



Novena

F O R W O R K



TO SAINT
JOSEMARIA
ESCRIVA
FOUNDER OF
OPUS DEI



TO FIND A JOB,
TO GROW THROUGH
THAT WORK AND to share with my
colleagues a Christian vision of holiness
through work. These are the intentions I want
to entrust to St. Josemaria during the novena.

WHAT IS A NOVENA?

A novena is a prayer repeated for nine
consecutive days to ask God to grant a specific
request or for help with a challenging situation.
You can say the novena prayer by yourself or
with others and you can include reading and
reflection. Novenas can be prayed throughout
the year and are often used in preparation for a
feast day.

EACH DAY OF THE NOVENA HAS TWO PARTS:

- I A SELECTION FROM
ST. JOSEMARIA'S WRITINGS
ON WORK
- II AN INTENTION BASED
ON THOSE TEXTS.



WORK AS A PATH TO HOLINESS

WE HAVE COME to call attention once
again to the example of Jesus, who spent
thirty years in Nazareth, working as a carpenter.
In his hands, a professional occupation, similar
to that carried out by millions of people all
over the world, was turned into a divine task.
It became a part of our Redemption, a way
to salvation.

*Conversations with
Msgr. Josemaria Escriva, no. 55*

Your ordinary contact with God takes place
where your fellow men, your yearnings, your
work and your affections are. There you have
your daily encounter with Christ. It is in the
midst of the most material things of the earth
that we must sanctify ourselves, serving God
and all mankind.

*Conversations with
Msgr. Josemaria Escriva, no. 113*

INTENTION

Lord, help me to obtain honest, suitable and
steady employment. Father, teach me to see
my work as a service to others and the place
where you are always waiting for me, asking
me to imitate Jesus in his years in Nazareth
working as a carpenter.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEMARIA

O GOD, through the mediation
of Mary our Mother, you granted
your priest Saint Josemaria countless
graces, choosing him as a most
faithful instrument to found Opus
Dei, a way of sanctification in daily
work and in the fulfillment of the
Christian's ordinary duties. Grant
that I too may learn to turn all the
circumstances and events of my life
into occasions of loving you and
serving the Church, the Pope and all
souls with joy and simplicity, lighting
up the pathways of this earth with
faith and love.

Deign to grant me, through the
intercession of Saint Josemaria, the
favour of... *(make your request).*

AMEN.

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be to the Father



Day 2

WORK DONE FOR LOVE OF GOD

LET ME STRESS THIS POINT:

it is in the simplicity of your ordinary work, in the monotonous details of each day, that you have to find the secret, which is hidden from so many, of something great and new: Love.

Furrow, no. 489

Do everything for Love. Thus there will be no little things: everything will be big. Perseverance in little things for Love is heroism.

The Way, no. 813

The dignity of work is based on Love. Man's great privilege is to be able to love and to transcend what is fleeting and ephemeral.

Christ is Passing By, no. 48

INTENTION

Lord, grant me the grace to find a job quickly so that I can provide security for my family. Help me understand that what gives value to work is the love that is put into it: love for you, the one to whom I am offering it, and love for my neighbour, whom I wish to serve.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

Day 3

WORKING WITH ORDER AND CONSTANCY

BRIEF INDEED IS our time for loving, for giving, for making atonement. It would be very wrong, therefore, for us to waste it or to cast this treasure overboard irresponsibly. We must not squander this period of the world's history that God has entrusted to each one of us.

Friends of God, no. 39

When you bring order into your life your time will multiply, and then you will be able to give God more glory by working more in his service.

The Way, no. 80

Persevere in the exact fulfillment of the obligations of the moment. That work – humble, monotonous, small – is prayer expressed in action that prepares you to receive the grace of the other work – great and wide and deep – of which you dream.

The Way, no. 825

INTENTION

Lord, help me find stable and suitable employment. And when I do find work, may I make good use of my time, regarding it as a treasure. Help me to grow in the virtue of order, doing my work punctually, attentively and steadfastly. May I develop a well-structured plan that will permit me to live my spiritual life, family life, professional life and social life in a balanced way.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEMARIA

O GOD, through the mediation of Mary our Mother, you granted your priest Saint Josemaria countless graces, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the Christian's ordinary duties. Grant that I too may learn to turn all the circumstances and events of my life into occasions of loving you and serving the Church, the Pope and all souls with joy and simplicity, lighting up the pathways of this earth with faith and love.

Deign to grant me, through the intercession of Saint Josemaria, the favour of... *(make your request)*.

AMEN.

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be to the Father



Day 4

WELL - FINISHED WORK

IT IS NO GOOD offering to God something that is less perfect than our poor human limitations permit. The work that we offer must be without blemish and it must be done as carefully as possible, even in its smallest details, for God will not accept shoddy workmanship. 'Thou shalt not offer anything that is faulty,' Holy Scripture admonishes us (Lev 22:20), 'because it would not be worthy of him.' For that reason, the work of each one of us, the activities that take up our time and energy, must be an offering worthy of our Creator. It must be *operatio Dei*, a work of God that is done for God: in short, a task that is complete and faultless.

Friends of God, no. 55

The important thing is that we should love the Mass and make it the centre of our day. If we attend Mass well, surely we are likely to think about our Lord during the rest of the day, wanting to be always in his presence, ready to work as he worked and love as he loved.

Christ is Passing By, no. 154

INTENTION

Lord, through the intercession of your Mother and St. Josemaria, help me find work as soon as possible. With your grace I will work to the best of my ability, convinced that work done badly cannot bring me closer to you.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

Day 5

ALL HONEST WORK IS DIGNIFIED

BEFORE GOD no occupation is in itself great or small. Everything acquires the value of the Love with which it is done.

Furrow, no. 487

Work, all work, bears witness to the dignity of man, to his dominion over creation. It is an opportunity to develop one's personality. It is a bond of union with others, the way to support one's family, a means of aiding in the improvement of the society in which we live and in the progress of all humanity.

Christ is Passing By, no. 47

You really do need to make an effort and put your shoulder to the wheel. For all that, you should put your professional interests in their place: they are only means to an end; they can never be regarded – in any way – as if they were the basic thing.

Furrow, no. 502

INTENTION

Grant me, Lord, the joy of finding a job in which I can put my God-given skills to good use. And if my current job is beneath my level of competence and legitimate aspirations, may I not disdain it. Rather, while continuing to seek something more appropriate, may I carry out my work in a responsible way, giving it the same value that Jesus gave to his work at Nazareth.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEMARIA

O GOD, through the mediation of Mary our Mother, you granted your priest Saint Josemaria countless graces, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found *Opus Dei*, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the Christian's ordinary duties. Grant that I too may learn to turn all the circumstances and events of my life into occasions of loving you and serving the Church, the Pope and all souls with joy and simplicity, lighting up the pathways of this earth with faith and love.

Deign to grant me, through the intercession of Saint Josemaria, the favour of... *(make your request)*.

AMEN.

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be to the Father



Day 6

WORK DONE WITH PRESENCE OF GOD AND RIGHT INTENTION

I BEG YOU, don't ever lose the supernatural point of view. Correct your intention as the course of a ship is corrected on the high seas: by looking at the star, by looking at Mary. Then you will always be sure of reaching harbour.

The Forge, no. 749

Your Crucifix. As a Christian, you should always carry your Crucifix with you. And place it on your desk. And kiss it before going to bed and when you wake up: and when your poor body rebels against your soul, kiss it again.

The Way, no. 302

Place on your desk, in your room, in your wallet, a picture of our Lady, and look at it when you begin your work, while you are doing it, and when you finish it. She will obtain for you – I assure you! – the strength to turn your task into a loving dialogue with God.

Furrow, no. 531

INTENTION

Lord, through the intercession of St. Josemaria grant me an honest and dignified job. Open the eyes of my soul to make me aware that you are always at my side. While at work I intend to use a small crucifix, an image of our Lady or of a favourite saint, or some other reminder to keep this marvellous reality in mind.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

Day 7

MATURING IN VIRTUE THROUGH WORK

EVERYTHING in which we poor men have a part – even holiness – is a fabric of small trifles which, depending upon one's intention, can form a magnificent tapestry of heroism or of degradation, of virtues or of sins. The epic legends always relate extraordinary adventures, but never fail to mix them with homely details about the hero. May you always attach great importance to the little things. This is the way!

The Way, no. 826

A complete range of virtues is called into play when we set about our work with the purpose of sanctifying it: fortitude, to persevere in our work despite the difficulties that naturally arise and to ensure that we never let ourselves be overwhelmed by anxiety; temperance, in order to spend ourselves unsparingly and to overcome our love of comfort and our selfishness; justice, so as to fulfil our duties towards God, society, our family and our fellow workers; prudence, to know in each case what course to take, and then to set about it without hesitation... And all this is for the sake of Love.

Friends of God, no. 72

INTENTION

With our Lady's help, may I find the job I am seeking. Help me to develop the Christian virtues and to mature spiritually through my work. May I learn to be patient and understanding towards colleagues and those in authority. Help me to be simple and humble, avoiding vanity and showing off. In a word, may I do everything with purity of heart.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEMARIA

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Deign to grant me, through the intercession of Saint Josemaria, the favour of... *(make your request)*.

AMEN.

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be to the Father



Day 8

WORK AS SERVICE, A HELP FOR OTHERS

BY DOING your daily work well and responsibly, not only will you be supporting yourselves financially, but you will also be contributing directly to the development of society. You will be relieving the burdens of others and supporting local and international welfare projects for less privileged individuals and countries.

Friends of God, no. 120

When you have finished your work, do your brother's, helping him, for Christ's sake, so tactfully and so naturally that no one – not even he – will realise that you are doing more than what in justice you ought. This, indeed, is virtue befitting a son of God!

The Way, no. 440

INTENTION

Lord, grant me the job for which I am asking with so much faith. I want my work to serve others and not just my own self-interest. Help me grow in the conviction that this spirit of service will make me happier and will give a new, higher purpose to my professional life.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

Day 9

APOSTOLATE THROUGH WORK

PROFESSIONAL WORK is also an apostolate, an opportunity to give ourselves to others, to reveal Christ to them and lead them to God the Father.

Christ is Passing By, no. 49

Just live your normal life; work at your job, striving to fulfil the duties of your state in life, growing, improving each day. Be loyal, understanding with others and demanding with yourself. This will be your apostolate. Then people will start coming to you. Conversations will arise naturally in which you will chat about the longings that everyone feels deep down inside. They will come to understand those longings better when they start to look for God in earnest.

Friends of God, no. 273

INTENTION

St. Josemaria, through your intercession help me find a job that will challenge me to grow professionally and will provide a fertile ground for the apostolic mission that God entrusts to all the baptized. With your help I want to lead my colleagues, friends and clients to discover the marvels of the Christian faith.

Prayer to Saint Josemaria

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEMARIA

O GOD, through the mediation of Mary our Mother, you granted your priest Saint Josemaria countless graces, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the Christian's ordinary duties. Grant that I too may learn to turn all the circumstances and events of my life into occasions of loving you and serving the Church, the Pope and all souls with joy and simplicity, lighting up the pathways of this earth with faith and love.

Deign to grant me, through the intercession of Saint Josemaria, the favour of... *(make your request)*.

AMEN.

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be to the Father



WHO IS ST. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA



St. Josemaria Escriva was born in Barbastro, Spain on January 9, 1902. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 28, 1925. By divine inspiration he founded Opus Dei on October 2, 1928. St. Josemaria died in Rome on June 26, 1975 after casting an affectionate glance at a picture of our Lady in the room where he worked. At the time of his death, Opus Dei had spread to six continents with over 60,000 members of 80 nationalities, serving the Church with the same spirit of complete union with the Pope and bishops in communion with the Holy See that St. Josemaria had always lived. St. John Paul II canonized the Founder of Opus Dei in Rome on October 6, 2002. His liturgical feast is celebrated on June 26.

The body of St. Josemaria rests in the Prelatic Church of Our Lady of Peace at Viale Bruno Buozzi 75, Rome.

THE TEXT WITHIN

is based on a novena published in Brazil in 2003 by Rev. Francisco Faus.

*Authorization of the
Ordinary of Montreal, N.P. 4/2013*

Those who obtain favours through
the intercession of St. Josemaria
are asked to notify the

Prelature of Opus Dei in Canada:
Office for the Causes of the Saints
1380, avenue des Pins Ouest, Montréal, QC,
H3G 1A8

Email: ocs.ca@opusdei.org

For additional information about
St. Josemaria
and the Prelature of Opus Dei, visit:

www.josemariaescriva.info

www.opusdei.ca

To read more of St. Josemaria's
writings visit:

www.escrivaworks.org

