



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.

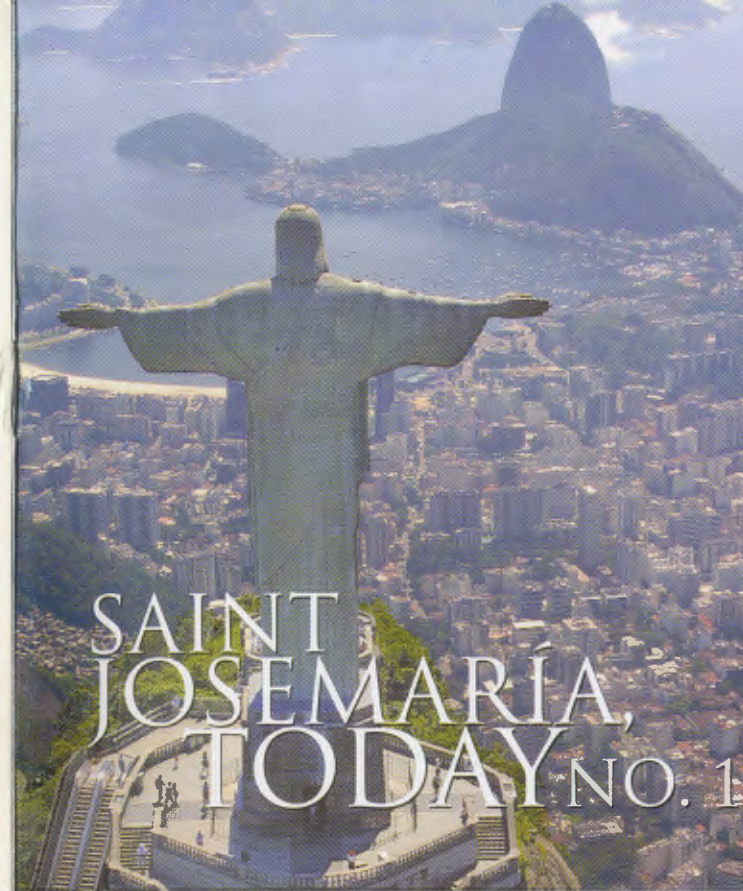
Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father

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Photos: COVER: St. Josemaría and the Servant of God Álvaro del Portillo along the highway of Brennero near Innsbruck (1949). Christ the Redeemer overlooking Río de Janeiro, Brazil (photo Jean-Jacques).



CHRIST TEACHES US TO LOVE

«Christ has taught us in a definitive way how to make this love for God real. Apostolate is love for God that overflows and communicates itself to others. The interior life implies a growth in union with Christ, in the bread and in the word. And apostolate is the precise and necessary outward manifestation of interior life. When one tastes the love of God, one feels burdened with the weight of souls.»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *Christ is passing by*, 122

MEMORIES

Some testimonies on the devotion of St. Josemaría to the Holy Humanity of Jesus.

FAVORS

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

Bulletin of the Office for the Causes of Saints, Prelature of Opus Dei, Philippines
 February 2010



«Fall in love with the Sacred Humanity of Jesus Christ. —Aren't you glad that he should have wanted to be like us? Thank Jesus for this wonderful expression of his goodness!»

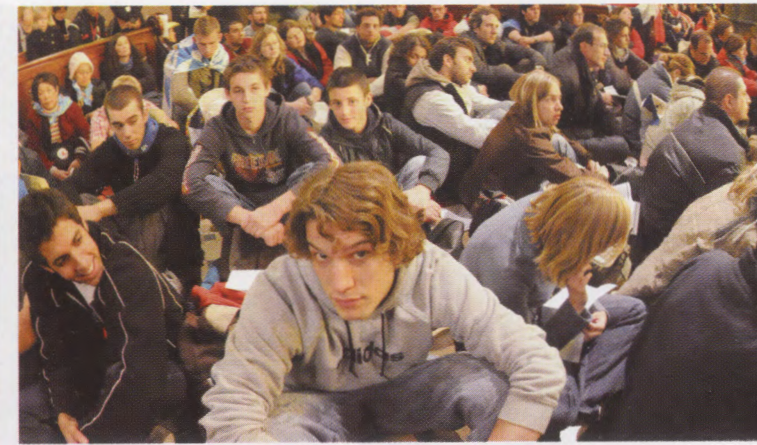
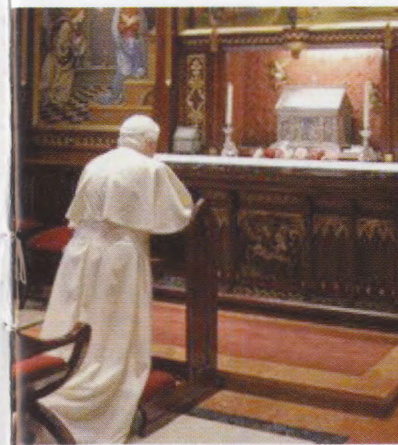
St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *The Forge*, 547

HE USED A CRUCIFIX

From the time I first met him, I noticed that not only during his personal prayer, but also whenever he preached a meditation or gave a class, and all the time he spent working at his desk, he kept before him a crucifix—and always the same one. It was of a fairly good size, four or five inches in length, but (until about 1950) he constantly carried it around in his pocket.

He also advised us always to carry a crucifix with us and to place it in front of us before beginning to study, to read, to work, and so forth, in order to remain in the presence of God and thus transform our work into prayer, uniting it to the sacrifice of the cross.

Álvaro DEL PORTILLO, *Immersed in God*, Sinag-Tala Publishers, Manila 1996, p. 125.



A BOOK WITH A DEDICATION

While he awaited the dreamed-of “academy,” the home of Doña Dolores was more or less the headquarters of the Work (...).

(...) There were formation classes, study circles, and then lively get-togethers presided over by Father Josemaría. Finally, before saying good-bye, he would get out a large missal, read the Gospel of the day, and, in a few words, give an incisive commentary that came from deep in his heart. *The Father*, says Juan Jiménez Vargas, who was one of those present, *knew the Gospel in great depth and used it as a springboard for a lot of prayer.*

The founder received many visitors at the Martínez Campos apartment. At Pepe Romeo's house he had met Ricardo Fernández Vallespín, a young man a year away from getting his degree in architecture, who was tutoring other students

to help himself financially. Father Josemaría had set up an appointment with him for a visit at the Martínez Campos apartment. Ricardo showed up there at the agreed-upon time, feeling a little apprehensive, suspecting that the visit was going to have “a big influence” on his life. *He spoke to me about things of the soul*, he recalls, giving no elaboration. When they parted, the priest gave him a book on the Passion of Christ. On its first blank page he had written this inscription:

+ Madrid, 29 May 1933
May you seek Christ.
May you find Christ.
May you love Christ.

Andrés VÁZQUEZ DE PRADA, *The Founder of Opus Dei*, Volume I, Scepter Publishers, Princeton 2001, pp. 379-380.



«How I wish your bearing and conversation were such that, on seeing or hearing you, people would say: This man reads the life of Jesus Christ.»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *The Way*, 2

HE READ AND ADVISED READING THE HOLY GOSPELS

«He read the Scriptures till the end of his life. And he advised us: **read the Gospel, live the Gospel, love the Gospel. Draw points for meditation from the reading of the Gospel and the New Testament. Strive to pour out the wealth contained in these books into the lives of the people who approach you for guidance or your friendship. Such that, through your knowledge of the life of God, it can be said truly that you deal with Jesus Christ, that you know Jesus Christ, that you love Jesus Christ, that you imitate Jesus Christ.** He frequently used a book written by Cardinal Gomá in which the life of our Lord is presented in a chronological order, with the scenes from the four gospels intermingled. He had it on his night table and read it many times, when he woke up at night. He brought it with him during trips.»

«This commentary summarizes the importance he gave to the continuous meditation of the Word of God: **if we do not draw practical consequences for our daily life from the reading of Sacred Scripture or from the Gospels, it would be a sign of the lack of due attention and love on our part. Because these texts are teachings full of vitality, of strength and application for every Christian who desires to be coherent with his faith.**»

Javier ECHEVARRÍA, *Memoria del Beato Josemaría*, Ed. Rialp, Madrid 2000, p. 251.



JESUS, GOD AND MAN

«Again it is St Matthew who tells us that Jesus felt hungry one day on his way back from Bethany. I am always deeply moved by the example of Our Lord, and especially when I see that as well as being perfect God he is true and perfect Man, and as such teaches us to make use even of our frailty and our own natural weaknesses, and to offer ourselves completely, just as we are, to the Father, who will gladly accept our holocaust.»

«He was hungry. The Maker of the universe, the Lord of all creation, experiences hunger! Thank you, Lord, for inspiring the sacred author to include this small touch here, a detail that makes me love you more and which encourages me to desire ardently to contemplate your sacred Humanity! *Perfectus Deus, perfectus homo*, perfect God and perfect Man, of flesh and bone, just like you and I.»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *Friends of God*, 50

LOVING AS HE LOVED US

«If we don't learn from Jesus, we will never love. If, like some people, we were to think that to keep a clean heart, a heart worthy of God, means "not mixing it up, not contaminating it" with human affection, we would become insensitive to other people's pain and sorrow. We would be capable only of an "official charity," something dry and soulless. But ours would not be the true charity of Jesus Christ, which involves affection and human warmth. In saying this, I am not supporting the mistaken theories — pitiful excuses — which misdirect hearts away from God and lead them into occasions of sin and perdition.»

«On today's feast we should ask our Lord to give us a good heart, capable of having compassion for other people's pain. Only with such a heart can we realize that the true balm for the suffering and anguish in this world is love, charity. All other consolations hardly even have a temporary effect and leave behind them bitterness and despair.»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *Christ is passing by*, 167



«When we really come to admire and love the most sacred Humanity of Jesus, we will discover each of his Wounds, one by one. When we undergo periods of passive purification, that we find painful and hard to bear, periods when we shed sweet and bitter tears, which we do our best to hide, we will feel the need to enter into each one of his most Holy Wounds: to be purified and strengthened, rejoicing in his redeeming Blood.»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ,
Friends of God, 302

TWO TEXTS OF BENEDICT XVI: PARABLES THAT SHOW HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US

«When Jesus speaks in his parables of the shepherd who goes after the lost sheep, of the woman who looks for the lost coin, of the father who goes to meet and embrace his prodigal son, these are no mere words: they constitute an explanation of his very being and activity. His death on the Cross is the culmination of that turning of God against himself in which he gives himself in order to raise man up and save him. This is love in its most radical form. By contemplating the pierced side of Christ (cf. 19:37), we can understand the starting-point of this Encyclical Letter: “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8). It is there that this truth can be contemplated. It is from there that our definition of love must begin. In this contemplation the Christian discovers the path along which his life and love must move.»

BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical *Deus Caritas est*, n. 12

GOD DOES NOT ASK WHAT WE CANNOT GIVE HIM

«Nor has the Lord been absent from subsequent Church history: he encounters us ever anew, in the men and women who reflect his presence, in his word, in the sacraments, and especially in the Eucharist. In the Church’s Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has “loved us first”, love can also blossom as a response within us.»

BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical *Deus Caritas est*, n. 17

«The Cross is not pain, or annoyance, or bitterness... It is the holy wood on which Jesus Christ triumphs... and where we triumph too, when we receive cheerfully and generously what He sends us.»

St. Josemaría ESCRIVÁ, *The Forge*, 788

FAVORS

HE GRANTED ME THE FAVOR IN JUST ONE HOUR

I want to testify to the favor I received yesterday from St. Josemaría in just one hour. Several weeks ago I applied for a place on an IT course at the university. I already had an appointment for enrolment when I got a call saying it wasn't going to be possible on that day (Tuesday) nor at that time (2.30). I explained that as I work I couldn't come at any other time. Then they said that they'd let me know later, but there was not much chance. I prayed hard to St. Josemaría in my own words, and just an hour later they called me again from the university saying that my enrolment appointment was confirmed for the original day and time.

I am grateful to St. Josemaría for this favor, which is very important for me. Now I am praying to him to grant me other favors for October 6, the anniversary of his canonization.

Adele, Italy
October 10, 2009

THE PACKAGE ARRIVED

I want to thank St. Josemaría for this small favour that was granted through his intercession. I had to send a package from one country back to my own country. I was not familiar with the postal system in this foreign land. I was used to having the person in the counter help seal the package once the contents had been checked. However it was not the custom in this other country; hence my package was not well sealed. The package only contained books and some videos that could be replaced if lost. Nevertheless I was considering the money I had spent for the items plus the postage. I was sending it by boat and not by air - so I was even more concerned about the handling of the package. Upon leaving the post office I entrusted the matter to St. Josemaría. To my surprise the package arrived in a week's time complete and well-sealed. I was expecting it to take 2 months. I am sure it was St. Josemaría helping me out in this matter which in reality is a small issue but was one that was of some concern to me.

Jo-Ann de Leon, Hong Kong
July 29, 2009

I GOT A NEW JOB THROUGH ST. JOSEMARÍA'S INTERCESSION

Two years ago I had a good job but it used to stress me and I was unhappy at almost everything. This made me feel like quitting, but since I had no alternative to keep supporting my family, I carried on with difficulty. I therefore decided to pray for St. Josemaría's intercession for a job that will make me happy. Three months ago I got a better job and I'm happy at this time of my career development. I believe this job is due to my prayers and was particularly meant for me. I would like to thank St. Josemaría for all the changes and encourage more people to pray through him.

Thanks very much.

Richard, Uganda
September 29, 2009

"TO WHOM DOES THE PAINTING OF ST. JOSEMARÍA BELONG?"

In September 2009, I attended a seminar in a Center in Cebu. On the last day of the seminar, there were paintings for sale. I decided to get the one of St. Josemaría. But I did not bring it home yet.

On October 16, 2009, I attended a retreat in the same venue. The one in charge gave me the painting that I bought earlier. But since it was raining so hard, I just left it in the car so that it would not get wet. On October 17, Saturday evening, when I got home, I brought the painting inside the house. I placed it upstairs in the landing, since I did not know yet where to hang it.

Early morning of October 18, Sunday, around 3:45 a.m., my son Daniel woke all of us up because the neighbor's house at the back was burning. The room of Daniel was already very hot. There was no more time to get anything. The only thing I did was to tear the newspaper wrapping of the painting and asked St. Josemaría to take care of the house. Then, we all rushed out since the house was really very hot. All the while, all the relatives staying in the compound were outside. Every time I prayed "Angel of God", the direction of the fire changed, moving away from the house. I also prayed so many Memorares with my sister-in-law. After two hours, the fire was under control. We all went inside the house. Marita, my cousin-in-law, said: "I was sure that your house would not get burned because you prayed a lot." Then, my daughter Katsy told me: "Bring out St. Josemaría!" because she was certain that he was the one who helped us. Then we prayed in front of the image of our Lady of Perpetual Help and thanked God for the big, big favor granted through the intercession of St. Josemaría.

During our circle the following day, I narrated the event to the ladies present in the activity. Two days later the story reached Beth who exclaimed: "That painting is mine! That painting is mine!" She has been looking for it and was told that the painting was sold to another person by mistake and the one in charge could not recall who the buyer was. Beth was the rightful owner of the painting. She had paid for it much earlier but did not bring it home right away for one reason or another. Beth told her husband about the favor, and the husband said: "Let her have the painting! It belongs to her because St. Josemaría performed the miracle in her home."

Joy V. B., Cebu City
Philippines

SAINT JOSEMARÍA HAD A PART TO PLAY

This morning, on the way to work I realised that the device that I need to get into the building where I park my car was missing. Frantically, I searched the car but could not find it. I decided to retrace my steps to the places where I parked the car last night thinking that it is possible that the device might have dropped out of the car. While driving to these places I prayed for the intercession of St. Anthony and also the prayer card to St. Josemaría (and also asked my girlfriend Rachel to pray) that I would find it, as it would be very expensive for me to get a new device. The first place I stopped by was to me the most likely place where I might have dropped this device, but having searched the place thoroughly, I could not find it. Somewhat disappointed, I went back into the car to move on to the other places I parked my car last night - and there the device was on the drivers seat! I'm not sure if it was through supernatural intervention (I had ample opportunity to spot the device on the seat last night and this morning and did not) but I am sure that St. Josemaría had a part to play in it. So, thank you Father!

J. P., Malaysia
May 8, 2009

IT STARTED FIRST TIME

Our car is already several years old and was making strange noises when it started. At the garage they told us that the start-up mechanism was going wrong, and when it failed completely we would have to get a new car – which would be a heavy item of expenditure for us. One evening I went to take the car out and it wouldn't start. I kept turning the key but got no sign of life. Fearing the worst, we called a mechanic, and while we waited for him to arrive, my Mom and I both prayed hard to St. Josemaría. The mechanic said that the battery was fine. When he tried it, the car started first time and from then on it hasn't made any more strange noises when it starts. I think this is a favor from St. Josemaría and we really are grateful.

Carolina M. S., Spain
June 14, 2009

MY EMPLOYER HAS JUST PAID ME MY WAGES

As promised, this is my testimony in gratitude to St. Josemaría. My employer has just paid me my wages. I have been praying to St. Josemaría for this since yesterday, and, lo and behold, he heard and answered my request. Thank you, St. Josemaría. I have been asking him for two more things and I know I will be able to write about those favors too. The problems I have had for some time have meant that I discovered this Saint who I had never heard about until a fortnight ago. Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you St. Josemaría.

Agnès, Martinique
March 4, 2009

I FINISHED MY THESIS

My name is Adriana, I'm 35, from Brazil, and I'm currently doing a doctorate in Management in France. After working on my thesis for six years I had lost confidence in myself and had no energy to finish it. That was when a friend in Opus Dei gave me the prayer to St. Josemaría. I prayed it several times a day and I could tell he was helping me. Today at last I have finished my thesis and I owe eternal gratitude to St. Josemaría for having interceded for this favor.

Adriana, France
March 9, 2009

A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

On October 17, 2005 I was admitted at a hospital for a major operation (diagnosis: Duodenal Mass). According to my doctors, the operation is complicated and will last for about ten to fifteen hours. There might be only a fifty-fifty chance for me to survive. It had to be postponed several times since my doctors observed that I was not physically prepared to undergo the operation yet. (I needed to gain more weight.)

A friend lent me St. Josemaría Escrivá's prayer card, with his relic, which I prayed and kept beside me with until the time of my operation – November 7, 2005.

The operation lasted for fifteen hours and, to our surprise, I did not have to stay at the Intensive Care Unit anymore and was immediately brought to the recovery room.

I am very much grateful to all those who prayed for me, most especially to St. Josemaría Escrivá.

A.M.B., Laguna
Philippines

MY MOTHER'S HEALING

Last week, my mother felt a sharp pain on her right arm. It was more intense towards the right shoulder up to the neck area. She couldn't lift or use her right arm/hand. For several days, she was confined to bed, hardly able to move. Before we consulted a doctor, my mother and I asked St. Josemaría's intercession so that we could find a competent and caring specialist/doctor and that she would not need hospitalization. Last September, my mother had a check-up and we were informed that her condition would only require certain medications for about 3 weeks and would not need hospital confinement.

St. Josemaría again granted our petition for our mother's complete healing and recovery. Thank you very much.

Ma. Gracia C., Quezon City
Philippines

MY GRANDMOTHER'S LEG WAS SAVED

I am just writing to give testimony of a grace obtained through St. Josemaría Escrivá. Not long ago my grandmother Enriqueta had some large, very painful ulcers on her right leg caused by her diabetes. She suffered with these for a long time and the doctors said the only solution was to amputate her leg. Then someone gave my elder brother a prayer card of St. Josemaría in the street. All of us, my grandmother, my mom, my brothers and sisters and I, began to pray and ask the saint to heal the ulcers. About two months ago, the ulcers healed over and her leg was saved. Heartfelt thanks to St. Josemaría Escrivá for the favor obtained. I hope that my testimony is accepted. Greetings and many thanks.

Jose Luis de Luna Almanza, Mexico
January 13, 2009

TRY AND TRY

May of last year my youngest brother was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML). He initially received the standard injectable drug, but it did not work. Fortunately, an orally administered, revolutionary, very effective drug was recently discovered and quickly approved in the US. Unfortunately, the price was very prohibitive especially for us in the Third World. It costs around 100,000 Pesos per month, probably a year's income of a modestly living Filipino. My brother was tried on it and in just three weeks, his blood counts were back to normal and his symptoms were gone. The drug had to be taken for a couple of years more before he could be molecularly cured. However, we could sustain the treatment for only three months. Two months off treatment, his cancer resurfaced. He was given a higher dose of the injectable drug in combination with another injectable, hoping that these will somehow help him recover.

Last April his condition became critical (blastic stage) and only the expensive drug could control his disease. I have been praying the prayer card of St. Josemaría and now made a novena to him for financial support. After a week, my elder brother found a foundation that may help us. Unfortunately, my sick brother was not approved because of his age (pediatric), as the drug was very well proven only in adults. We asked for reconsideration but it was denied. I continued praying for the intercession of St. Josemaría, and two weeks later, the foundation unexpectedly approved to supply us with the medicine at no charge. I am very grateful to the intercession of St. Josemaría.

Gina M.
Manila, Philippines