the clinic he immediately contacted me as I was a friend of his son. I saw to it that he got a prayer card of Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer.

I found out later that he put this card in his pyjama pocket and kept it there all the time. On 26 February last he wrote to me: 'The doctor who operated on me asked me a few days after the operation: "Do you believe in miracles?" Why, doctor? I replied. "Because it is a miracle that you are alive and have a chance of recovery". Two or three other doctors here have said the same'.

'I'm telling you this', the letter finishes, 'because I am fully convinced that you helped this miracle to be worked in me, since on the day I arrived you brought me the prayer card of Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer y Albás who, without a doubt, intervened to save my life'.

(B. B. L. – Santiago de Chile)

### **THE DAUGHTER OF THE CONCIERGE**

I wish to communicate a favour obtained through the intercession of Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer.

My daughter finished her schooling three years ago, and since then we have been looking for a job for her, as we needed it very badly. I prayed a lot, but to no avail. When the Father died, a priest of the Work gave me the card with the prayer for private devotion. I made a novena asking the Father with a lot of faith to find a job for my daughter, and just as I finished the novena, we found a job and a very good one too. I am very grateful to him for this and that is why I wanted to let you know about it. I know the Work because I am the concierge in a house in which there is a centre of the Work.

(J. C. A. – Cadiz)

### **OUT OF WORK FOR OVER A YEAR**

What I am going to write happened to me. My husband had been out of work for over a year and we had been trying to find another job, but it was no use. It seemed a mystery. There was no way of getting anything. Realising that there were very few vacancies available, I began to pray and to make promises, but with no result, until I just gave up: it was all useless.

On 26 June I heard of Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer's death on the television news. I was very upset: such a good and holy man.

But I thought, he's in heaven. So I begged him humbly: 'Father, help me, ask Our Lord for me; make a job turn up for my husband, I ask you with all my heart, I trust in you'. And I kept asking him every day, I prayed to him and offered a Mass for him. I felt sure that he was going to help me, and so it turned out.

On the 30th a gentleman phoned up who wanted to interview my husband for a job.

Twenty seven people applied for the same job, but my husband was chosen.

He started work on the 1st. That's the whole story: the Father had listened to my prayers, because my husband had had many interviews before and it had always been someone else who got the job.

(M. S. A. – Oviedo)

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

I have a fifteen year old daughter who had been causing me a lot of worry as she had stopped going to Confession some time previously. Her father and I were trying all ways to convince her to go to Confession and we prayed for her.

As soon as I heard of the death of Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, I asked him to help. My daughter, without any fuss, went to Confession, and this Sunday she has been to Communion with all the rest of the family, just as she always used to do.

(J. A. J. – Granada)



## MARRIAGE PROBLEMS SOLVED

I was worried because a sister of mine was having problems with her husband. I asked Our Lord, through the Father, who had just died, to help keep this marriage together.

A week later all the problems were solved in an incredible way, and I am sure that the Father had a lot to do with it.

(T. N. – Guatemala)

## CONFESSION

P. de P.'s mother-in-law had been ill with cancer for some time and her condition had become quite serious. He was worried that she would die without having returned to the Sacraments, which she had given up years before. He had been insisting with her that she go to Confession, but hardly expected a positive response.

Soon after the Father died, he asked him to intercede with Our Lord so that his mother-in-law would go to Confession. The following day, in the morning, he called in to see her and was told that she had just been to Confession.

She had been forty years without going to Confession.

(X. X. – San José de Costa Rica)

## A CRITICAL SITUATION

From September 1974 onwards my mother, L. G. W., suffered a progressive restriction of the oesophagus which ended up preventing her from taking normal nourishment.

In this way she passed through several critical periods, in which her life was in danger. The situation was aggravated by the fact that she had ceased to frequent the Sacraments some thirty five years earlier; only occasionally did she go to Mass.

After the Father's death, we began continuous novenas asking that she would go to Confession and Communion and, if it was for her good, that he would help her get over her physical illness.

On 16 July 1975, on the Feast of Our Lady of Cavino, to whom she had been very devoted since she was a child, my mother, at the age of seventy six, went to Confession. On 18 January last, after two blood transfusions and several serum transfusions, the doctors gave her only ten days to live, as she was totally dehydrated and had been unable to swallow for a fortnight. The only possible alternative was to make an immediate tracheotomy, which was a very delicate operation in her case as she was also having trouble with her breathing and was suffering from a blockage in part of her heart.

We continued to ask for the Father's intercession, and twenty four hours after this diagnosis, she began to improve without any medical intervention; first she took liquid and later solid foods. Now she is able to eat and move about quite normally and is giving signs of a permanent recovery. The doctors had never hoped for such a result from the treatment she had been given.

I attribute the rapid recovery and these favours to the intercession of the Father.

(L. C. G. W. – Sao Paulo)

## I AM GOING TO CONFESSION

Mrs. G. G. told me she was concerned about her husband, who had not been to the Sacrament of Penance for some time past and that this was beginning to show in his behaviour. When she heard of the death of Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer, it made a deep impression on her – she had seen him on film – and, immediately, not thinking about herself, she began to pray to the Father with a lot of insistence that her husband would go to Confession. The following Sunday they went to Mass and she noticed that her husband was on edge. At last he got up, saying: 'I am going to Confession'. This he did and also went to Communion during that Mass. 'I offered up my Communion to the Father in gratitude for this favour.'

(M. E. P. M. – Mexico City)

## MY FATHER COMES AROUND

I began a novena to the Father, asking that my father would change his attitude towards me, as he had been angry with me for five months on account of my marriage; he had hardly said a word to me in all that time.

A few days later my father came around completely and began behaving again as he always used to.

(I. S. and S. T. – Madrid)

## NO REMEDY

On Monday 7 July I received a telephone call from my cousin, M. J. del C. A., who told me: 'I am phoning to tell you what the Father has done for us. Do you remember my niece M. E. A. G. and how I'd told you she was very ill? Well I told mummy, "Let's ask the Father to intercede for her in heaven so that Our Lord may cure her or take her to himself, because there's no other remedy"'. We prayed and, thanks be to God, she is all right now.'

(E. del C. – Guatemala)

## HEALTH RECOVERED

My father had not been well for quite a while and in the last few months he got so much worse that I became seriously concerned and wondered how best I could help him.

I spoke with my spiritual director and he suggested that I do a novena, asking Our Lord to cure my father through the intercession of the Founder of Opus Dei. Two days after I began the novena, my father began to feel much better and the results of the clinical analyses were very good. From that moment on he has been getting steadily better.

I was very impressed because this was the first time that my prayers had been heard in such a rapid and obvious way. I am sure that the Father understood exactly how I felt. Precisely because he had such a big heart, he understood the intimate worries of a family and, in a special way, a son's affection.

Since then I have very often had recourse to the intercession of the Father.

(J. S. – Sydney)

Those who obtain favours through the intercession of Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer are asked to notify this Office of Vice-Postulation.



## Published works of Msgr. Escrivá de Balaguer

### The Way

'Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer has written something more than a masterpiece; he has written straight from the heart, and straight to the heart go the short paragraphs which, like a string of pearls which is broken but yet complete, make up *The Way* . . . there is none of the formal rigidity of a code in the warm brotherly understanding of the author, in the paternal concern with which he sees, understands and corrects, persuading, not threatening' (*L'Osservatore Romano*, 24 March 1950).

The first edition of this book was published in February 1934 (Cuenca, Spain) entitled *Consideraciones Espirituales*. Ever since then, the number of editions has steadily increased; by April 1977, a total of 2,637,075 copies had been published in 138 editions in thirty four languages. English editions currently published by Four Courts Press (Dublin), Sinag-Tala (Manila) and Scepter (Chicago).

### Holy Rosary

A book of meditations on each of the fifteen mysteries of the life of Christ and of the Blessed Virgin which one contemplates when saying the Holy Rosary.

The first edition also appeared in 1934. Since then 40 editions have been published in ten languages. English editions by Scepter (Chicago) and Sinag-Tala (Manila).

### Conversations with Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer

A number of magazines and newspapers put specific questions to Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer, dealing with the topics of greatest interest to their respective readers. Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer answered the questions fully in writing. The book brings together the complete text of those interviews.

The first edition was published in 1968. From that time 27 editions have been published in seven languages. New English edition by Sinag-Tala (Manila).

### Christ is passing by

The book is a collection of some of the many homilies given by Monsignor Escrivá de Balaguer throughout his life. They constitute a profound and attractive exposition of Christian doctrine and life. His style combines theological depth with clarity of exposition.

The first edition was published in March 1973. By April 1977, 26 editions had appeared in six languages. Published in English by Veritas (Dublin) and Sinag-Tala (Manila).

### La Abadesa de las Huelgas

A penetrating study of an extraordinary case of quasi-episcopal jurisdiction exercised by the abbess of a famous convent in Burgos, utilizing the original sources and documents.

First published in 1944; a second edition appeared in 1974.

## Prayer

for private devotion

*O God, you granted countless graces to your servant and priest Josemaría, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfilment of the ordinary duties of a Christian. Grant that I also 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 paths of the earth with faith and love. Deign to glorify your servant Josemaría and, through his intercession, grant me the favour I request . . . (here make your petition).  
Amen.*

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

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

This *Newsletter* is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give alms to help its publication and the development of the apostolic activities stemming from the spiritual influence of the Founder of Opus Dei, may send donations by crossed cheque or postal order to *The Office of Vice Postulation, 6 Orme Court, London W2 4RL*.

We would be grateful if our readers would send us names and addresses of others who might be interested in receiving this *Newsletter* or the prayer card with the prayer for private devotion.

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