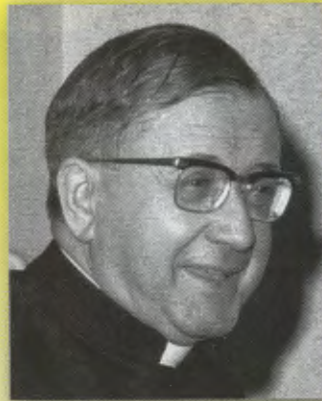


Prayer

O God, through the Blessed Virgin Mary, you granted countless graces to your priest Saint 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 Saint Josemaría grant me the favor I request... (make your request). Amen.

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



Website of Saint Josemaría

www.josemariaescriva.info is the address of the official website of Saint Josemaría. It contains abundant information on his life and teachings; testimonies and interviews; social initiatives throughout the world which he promoted; official documents; an ample multi-media section and a news section.

This Bulletin is distributed without charge. Subscriptions may be requested from the Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints by email (ocs.ph@opusdei.org) or by sending the form inserted in this issue.

Those wishing to help defray the printing and distribution costs can send their tax-deductible contributions to
Aletheia Foundation, Inc.
20 Sampaguita cor. Balete Drive, 1112
New Manila, Quezon City.

Donations may also be deposited to the account of
Aletheia Foundation, Inc.
Metrobank savings account
no. 3291-510-27-3
Bagtikan Branch, Pasong Tamo, Makati City

Imprimatur
Bishop Javier Echevarría,
Prelate of Opus Dei

Cover photo: Saint Josemaría in Mexico 1970

Graphic design:
MG Reprographics



Love for God, Charity with Everyone

"I give you thanks, my Jesus, for your decision to become perfect Man, with a Heart which loved and is most loveable; which loved unto death and suffered; which was filled with joy and sorrow; which delighted in the things of men and showed us the way to Heaven; which subjected itself heroically to duty and acted with mercy; which watched over the poor and the rich and cared for sinners and the just. I give you thanks, my Jesus. Give us hearts to measure up to Yours!"

Saint Josemaría, Furrow, Sinagtala Publishers, Manila 1994, no. 813

Memories

Testimonies of people who knew Saint Josemaría and some texts from his preaching and writings regarding mercy

Pope Francis

The mercy of God in the first year of his pontificate

Favors

Accounts of people who received favors through the intercession of St. Josemaría

Bulletin of the
Office for the Causes
of Saints
Prelature of Opus Dei
Philippines
2015



Love for Jesus and for Neighbor

"Jesus will enable you to have a great affection for everybody you meet, without taking away any of the affection you have for Him. On the contrary, the more you love Jesus, the more room there will be for other people in your heart."

St. Josemaría, The Forge, Sinagtala Publishers, Manila 1994, no. 876.

Charity Without Limits and Faith

"Love and practice charity without setting any limits or discriminating between people, for it is the virtue that makes us out as disciples of the Master. Nevertheless, this charity cannot lead you to dampen your faith – for it would cease to be a virtue. Nor should it blur the clear outlines that define the faith, nor soften it to the point of changing it, as some people try to do, into something amorphous and lacking the strength and power of God."

St. Josemaría, The Forge, Sinagtala Publishers, Manila 1994, no. 456.

The Christian has to Live Facing Others

"We have to open our eyes, learn to look at those around us and recognize God's calls through them. We cannot turn our backs to the crowd and be enclosed in our own little world. That's not the way Jesus lived. The Gospel often speaks of His mercy, of His capacity to share in the sufferings and needs of others (...). When we are truly children of Mary, we will have the same outlook Our Lord had in such a way that our heart grows; we will have a merciful heart. Then we will suffer with the sufferings, miseries, doubts, loneliness, anguish and pain of other brothers of ours. And we will feel the urgency to help them in their needs and to talk to them about God so that they learn to deal with Him as children."

St. Josemaría, Christ is Passing By. Critico-Historical ed. Rialp, Madrid 2013.

- 1 Electro-mechanical students at Centro Educativo Altair, an educational center for the under-privileged in Seville, Spain
- 2 Harambee Africa International promotes educational and socio-developmental projects in sub-Saharan Africa



Justice Needs Charity

"The circumstances of the servant in the parable who owed ten thousand talents, are a good summary of our situation before God. We too are unable to find the wherewithal to pay the enormous debt we have contracted for so much divine goodness, a debt which we have increased through our personal sins. Even though we fight resolutely, we can never properly repay the great debt that God has forgiven us. However, divine mercy fully makes up for the impotence of human justice. God can say he is satisfied and can remit our debt, simply because he is good and his mercy infinite.

The parable, as you will remember, ends with a second scene which is the counterpoint of the first. The servant, whose huge debt has just been cancelled, took no pity on a fellow servant who owed him only a hundred pence. And it is here that the meanness of his heart comes to light. Strictly speaking, no one will deny him the right to demand what is his. Nevertheless, there is something inside us that rebels and tells us that his intolerant attitude is very far from real justice. It is not right that a person who only a moment previously has been treated with mercy and understanding, should not then react with at least a little patience towards his own debtor. Remember that justice does not consist exclusively in an exact respect for rights and duties, as in the case of arithmetical problems that are solved simply by addition and subtraction."

St. Josemaría, Friends of God, Sinagtala Publishers, Manila 1987, no. 168.

"Let us turn our attention to another aspect of the scene, to the way Jesus notices the omission of the expression of human courtesy and refinement which the Pharisee failed to show him. Christ is perfectus Deus, perfectus homo. He is perfect God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, and perfect man. He comes to save, not to destroy nature. It is from him that we learn that it is unchristian to treat our fellow men badly, for they are creatures of God, made to his image and likeness."

St. Josemaría, Friends of God, Sinagtala Publishers, Manila 1987, no. 73.

- 1 Niger Foundation Hospital provides quality medical care to the under-privileged in south-eastern Nigeria
- 2 Socio-educational activities conducted by Terral to help integrate immigrant youth and women in Barcelona, Spain



"Mercy is more than simply being compassionate. Mercy is the overflow of charity, which brings with it also an overflow of justice. Mercy means keeping one's heart totally alive, throbbing in a way that is both human and divine, with a love that is strong, self-sacrificing and generous."

St. Josemaría, Friends of God, Sinagtala Publishers, Manila 1987, no. 232.

He Preached About Seeing Christ in the Sick

"In the long hours he had been spending each day at the bedside of the sick, united to their sufferings, witnessing their misery, consoling them with his presence, and erasing their spiritual miseries in the Sacrament of Penance, Saint Josemaría had come to see shining forth in them the lovable and suffering figure of Christ: Christ merciful, Christ patiently enduring, Christ loaded down with the weight and ugliness of sin, Christ bearing with us our sorrows and sufferings. And as a priest, an "other Christ", he identified with the sick in sorrow and compassion. His yearning to see and help Christ in the sick carried Saint Josemaría's heart to the hospital... As a companion of Saint Josemaría describes it, "It was a very hard and very thankless job. Anti-Catholic sentiment was everywhere and many of the patients insulted us. Here we were, fixing up their hair, shaving them, trimming their nails, bathing them, cleaning the spittoons (...) It was horribly disgusting. We went there on Sundays, in the afternoon, and left nauseated."

ANDRES VAZQUEZ DE PRADA, The Founder of Opus Dei, vol I, Scepter, Princeton, NJ 1997, pp. 325-326.

- 1 Hospital Centro Cuidados Laguna (Madrid, Spain) offers palliative care to elderly patients and those at an advanced stage of sickness
- 2 Bishop Javier Echevarría, Prelate of Opus Dei, greeting the staff of Hospital Centro Cuidados Laguna



Particular Concern for Others

"Saint Josemaría used to tell people who have many employees. "As much as possible, you should remember that you are dealing with people who have specific needs and you should try to know what those needs are." He respected, up to the smallest details, people's right to a peaceful rest. When the Central Office of Opus Dei was being renovated, he took note of the timetable and milestones of the construction company but he never visited the site during the time when the workers were having their lunch break. He wanted (...) that they be able to take lunch peacefully. He made sure that unnecessary hazards were avoided in their workplace (...) I saw how he was concerned about the safety of the workers in the Central Office. He never forgot to pray everyday that there be no accidents in the jobsite and, thanks be to God, there were none."

JAVIER ECHEVARRÍA, Memoria del Beato Josemaría, ed. Rialp, Madrid 2000, p. 141.

To Love the God of Mercy

"In his last years it caused him great suffering to see how the practice of frequent Confession was being more and more neglected by the faithful: this inspired him to an even more insistent catechesis on the greatness of God's mercy (...) He spoke of having heard the Confessions of thousands of children who, far from suffering a shock, experienced with gratitude the goodness of the Lord. He gave this advice to mothers: "Mamas, take your children to Confession, as my mama did me. That way, your children can easily get used to receiving the sacrament of Penance and being reconciled with God. By receiving this sacrament with all the dispositions required for a good Confession, a child will acquire an ever more delicate conscience and will become happier."

ALVARO DEL PORTILLO, Immersed in God, Scepter/Sinagtala, Princeton, NJ 1996, p. 118.

- 1 Anihan Technical School (Calamba, Laguna) offers a 2-year diploma course in food service and entrepreneurship
- 2 Braval organizes sports and socio-educational activities to help integrate young immigrants in Barcelona, Spain



"God never tires of pardoning. We are the ones who get tired of seeking His mercy."

Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 3

Patience in the Work of Evangelization

"An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the "smell of the sheep" and the sheep are willing to hear their voice. An evangelizing community is also supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be. It is familiar with patient expectation and apostolic endurance. Evangelization consists mostly of patience and disregard for constraints of time. Faithful to the Lord's gift, it also bears fruit. An evangelizing community is always concerned with fruit, because the Lord wants her to be fruitful. It cares for the grain and does not grow impatient at the weeds. The sower, when he sees weeds sprouting among the grain does not grumble or overreact. He or she finds a way to let the word take flesh in a particular situation and bear fruits of new life, however imperfect or incomplete these may appear. The disciple is ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accepting martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ; yet the goal is not to make enemies but to see God's word accepted and its capacity for liberation and renewal revealed. Finally an evangelizing community is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always. It celebrates every small victory, every step forward in the work of evangelization."

Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 24.

1 Kimlea Technical Training Center in Kenya offers courses in dress-making, catering and hospitality as well as agriculture

2 Banco de Alimentos (Valladolid, Spain) obtains food donations and excess produce from large food companies and distributes them to charitable institutions, poor parishes, etc.

ST. JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ Informative Bulletin Subscription

If you wish to subscribe to the **Bulletin**, please fill up the spaces provided below:

SUBSCRIPTION FORM (Please use block letters)

FAMILY NAME

FIRST NAME

This line for P.O. Box, Institution Name, Flat No., etc.

No.

Street

Village/Town/District

ZIP

City/Province

Province/Country

This is a self-mailing sheet. Kindly send this form after having folded it as indicated in the succeeding pages. You may also send your subscription request via email to ocs@opusdei.ph.

If you know any friends who may appreciate receiving the **Bulletin** kindly send us the subscription form included in this self-mailing sheet.

The **Bulletin** is distributed free of charge and relies solely on the generosity of its readers. We wish to express our appreciation to those who send contributions, since it is impossible to thank everyone individually.

Those who wish to help with their alms may send their donations to the Aletheia Foundation, Inc., 20 Sampaguita St. cor. Balete Drive, 1112 New Manila, Quezon City. The Aletheia Foundation subsidizes the printing and distribution of the **Bulletin**. Checks and money orders may be made payable to **Aletheia Foundation Inc.** You may also deposit them to the Aletheia Foundation savings account (No. 3291-510-27-3) at Metrobank, Bagtikan, Pasong Tamo, Makati City, M.M branch through the branch nearest your place. Donations are tax-deductible.

Place
Stamp
Here

PRELATURE OF OPUS DEI
OFFICE FOR THE CAUSES OF SAINTS
20 SAMPAGUITA ST., COR. BALETE DRIVE
1112 NEW MANILA, QUEZON CITY
PHILIPPINES

FOLD HERE



Mercy is the Principal Virtue

"Saint Thomas Aquinas taught that the Church's moral teaching has its own 'hierarchy', in the virtues and in the acts which proceed from them. What counts above all else is 'faith working through love' (Gal 5:6). Works of love directed to one's neighbor are the most perfect external manifestation of the interior grace of the Spirit: 'The foundation of the New Law is in the grace of the Holy Spirit, who is manifested in the faith which works through love'. Thomas thus explains that, as far as external works are concerned, mercy is the greatest of all the virtues: 'In itself mercy is the greatest of the virtues, since all the others revolve around it and, more than this, it makes up for their deficiencies. This is particular to the superior virtue, and as such it is proper to God to have mercy, through which his omnipotence is manifested to the greatest degree'".

Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, n. 37.

Works of Charity Make the Church Credible

"Despite the tide of secularism which has swept our societies, in many countries – even those where Christians are a minority – the Catholic Church is considered a credible institution by public opinion, and trusted for her solidarity and concern for those in greatest need. Again and again, the Church has acted as a mediator in finding solutions to problems affecting peace, social harmony, the land, the defence of life, human and civil rights, and so forth. And how much good has been done by Catholic schools and universities around the world! This is a good thing. Yet, we find it difficult to make people see that when we raise other questions less palatable to public opinion, we are doing so out of fidelity to precisely the same convictions about human dignity and the common good."

Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, n. 65.

1 Students in the machine shop of Dualtech Training Center (Canlubang, Laguna)

2 La Vegailla employs more than a hundred persons with intellectual disability in its cut-flower and organic farm complex (Madrid, Spain)



Rapid and Effective Help

I was admitted in a hospital for heart surgery on December 3, 2012. I had to undergo a double bypass because my arteries were totally obstructed.

I observed that people who had gone through a similar procedure were prone to constant coughing which affected their surgical wound. This was very dangerous and, in some cases, they had to be operated again because coughing re-opened their wound. I asked St Josemaría to keep me from coughing.

To my surprise, after the operation, I did not cough even once. In this I clearly see the intercession of St Josemaría.

N. G. S (Spain)

The Job Contract

I had managed to have all the necessary tests for a job and was just waiting for the job contract. I had a month to send the signed contract and, since I had to travel abroad, I asked my mother to mail the accomplished form for me. However, the contract got lost along the way in spite of it being sent via registered mail.

Soon I lost hope in finding it. I reached a point wherein I started to look for a saint who specializes in jobs to have recourse to in prayer. In the internet I found the prayer to St Josemaría and this was my last hope.

I could not believe it when the mail reached the company on the deadline for applications to be received. Finally, the job contract was confirmed. St Josemaría, I thank you for having heard my prayer and for the hope you gave me. Through you, I am on my way to conversion.

Germany

1 Blessed Paul VI & Saint Josemaría in Centro Ellis, a technical school in the suburbs of Rome (1965)



A Difficult Exam

In December 2012, I was preparing myself for a professional exam to upgrade my credentials. I had three months to study but after the first month I started not feeling well and experiencing intense headaches. I also lost hearing in one ear due to the long hours of study and the time I spent taking care of the children. I could not continue studying for my exam. When days passed and I was not recuperating, my desperation increased. Some time later, I went to the doctor. My headaches ceased with the help of the medicine he prescribed.

Some days later I started to feel weak. When I tried to read, I could not last more than 30 minutes studying. Time was running out and when only 20 days were left before the exam date, my insecurity and nervousness took the better of me.

I found out that an aunt had a copy of the prayer card of St Josemaría. I started praying it daily so that he intercede for me and guide my thoughts on the lessons I learned in the course of my formation.

The day of my examination arrived and with faith I did not stop praying the prayer card

to ask that I manage to pass it. Two months later, the results were published in the local newspaper and I was in the list of those who passed. I am very grateful for the help of St Josemaría.

M.M. (El Salvador)

Cured of Colon Cancer

Gusto ko pong magpatotoo sa himalang ginawa ni San Josemaría. Noong Nobyembre 2009 naisugod namin sa ospital and tatay ko sa kadahilanang hindi mapadumi at nanghihina. Agad po siyang naoperahan at napag-alamang meron siyang colon cancer. Halos gumuho ang mundo namin. Taos-puso kaming nanalangin sa Diyos gayundin kay San Josemaría. Nakaligtas siya sa operasyon at hanggang sa ngayon ay kapiling pa namin siya kahit minsan ay mahina siya. Patuloy pa rin siya sa pagpapa-chemotherapy.

Marami na akong nahiling kay San Josemaría at halos lahat ay kanyang ibinigay. Maraming Salamat!

B.P. (Rosario, Batangas)

1 Saint Josemaría with rural folks in Mexico (1970)

Daughter with Leukemia and Wife with Depression

May anak po ako na leukemia patient na na-confine sa Philippine Children's Medical Center (Quezon City) at idineklara na ng mga doktor na comatose. Nawalan na po ako ng pag-asa. Dumating ang isang pari na taga Kanlungan ni Maria at hinikayat niya akong mag-debosyon kay San Josemaría, at ang kanyang sabi ay may magandang mangyayari. Pagkatapos ng siyam na araw na pag-nobena ko kay San Josemaría ang anak ko ay nakalabas sa ICU. Kasabay ng paggaling ng anak ko ay ang paggaling din ng misis ko na na-confine sa Mental Hospital dahil sa depression.

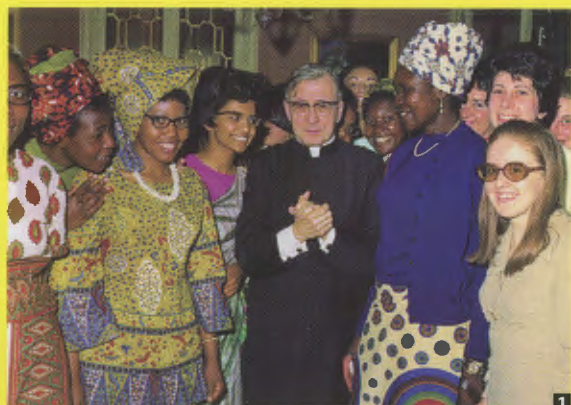
Isa po itong napakalaking himala ng Diyos sa tulong ni San Josemaría. Nawa po ay maging inspirasyon ito sa mga makakabasa at sa mga patuloy na nagtitiwala sa Diyos.

F.S. (Quezon City)

Job for Friend's Husband

This is to inform your good office that I have obtained another favor through the intercession of our dear St. Josemaría. My good friend's husband is now employed which is a big blessing to manage their finances. Thank you. May God continue to bless us all.

Ivy (Pasig City)



A Taxi on New Year's Eve

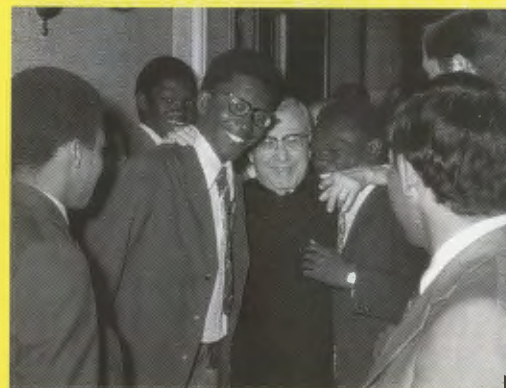
I brought a disabled gentleman to watch the fireworks display on New Year's Eve. I made prior arrangements for a taxi company to send a cab to pick us up after the show so that we do not have to wait long to get a ride. Nonetheless, after an hour of waiting, the taxi had not arrived.

It was very cold that particular night and the quadriplegic gentleman was feeling very cold. I was informed that it would be difficult to find a taxi for a disabled person that night because many others would be looking for one. I called up the taxi company many times but they were not answering my call.

At around 1:15 a.m., I prayed intensely to Saint Josemaría to please send us a taxi immediately. I was desperate because we were far from home and there was no other way to get home. After 20 minutes of praying, a taxi came. I am very grateful to God and to Saint Josemaría for interceding for us.

E.M. (Australia)

1 Saint Josemaría with African and Indian women in Rome



A Doctor at the Precise Moment

I always receive graces from God through the intercession of Saint Josemaría. Even though I knew him since my youth, the first time I asked his help was when my husband was hospitalized due to severe headaches which led him to convulsions and to receive morphine shots for more than 15 days as a palliative for the pain.

One afternoon, I approached the doctors who were having a meeting with the Head of the Department of Neurology and asked for explanations about the case. I found them analyzing the case of my husband without finding the answer to his illness. Then the female Chief of Neurology took me by the arm, brought me to her office and asked me, "Are you a Catholic?" to which I replied without hesitation, "Yes". She continued telling me, "I will give you a prayer card of someone to whom you will pray because we would like to cure your husband but we do not know what he has and where science does not reach, God can." She gave me a prayer card of Saint Josemaría.

I went to the place where my husband was, showed him the prayer card and told

him: "now let us ask him for your cure." We placed the card on the headboard of his bed and that night we prayed it together.

The following day, a doctor who usually does not see patients in our section came. I do not have the slightest doubt that he was sent by Saint Josemaría. When I asked my husband what he asked the saint that night, he told me, "I only asked for one sign, an opportunity, because if I continue having these pains, I prefer to die." My husband was diagnosed to have cluster headaches and to this day he continues to live a normal family and work life. From that day onwards, we became devotees of Saint Josemaría and I never stop recounting our experience and spreading the devotion to him.

D.M.E. (Paraguay)

6 Years Without Taking Drugs

I write to give testimony of a miracle I received through the intercession of St. Josemaría. I was in the full process of destruction because of the use of drugs. One day, going on a walk, I went to the Cathedral of Madrid and there got a prayer card of St. Josemaría. I started to read it everyday and asked him to take away my addiction to drugs. The miracle is that I have been 6 years without taking drugs. Thank you.

X.V.M. (Madrid)

1 Saint Josemaría with African students in Rome