



PRAYER

O God, through the Blessed Virgin Mary, you granted countless graces to your priest St. Josemaría, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the ordinary duties of a Christian. Grant that I may also 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. Through the intercession of St. Josemaría grant me the favor I request...
(make your request). Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father

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Imprimatur.
Most Rev. Javier Echevarría,
Prelate of Opus Dei

Photos: COVER: Painting of St. Josemaría praying before the Blessed Virgin Mary, Basilica of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Valencia, Spain

SAINT JOSEMARÍA TODAY NO. 2

CHRISTIAN PRAYER CAN DO ANYTHING

«As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, “Master, look! The fig tree which you cursed has withered.” And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea’, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours.»

Mk 11:20-24, RSVCE Bible

MEMORIES
Testimonies of people who knew St. Josemaría and some written and oral texts from his preaching.

BENEDICT XVI
Texts by the Pope about prayer.

FAVORS
Numerous testimonies have been received from persons who turn to God through St. Josemaría, asking for material and spiritual favors.

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«The scene of the Annunciation is a very lovely one. How often we have meditated on this. Mary is recollected in prayer. She is using all her senses and her faculties to speak to God. It is in prayer that she comes to know the divine Will. And with prayer she makes it the life of her life. Do not forget the example of the Virgin Mary.»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *Furrow*, Sinag-Tala Publishers, Manila, 1994, no. 481.

A SIMPLE PRAYER

In May 1974, St. Josemaría was in Argentina. In a meeting with married couples, a mother told him something about José Orlando, her five year-old son:

«Father, one day I was with him in a bus and suddenly he told me: Mom, that's Our Lady—he was referring to the image that was in the bus. Shall I greet her? I answered yes. Then he waved his hand. He approached the driver and said, 'Sir, do you talk to Our Lady? We have to talk to Our Lady, and speak with her. You're driving—and he acted out driving, and blowing the horn: beep! beep!— and then you tell her: Our Lady, we have to stop because the traffic lights are red, and afterwards you tell her: Our Lady, now we proceed—beep! beep!— because the traffic lights are green.'»

The Father listened intently, as if there were no one else. He changed position, he turned to one side and remained pensive for a moment. Suddenly he turned again to me and said: —*That's contemplative life. When I was that age I was very pious, but I had no contemplative life.*»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, texts from his oral preaching, AGP P04, I, 1974, p. 437.

PHOTO/SHRINE DEDICATED TO ST. JOSEMARÍA IN BRAZIL.



PRAYER THAT HAS TO BECOME LIFE

“I have never tired of talking about prayer and with God's grace I never will. I remember back in the thirties, as a young priest, people of all walks of life used to come to me looking for ways of getting closer to Our Lord. To all of them, university students and workers, healthy and sick, rich and poor, priests and laymen, I gave the same advice: ‘Pray’. If anyone replied: ‘I do not even know how to begin’, I would advise him to put himself in God's presence and tell him of his desires and his anxieties with that very same complaint: ‘Lord, I do not know how to pray!’ Often, humble admissions like that were the beginning of an intimate relationship with Christ, a lasting friendship with him.

Many years have gone by, and I still don't know of a better recipe. If you think you're not quite ready to pray, go to Jesus as his disciples did and say to him, ‘Lord, teach us how to pray.’ You will discover how the Holy Spirit ‘comes to the aid of our weakness when we do not know what prayer to offer, to pray as we ought, the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans beyond all utterance,’ which are impossible to describe, for no words are adequate to express their depth.

What a great source of confidence the Word of God should be for us! ... I have not invented anything. It's all there in Holy Scripture. That is where I learned to say, “Lord, I don't know how to talk to you! Lord, teach us how to pray!”

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *Friends of God*, Sinag-Tala Publishers, Manila, 1981, no. 244.

«You wrote to me: “To pray is to talk with God. But about what?” About what? About him and yourself: joys, sorrows, successes and failures, great ambitions, daily worries—even your weaknesses! And acts of thanksgiving and petitions—and love and reparation. In short, to get to know him and to get to know yourself— “to get acquainted!”»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *The Way*, Sinag-Tala Publishers, Manila, 1997, no. 91.

PHOTO/STATUE AT THE CENTRAL COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAVARRE IN PAMPLONA, SPAIN.



OUR DEALINGS WITH GOD SHOWING AFFECTION

Addressing a group of people, he was talking to them about how to deal with God:

“What are we to say? Words very well thought out, well written? We talk as I talk to you, and you to me; as we talk to our parents, as you speak among yourselves. Do you have to think much about what you will say? No, you express yourselves with naturalness, and you make your own aspirations. You have a conversation without strangeness, without haste, with naturalness so that you can be on earth and in heaven conversing with men and conversing with God. What I am telling you is not difficult if you have patience enough to do all that I have recommended: ‘drawing water’ first by dint of effort; being strong, tough and faithful; and by overcoming ourselves. The rest will follow.”

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, texts from his oral preaching, AGP P04, I, 1972, p. 135.

PHOTO/STATUE OF ST. JOSEMARÍA IN A CHAPEL OF THE ALMUDENA CATHEDRAL, MADRID.

“I still renew, morning and evening, and not just occasionally but habitually, the offering I learned from my parents: ‘Oh my Lady, my Mother! I offer myself entirely to you, and in proof of my filial love, I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my tongue, my heart ...’ Is this not, in some way, a beginning of contemplation, an evident expression of trusting abandonment? What do lovers say when they meet? How do they behave? They sacrifice themselves and all their possessions for the person they love. First one brief aspiration, then another and another ... till our fervor seems insufficient, because words are too poor ... then this gives way to intimacy with God, looking at God without needing rest or feeling tired... Our soul is drawn towards God like iron drawn by a magnet. One begins to love Jesus, in a more effective way, with the sweet and gentle surprise of his encounter.”

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *Friends of God*, Sinag-tala Publishers, Manila, 1981, no. 296.



JOHN THE MILKMAN

This story took place in the 30’s:

«At Santa Isabel [a church in Madrid] he got into the confessional first thing in the morning. And every morning, while hearing a confession or reading his breviary, he would hear the church door banged open and a clattering and clanking coming up one of the aisles. Curious to know what it was, one day he stationed himself at the church entrance. When the door banged open, there was a milkman, loaded with his milk cans. The priest asked him what he was doing. “Father”, he said, “I come here every morning...and I greet him saying, ‘Jesus, here is John the milkman.’”

He felt humbled. “Lord,” he spent the rest of that day repeating, “here is this wretched person who doesn’t know how to love you like John the milkman.”»

Andrés Vázquez de Prada, *The Founder of Opus Dei*, Volume I, Scepter, Princeton, New Jersey, 2001, p. 387.

PERSEVERING IN PRAYER

On one occasion, St. Josemaría answered someone:

«We were watching the Olympic Games on television (Summer of 1972). I was a bit annoyed seeing that sort of cult to the ‘sacred’ fire and to the human body, which is something noble, great and clean. I was watching how those strong athletic men approached with their poles, ready for the pole vault. They would first concentrate in silence and after a time, go for the jump. At times they did not pause; they wanted to vault over the bar but failed. Then, with head bowed, they walked back to the starting point.

They relax their muscles and get into that physical and psychological concentration again. Then they launch themselves... and on the fourth or fifth attempt, they make it. We want to deal with God, and for that it is good to do spiritual athletics, which is very similar to physical athletics.»

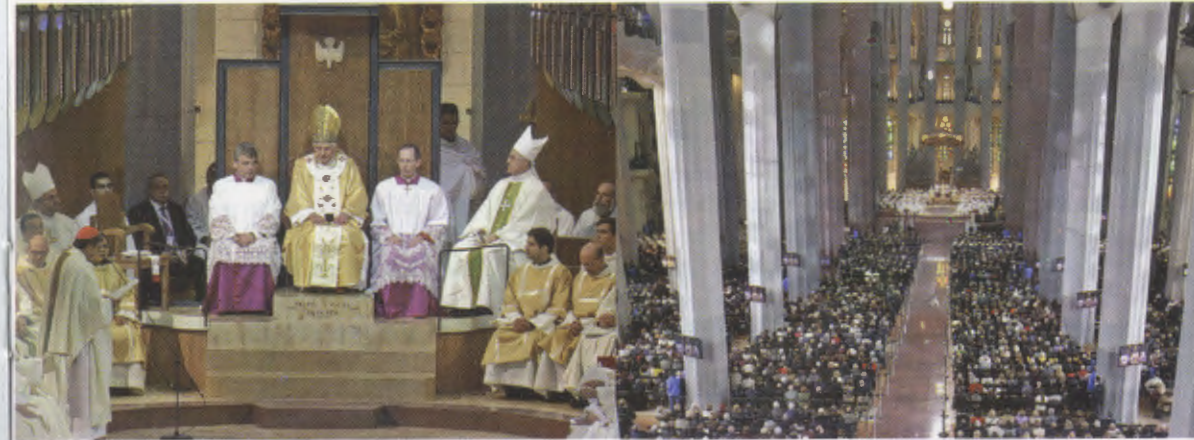
Jose Luis SORIA, *Maestro del buen humor*, Rialp, Madrid 1993, pp. 131-132.

PHOTO/REREDOS OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOSEMARÍA IN VALENCIA, SPAIN.

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BENEDICT XVI SPEAKS ABOUT CHRISTIAN PRAYER

GOD IS FATHER AND HE LOVES US

«Even in their bewilderment and failure to understand the world around them, Christians continue to believe in the “goodness and loving kindness of God” (*Tit* 3:4). Immersed like everyone else in the dramatic complexity of historical events, we remain unshakably certain that God is our Father and loves us, even when his silence remains incomprehensible.»

BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus caritas est*, no. 38.

★ ★ ★

«Love is the light—and in the end, the only light—that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practise it because we are created in the image of God. To experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter into the world—this is the invitation I would like to extend with the present Encyclical.»

BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus caritas est*, no. 39.

LOVING GOD AND NEIGHBOUR

«In the saints one thing becomes clear: those who draw near to God do not withdraw from men, but rather become truly close to them. In no one do we see this more clearly than in Mary. The words addressed by the crucified Lord to his disciple—to John and through him to all disciples of Jesus: “Behold, your mother!” (*Jn* 19:27)—are fulfilled anew in every generation. Mary has truly become the Mother of all believers. Men and women of every time and place have recourse to her motherly kindness and her virginal purity and grace, in all their needs and aspirations, their joys and sorrows, their moments of loneliness and their common endeavours. They constantly experience the gift of her goodness.»

BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus caritas est*, no. 42.

PHOTO/BENEDICT XVI IN THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF THE HOLY FAMILY IN BARCELONA, SPAIN.

FAVORS

A SOLUTION FOR EVERYTHING

A good friend of mine wrote the note in the prayer card of St. Josemaría he gave me, with the advice to pray for our many needs. I still carry it in my wallet all these years: nearly thirty years.

I have gone through difficult situations. Some physical, some emotional, some financial, etc.: I prayed for serenity, the solution to a problem, that my daughter pass the exam, that my wife muster the courage to request for a salary advance... I've always gotten what I asked for.

We've been through illnesses, surgeries, layoffs, unemployment, uncertain work, family, occupational and economic stress, but we had meals every day and everything had been resolved. Sometimes that "great solution" is not found, but somehow I manage to go over that daily bump. Looking back a bit, I see what has been achieved: a marriage of 25 years, two wonderful daughters, and struggling to make ends meet with my clerical job.

I do not wish to make this story long. I give thanks, and what I ask is to be able to solve little by little each problem that comes up of whatever sort, and to continue on this same road that will lead me to obtain, God willing, the things I most desire.

J.R.E.S.
Sent by e-mail



HE IS ANOTHER PERSON

I would like to narrate a favor St. Josemaría granted me which I did not report at the time it happened. I prayed the prayer card that day for years to obtain the cure of my husband who was struggling for some time with infidelity, drugs and alcohol. I had the great joy of seeing him cured after a nine-month treatment.

M.J.

SHE ATE THE CARD

I have a friend who is a Catholic but does not practice. We have talked many times but he could not decide to frequent the sacraments. For the last few years his wife has been unemployed. They have two children: one a three-year-old and the other, one. Earlier this year, with little faith—because I thought they would not pray and because it is now very difficult to find a job—I gave him a prayer card of Saint Josemaría for them to pray. A few weeks ago I visited them at home. As soon as I arrived, his wife asked me for another prayer card. They had left it on the bedside table and their small daughter, who is beginning to take her first steps, had eaten it. I was glad that they had it in a prominent place and were using it. Last week he sent me an e-mail to tell me that his wife had found work.

I.T.V.

HOME FROM THE ICU

Last March my son was operated on and for several days he was confined in a pediatric ICU. There I coincided with a married couple whose daughter was in a serious condition. They were very concerned. One Sunday her condition really worsened. I approached them and gave them a prayer card of St. Josemaría. I told them as best I could—they were speaking Arabic—that I was praying for their daughter and that they could also pray for her healing. They thanked me and, soon afterwards, I saw the father on his knees, praying at the foot of his daughter's bed while holding the prayer card of St. Josemaría. After a short time he came to thank us as he returned the prayer card. The next day I found them in the hospital with happy faces. They told me that, all of a sudden, their daughter began to improve and that she was much better. My son was discharged and I had no news about them. A few days ago, I passed by the hospital and a doctor told me that the girl had gone home.

Anonymous

THE GIRL WOKE UP

I was queueing up to pay at the supermarket checkout counter when suddenly a lot of people started to mill around behind the cashier. A young couple was trying to get their 2 or 3 year old girl to breathe again because she had swallowed something.



I do not know for how long—to me it seemed an eternity—these parents were trying to remove the object but could not. The girl seemed unconscious. My feeling of helplessness was transformed into a 'Yes, I can do something.' Grabbing the prayer card of our Father, I squeezed it tightly, as I said "Father, let it come out ...!" A few seconds later the tense situation subsided: the girl began to cry. Blessed tears! When everything calmed down I approached the mother and kissed her, and gave her the wrinkled card. Thank you Father.

V.S.Q.

HE GOT ME MORE WORK

Visiting the website of Opus Dei, I found the prayer card of St. Josemaría. The situation in our company was quite complicated due to a lack of job orders. One day I started to pray the novena to St. Josemaría. As of today, we had to hire six people and our work load has been full for several months. I'm sure it was the intercession of Saint Josemaría before the Lord which made this miracle possible. In these hard times we are living, I do everything I can to make this novena known.

Sent by e-mail

TOGETHER AGAIN

A married couple who were friends of ours had separated and were arranging for a divorce. We prayed to St. Josemaría that they would not go ahead with the divorce. He heard our prayer: they have got back together again.

Luis M.
Italy

MY EXPERIENCE. MY LIFE

I am going to narrate my great truth, a story that only people with faith can believe. Two years ago, a very difficult stage began in my life. I underwent many diagnostic tests in the hospital. It was confirmed I had a somewhat advanced stage of cancer. That day, my sister (who is a great devotee of St. Josemaría) said, "Starting today, let's pray to him." And so it was. Since then I prayed every day 'his prayer'. I prayed in the morning each day and I ask for strength to do things well. I am now

cured. I'm fine. All tests have come out perfect and, moreover, I know that I will continue to be like this.

I was away from God, the Blessed Virgin, the Church, and thanks to this 'holy disease' I'm back. I'm happy and I feel fortunate to be worthy of this 'great miracle': the miracle of life. I will never cease to pray your prayer, St. Josemaría. Thank you!

I thank God, the Blessed Virgin and St. Josemaría for allowing



me to be close to them, and for giving me the opportunity to live differently, to enjoy my daughters, my husband, my family; for the opportunity to offer him my work and to be better every day. I hope this experience will serve to increase the faith of those who, like me, had forgotten it.

M.P.G.

CURED OF COLON CANCER

In 2009, my father was diagnosed to have colon cancer and was scheduled to undergo surgery in June of that year. I asked many friends to pray for my father's cure and I was very happy when someone gave him a prayer card with a relic of St. Josemaría. My father prayed it as soon as he received it. My family arranged that he receive the sacrament of reconciliation and be invested with the scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel a few hours before his scheduled operation. We prayed the Holy Rosary and the prayer card of St. Josemaría while he was inside the operating room. After the surgery, he underwent oral chemotherapy which lasted until November 2009. My father has recovered very well since then and is no longer taking medications for cancer. We are deeply grateful to St. Josemaría for his cure.

M.E.
Iloilo City

PASSED AND TOPPED THE BOARD EXAM

Some time after earning my university degree, I took the Licensure Examination for Pharmacists and placed Top 5 among the examinees. While reviewing for the board exam, one of my instructors, who was working in the pharmaceutical company where I did my internship, gave me a prayer card of St. Josemaría. She told me that St. Josemaría helped her during her board exam. Honestly, it was the first time I heard of him. I read the information at the back of the card to get to know him. From then on, every morning—after praying the Rosary and before starting to review—I would pray to St. Josemaría to help me with the board exam. With the blessing of God and the intercession of St. Josemaría, I did not only pass it but came out a topnotcher. Thank you so much St. Josemaría and God bless us all!

D. N.
Manila
Sent by e-mail

SCHOLARSHIP

In our family, my father was the main provider. He took charge of financing my education. Our family went through great emotional and financial difficulties when he succumbed to lung cancer. When my mother was informed about the scholarship program offered by the bank where she worked, she applied for a scholarship for me. We began praying immediately after she filed the application. Every night, I was told to pray to St. Josemaría. I prayed many times in the hope that my prayer would be answered. To lift up all our prayers and petitions to St. Josemaría my family even went on a pilgrimage. The school year already started and we had not received any feedback regarding the scholarship. I was already starting to lose hope, yet I continued to pray. June 26 came and my family attended the Mass for the feast of St. Josemaría. It was there that I asked for my prayer to be heard. At the end of June, we finally received the good news. It was really a great relief for us all. This blessing really taught me the importance and the power of prayer. It is unfortunate that people, nowadays, do not have a high regard for prayer and so do not experience the gift of blessings. I developed a greater devotion to St. Josemaría and am very grateful that, through him, my prayer was granted.

L.V.M.

Sent by e-mail

I'M CALLED JOSEMARÍA IN HIS HONOUR

I would like to write my testimony. I am 16 years old and live in Asuncion, Paraguay. When I was very small I was seriously sick. The doctors said there was no hope and that I would die. They had removed an adrenal gland but even so I did not recover. Then my Dad, who is in Opus Dei and a person of great faith, sent one of my clothes to the tomb of St. Josemaría and prayed to him for me to recover. After some days I started to get better. The doctors couldn't believe it because it seemed impossible. I am very grateful for the chance that St. Josemaría gave me. And I'm called Josemaría in his honour.

My Dad was at my side the whole time I was sick, and so was my whole family. I read what he wrote, and it made me cry. Now I realize the power of God and the love my parents have for me. The love of a father and a mother is the greatest thing in this world, obviously after the love of our Lord.

If you could publish this testimony I'll be really grateful, because I want people to pray whenever they have a problem, and to realize that God is with us and he never leaves us.

Josemaría M. A.
Paraguay

ST. JOSEMARÍA HAS CONTINUED TO LOOK AFTER ME

A little over three years ago I was scheduled for a surgery to remove my gallbladder which was causing me some serious attacks. I right away prayed to St. Josemaría and I kind of had the feeling things were going to be fine when my date of surgery was on his birthday. However I became pregnant with my 6th child and they had to postpone the surgery until mid-semester or even after the baby will be born. Since then though I have never suffered any attacks and I have given birth to my 7th child just last Sept. They kept on monitoring the gallstone which is still in my gallbladder the size of a golf-ball but I have not had the surgery still. My surgeon could not explain how I managed to be pain free after 2 pregnancies. I believe St. Josemaría has continued to look after me. Thanks.

Anonymous
Canada