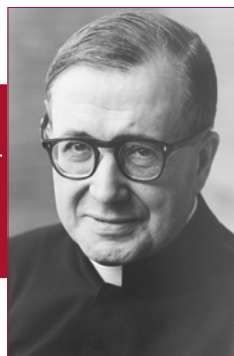


ST JOSEMARIA ESCRIVÁ

FAVOURS THROUGH HIS INTERCESSION



Help from the Founder of Opus Dei

I've received so many graces through Saint Josemaría's intercession, especially about finding jobs. I'm a young teacher and I haven't been working for very long, so at present I don't have a permanent post. I often have to look for supply teaching jobs, and being unemployed is always a worry. The Founder of Opus Dei always helps me to find the right opportunity at the right moment, and I could tell about many times this has happened. Every time I got a job offer through his intercession I promised myself I'd write my testimony, but I never did. A few days ago I finished a supply job and had no work. Yesterday I prayed the prayer-card and said, "Father, help me! This time I really will write about it!" Just a few minutes later I get telephone call asking me to do supply teaching; it is a long-term post and will greatly benefit me. I had been about to go out of town and only just got back in time.

Silvia, Italy
10 February 2006

A new job

Thank you again St. Josemaría for answering my

prayers! I was very unhappy in my job. It was extremely stressful and was making me very ill and anxious. I prayed to you for your help and was invited for an interview. Last week I took your prayercard with me to the interview and prayed to you before I was interviewed. Later that day I was offered a new job at a much more pleasant workplace. Thank you again for your intercession.

J.M., England
23 May 2006

He came to talk to me

My boyfriend stopped seeing me and we hadn't spoken since. I still loved him and wanted him to come back. I did lots of novenas and prayed hard, but didn't hear from him. I nearly gave up hope, but not quite, because I believe in God. Then one day I found the website of Saint Josemaría Escrivá. I started a novena to him, and the very next day my boyfriend, who hadn't spoken to me for a month and a half, came to talk to me. I'm really happy. Thank you, Saint Josemaría, you said that you would be more useful to us in Heaven: thank you.

S., Haiti
25 April 2006

They were waiting for me

For the past few years I have always spent Holy Week prayerfully in my own town, although I love travelling and touring. This year I decided to go to Cordoba for Holy Week, but couldn't find anywhere to stay. After telephoning a large number of places, I commended this intention to our Lord through Saint Josemaría's intercession. Then I went into a telephone kiosk, prayed, picked a hotel at random, and dialled the number. I hardly had time to ask if they had any vacancies when they asked me which dates I'd like to go. It seemed as though they were waiting for me.

At this point I'm moved to remember how every path likewise opened up before me when I travelled to Rome for 6 October 2002!

Monica, Argentina
26 April 2006

They didn't have to operate

In the spring of 2004 my daughter Sara had a motor cycle accident, and tore the ligaments in her knee. An operation seemed inevitable. She had to spend several days of complete rest, with a hard bandage round it. She

was quite depressed about it, because she wanted to be looking after her baby who was just a few months old, and she couldn't even hold her. I prayed to St Josemaría for her cure. I remember how I was saying the Rosary with some friends and I asked them to pray that she wouldn't need an operation.

Finally the doctors decided not to operate. A year after the accident I got a telephone call that made me really happy: tests had shown that the knee ligaments had mended on their own. From the depths of my heart I am grateful to St Josemaría.

F. I., Italy
25 April 2006

I got a good mark for my oral exam thanks to my friend St Josemaría

I've been a doctor for some time now, and when I was a student there was one subject that I found extremely hard, despite my best efforts. The exam for this subject was a viva, and unfortunately when I took it the panel included the most complicated, demanding professor in the faculty. I knew that in spite of my studying and learning, all my knowledge would count for nothing compared with what that professor was going to expect; and what was worse, the other two people taking the viva at the same time as me were the two best students in the class. I spent the whole night before the viva studying, and in desperation I prayed to St Josemaría that that professor would not be there for the viva. When I got to the hospital, the panel was already there, with the professor in the chair. When my

turn came, a secretary came in and called the professor to the telephone. He was out for nearly an hour, and came back to say that he couldn't stay on the panel because he was required urgently elsewhere. He was replaced by a different professor, and I got a good mark for the viva. I'm writing this testimony now although it happened years ago, because of the great love and affection I feel for my friend St Josemaría.

Claudio, Chile
15 April 2006

Exactly what I needed

In the preliminary year at the seminary, we used to have *The Way* read during meal-times. It brought such great happiness to my heart, I felt that those words were written especially for me. Afterwards I continued along my way without finding out any more about it or its author.

At the end of my second year of philosophy studies I went through a time of great suffering and was in a state of desperation, when, in the holidays for 2006, there arrived in my house a magazine with information about Opus Dei. It referred to the founder of Opus Dei, and to my surprise I realized that he was the one who wrote *The Way*. Only then did I come to understand the full meaning of the words he spoke to a dying woman: "Blessed be pain. Sanctified be pain." Those words were exactly what I needed.

Since February I have read all the books about Opus Dei: *The Forge*, *Christ is Passing By*, *Furrow*, and others. It's what I was looking for, what I want. Let sorrow and suffering

come, provided that they lead me closer to God.

V. B., Brazil
12 April 2006

There was no way

For the past six months my family and I had a bureaucratic matter, concerning something very important to us, which was completely blocked. We had presented all the documentation correctly, but there was no way of getting the thing moving. I went to ask Saint Josemaría to intercede for this affair, and it was solved in two weeks. Thank you very much, Saint Josemaría.

Carlos, Spain
4 April 2006

Learning about Saint Josemaría's life

My name is Pedro and I'm a student. I'm learning about Saint Josemaría's life and what I find most striking is that I am considering dedicating my life to God in Opus Dei as he did. I can't explain this, but I only know that God wants me to give my life to Him. I thank God and the Virgin Mary for lighting up my path.

P. B. M., Colombia
4 April 2006

I knew that my prayers had been answered!

I want to share this testimony with others as a way of thanking St. Josemaría for a miracle which has really made a difference to my life. I really do believe that a miracle was granted to me due to St. Josemaría's intercession. In the past year or so I have returned to the Catholic faith after many

years of attending Mass infrequently and half-heartedly. This is partly due to the inspiration and influence of St. Josemaria's writings. I have been regularly reading texts such as *The Way* and praying his prayercard. As well as inspiring me to become a better Catholic and strengthening my faith this has I believe led to a miracle being granted.

I work as a teacher in London. I was living in an affordable flat which I was given because I was a teacher. It was in a poor neighbourhood and was only a studio apartment and was in very poor condition but it was cheap and in a quiet, small safe building. I was happy to be living there and was very anxious when I learned that my landlord was going to knock down the building. I was served with a demolition notice and was told that I would be rehoused. I was really worried about this because I didn't know where I would go and if it would be a safe place for me to live. I knew there wasn't much chance of me finding somewhere decent and affordable to live.

At about this time last year I went for a few days on holiday to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. I took one of St Josemaria's books and prayercard with me. I prayed in the cathedral of Santiago for my future especially about my new house. I prayed to St. Josemaria asking him to help me. Anyway, a few months ago I was given a new home. It's a beautiful little house with a garden. It is a listed building and is 300 years old. It is really beautiful and unique and I can't believe it is my home. It is also cheap and affordable. It is very rare to find a house like this in London. I am sure

it is a miracle. When I went to view the house for the first time I noticed that on the front of the building there is a crest which has gold scallop shells on it. As you may, know the scallop shell is the symbol of St. James and of Santiago de Compostela! When I saw this crest I knew that my prayers to St. Josemaria at Santiago de Compostela had been answered! I've never seen a scallop shell crest on a building in London before so I am sure this is a miracle. Thank you St. Josemaria for your intercession.

Jacqueline, UK
9 May 2006

The pain had disappeared

I am sending this testimony on behalf of a lady who has authorized me to do so.

The lady is a catechist in a very well-known church. Not long ago she fell on the stairs in the church just before Mass. She was not seriously hurt, but she had knocked her leg and it was very painful. She could only walk with difficulty.

That afternoon, I saw her again at Vespers. I offered to let her lean on my arm to walk home, and she accepted. But before starting off, I said to her: "Let's say a prayer for you!" So we went to the chapel of Our Lady. I gave her a picture of Saint Josemaria Escrivá and we both said the prayer in his honour together, asking the Lord to heal this lady through the intercession of the founder of Opus Dei. As we went to her house, I also explained to her something of Saint Josemaria's teaching on suffering, and how we should receive it with love so that it can sanctify us:

"If you realize that those sufferings – of physical or moral – mean purification and merit, bless them" (*The Way*, 219). I recommended her to pray fervently to Saint Josemaria and gave her some pictures of him to give to other people.

Two days later I saw her again at Mass, since she sometimes goes to Mass during the week, and she told me that the pain had disappeared and that she was completely well again. It was then that she gave me permission to write down this little favour she had received from this great Saint, to help spread the knowledge of his love and his goodness.

I would also like to add that I tell people in my parish about Saint Josemaria, and his message is always received with joy and enthusiasm. People feel somehow "reassured" to learn that they can also become saints by sanctifying their ordinary lives.

J. F., France
28 March 2006

A peaceful neighbourhood

Thanks to Saint Josemaria for finding us a new home in a peaceful neighbourhood to coincide with the birth of our first child.

Jane, Italy
29 March 2006

Nothing terrible can happen to us

I feel very moved by the way the founder of Opus Dei, Saint Josemaria, is present in the many different situations in which we need his help. I remember that a little time ago we were swindled, and lost all the money we had managed

to save up over many years; my husband lost his job, and we were sunk in absolute desperation, as we have six children. A leaflet came to my hands about experiences, prayers, miracles, and the life of Saint Josemaría, and I began to pray to him with great faith and persistence, and I felt that, from that day on, he took me under his protection. Yes, we lost our house, but we're no longer desperate and we don't feel alone any more: now we have the conviction that nothing terrible can happen to us because the Lord is with us, since Saint Josemaría is praying especially for us.

J. F., Chile
27 March 2006

I locked the key-ring inside the cashbox

I have been working in a school for the past few months, and two weeks ago, when I was in my office sorting out the cashbox, I accidentally shut the box with the key-ring inside. As well as the key of the cashbox itself, this key-ring has the key of the safe, so it was a real problem.

At that point my worry was about leaving the box, with quite a lot of money inside, in my office, without being able to lock it in the safe overnight, so that someone might come in and take it. The duplicate key to the safe is held by the head-teacher, who was not in school, so I would have to ask her to come there from home, with all the accompanying difficulties. I tried to open the box, but of course I couldn't, as it was locked. Seeing that there was no way out, I began to pray to Saint Josemaría. I tried again - and the box opened. I

was astonished! To my enormous relief, I was able to put the box in the safe and didn't have to bother anyone.

I., Spain
25 March 2006

Real joy

Thanks to Saint Josemaría, I have discovered that the suffering and pain of an illness are worthwhile, because we can help other people by offering up those sufferings, and almost without our realizing, Jesus repays us with real joy.

Thank you, Father.

Maria, Chile
24 March 2006

God was waiting for me to make the first move

I hadn't been to Mass for five or six years. One day I was alone at home, studying for my university exams. I wanted to believe again, but... there was no way. For personal reasons, I didn't see Saint Josemaría in a very good light, but providentially, (if I can put it like that) there was a card with his photo on the shelf in my room, that someone in my family had left there.

Knowing that God wants us to take the second step, because he always takes the first one, I decided to pray to him, through Saint Josemaría's intercession, asking him to help me believe again. I can only say that the effort of praying took everything I had.

Soon afterwards there was a knock at the door. It was two Jehovah's Witnesses, and before they could begin to speak I told them that I was a Catholic and not interested in what they might say. It was a really decisive moment that made

me think a lot.

Although it still took me time to return to the Sacraments, God moved me to do it. He was waiting for me to make the first move.

D. M., Spain
23 March 2006

Even so, I'll be grateful to him

Today I will probably lose my job. This is because of a mistake I made accidentally. I have placed myself in God's hands, and prayed especially to Saint Josemaría and Father Alvaro to get me out of this difficulty. I am writing this testimony because I hope that Saint Josemaría will obtain for me the miracle of sorting out this problem for me, and if he doesn't, even so I'll be grateful to him for all the times he helped me without my asking.

Hugo, Mexico
17 March 2006

I'm expecting a baby

I would like to write a short testimony here in case it can help other women. For twenty years I had to take very strong medication, and the doctors said it would be almost impossible for me to become pregnant. This made me really sad, so I began praying through Saint Josemaría's intercession, and two months later came the news that I'm expecting a baby. I'm now in my seventeenth week. I promised to share this experience, and now I've done it.

V. A. V., Costa Rica
15 March 2006

The favour of the flavour

I received a favour from Josemaría Escrivá. In 1989 I was studying at Jaltepec Catering Training Centre and I was in charge of the kitchen. Shortly before serving lunch one day I tasted the dish we had prepared and, although we had put in the seasoning, it had no flavour at all. All I could think of to do was add a bit more seasoning. When I tasted it again it still tasted of nothing. Time had run out, so I said, "Father, if you put this right for me, I'll write it down as a favour." The person who was working as my assistant tasted the dish and said, "This tastes as good as when my Mom used to make it." I didn't say anything. Soon after that I graduated and time went by without writing down the favour, so I decided to do it now. And I just wanted to say that the Founder of Opus Dei got me out of a real mess, because that dish really didn't have any flavour at all.

A. M. M., Mexico
12 March 2006

Problems with maths

I'm studying Geography at university and have always have problems with maths. The final Maths subject on my course, Inferential Statistics, seemed totally impossible to me.

The day before the exam I prayed to Saint Josemaría that two kinds of exercise that I was sure I knew how to do, would come up in the exam, so I might get a pass.

In the examination hall when they distributed the papers I got a surprise: both the problems I had prayed for had been set, and what's more one of them came twice.

I passed this subject, undoubtedly through Saint Josemaría's intercession.

On my way home from the exam I met a lady and her daughter who were looking for university accommodation. I told them where they needed to go to find it, and gave them each a prayer-card of Saint Josemaría, having explained to them the story of my maths exam. I said, 'If those three questions came up for me, he'll definitely find accommodation for you – and cheaply!'

J. V. A., Spain
12 March 2006

The Way was waiting for me

I'm 40 and have two daughters and a wonderful husband. One day I was feeling a bit depressed and decided to go out to cheer myself up a little. I went to a bookshop to get a book about a crisis my country had recently been through. I couldn't find it. Instead, *The Way* was 'waiting for me' there. I'd always felt curious to find out about Saint Josemaría Escrivá. I had a prayer-card of his, though I don't remember who gave it to me. I can't properly explain what it meant to me to start reading *The Way*. It brought me to rediscover God in a more tangible way. I've always been a Catholic, but up till now I hadn't used the Faith, which is such a powerful weapon, for support, strength, a way of giving value to all our actions, to each and every thing and moment God gives us. I love Jesus and feel close to him.

Thank you yet again.

J., Uruguay
11 March 2006

As if nothing had ever been wrong with him

Last November, my son, not yet 9 months old, showed retarded psycho-motor development and was provisionally diagnosed with a metabolic disease known as "glutaric aciduria type I". As far as we could discover when we looked this disease up, it normally leads to death before age 11.

We took him for lots of tests, and they all pointed toward the same diagnosis. Finally the doctors asked us if they could do a very specific test, involving sending samples to the US. We commended our baby to our Lady and Saint Josemaría. After nearly two months, we got the results: the diagnosis was definitely discarded, and my son is developing as if nothing had ever been wrong with him.

Hugo Valenzuela, Chile
8 March 2006

I looked for the telephone number of Opus Dei

For a long time I thought religion was for fanatics, knowing nothing of its real value. I heard about Opus Dei, but in very negative ways, as a power-structure and other things that had nothing to do with reality. I was growing as I heard these things, and was interested in finding out about it for myself. Not long ago I got the telephone list and looked up the telephone number of Opus Dei, and there it was. I'd thought that sanctity was only for families of saints. When I learnt about Saint Josemaría Escrivá, I saw that sanctity is for everyone. That man has changed my spiritual life completely, and has led me to open up to God and the Church.

Without really knowing how, little by little I've become a faithful Catholic – but not fanatical! Being a good Catholic can't be just a theory, however good the theory is. I'm young, just 20, and I love the Founder of Opus Dei deeply because he changed me on the inside, though I never thought such a thing could happen. I've begun to "talk" to him and he has been helping me, often without my even realizing.

O. R. T., Portugal
2 March 2006

Thank you, Father

This morning I was coming back into my house, but when I put the key in the lock it stuck, and I couldn't open the door. This has happened before, and some of the times I've had to call a locksmith. I decided to pray to Saint Josemaría and try again. It opened without any difficulty.

Thank you, Father.

Spain
2 March 2006

I have to thank him for saving my life

At the end of December 2002, when I was 10, I was in the garden and without realizing it I tripped over an electricity cable and the electric current went through me. My brother Carlos was the only person who saw me, and he came to help, but when he touched me he got an electric shock too. By the time the rest of the family came to help us, my mother says there was no sign of life in me. I had been unconscious for fifteen minutes, without moving, when my mother ran and brought a prayer-card of Saint Josemar-

ia. She put it on my chest and as she was praying, with lots of faith, that I would come round, I DID, and I gave her a kiss and told her that everything would be all right and to stop crying. They took me to hospital, to the emergency ward, and the doctors were very surprised and said it was a miracle that I was alive. That miracle came through Saint Josemaría.

I was kept under observation for a while and was given some very powerful medication, because the doctor said I could be left with serious brain damage. My parents were convinced about the miracle and went to Mass in the Cathedral in thanksgiving.

Several years have gone by, and my life has changed a lot. I'm strong and healthy, with no problems about studying, and everything is fine. I wanted to send in this miracle of Saint Josemaría, the founder of Opus Dei, for publication, because I have to thank him for saving my life, and for the unity of my family, among many other things. We live our Christianity with the teachings of the Father, and he is always present in our lives, our personal actions and our work.

Thank you very much, Father.

J. J. Y. V., San Vicente de Cañete, Lima, Peru
26 February 2006

Monsignor Escrivá's photograph

I started working in a company and noticed the photograph of this saint on a colleague's desk. It was Monsignor Escrivá. I bought a book about his life (*Footprints in the Snow*) and was deeply impressed by it. But still more by what hap-

pened in the office: there was a fire in the building on the whole of that floor, and the office was completely burnt, but the desk with the photograph of Monsignor Escrivá was untouched. Another time, a friend's mum had a stroke and the doctors said there was no chance of recovery, everyone was expecting her to die. When he told me about it I went to my room with the photo of the Founder of Opus Dei and prayed to him for this lady's recovery, and some time afterwards I saw my friend and he told me his mum was fine, and that her recovery had been a "miracle".

J. T., Chile
16 February 2006

Through a book

I am deeply grateful to Saint Josemaría for helping me so much every time I ask him to. I thank this saint for bringing me to know Opus Dei and interceding for me before God at my most difficult times. It was through reading the Da Vinci Code that I got interested in Opus Dei and realized that the book is a complete fiction that goes against religion and is disrespectful towards Catholics. But facing things like these makes us stronger... we have to use the lemons to make lemonade.

Cristian, Argentina
11 February 2006

The scooter worked perfectly

I was on my way to college on my scooter, with the book I needed for the class in the little locker under the seat. When I stopped outside my college I tried to open the locker but

I couldn't. It was completely stuck, with the book I needed inside it. I asked several passers-by for help, but they couldn't open it either, and they advised me not to keep trying to open it because I risked breaking the scooter key. So I could neither get my book nor even go home, until I said a prayer to Saint Josemaría – and the locker opened straight away. I was on time for my class and I had the book, and afterwards the scooter worked perfectly.

Paola, Italy

8 February 2006

I found him on the internet

About two weeks ago I was feeling really down and didn't know what to do. I'm living in the United States, and life here is nothing but work and more work, but I wanted to turn to God again. One day I was looking for something on the net and I found the Saint Josemaría website. It wasn't just by chance, and as I read about his life, and how he lived it, always being cheerful and happy to work for God, I felt I was being called to do the same. In addition I asked him to intercede for some pains I was experiencing and he did so. I thank God for his intercession.

Omar, USA

6 February 2006

Everything is good

When I entered college, I was so upset that I wasn't able to study overseas. However, God has been so good in depriving me of my preference. God sent me to a school wherein I will meet St. Josemaría who through his

children will make me realize that everything is good/omnia in bonum. When I met the Work, my outlook on life has changed. I learned that I can please God and love Him even in the little things. Aside from this, I was able to see the good side even in the worst things that happened to my life (e.g. injured knee which deprived me from playing competitive golf). My injured knee was eventually cured through the intercession of St. Josemaría and Don Alvaro. Today, I can kneel during Mass and genuflect in churches. The cure of my knee is an indication that I can walk again to facilitate doing apostolate for Our Lord.

In short, everything has its purpose. And as for me, I have to continue praying to God and to St. Josemaría so that I may see what God made me for.

USA

30 January 2006

A very small, everyday favour

The mechanics who repaired my washing-machine left the old drum for me to throw out. Where I live there are no large rubbish-containers. The dustmen come at a fixed time to collect "destructible" rubbish only. This meant I would have to take the old washing-machine drum to a rubbish disposal site. I can't drive, so I'd have to try and get someone else to give me a lift. I decided to leave the drum out with the rest of my rubbish, and I prayed to Saint Josemaría that the dustmen would take it, even though it's not their job. Some hours later I looked to see if the drum was still there, but they'd taken it. So I thanked Saint Josemaría.

People warned me against that prelatore

Some time ago I knew nothing about Opus Dei, and had hardly even heard of it. People around me warned me against that prelatore, even in my parish, and even people who were very well placed. I didn't dare answer, or ask what it was about, for fear of upsetting them. But I'd lost my own peace of mind, and often asked myself, 'So what is Opus Dei?' Saint Josemaría must have read my thoughts, because he sent me someone, just as if God had sent me an angel, and I thank him for this with all my heart. I wasn't expecting it - it came as a complete surprise!

I read *The Way, Furrow, The Way of the Cross*; I've checked out websites, including this one, and I've come to understand that there was no need to warn anyone against Opus Dei, and the people who did so had been taken in by malicious gossip.

Not only did I recover my peace of mind, but I understood that suffering has a meaning, and that we can sanctify ourselves in the world. This was a real discovery for me. The only thing I had left to wish for was to stop being afraid of talking about this great saint and my devotion for him. I wanted this so much! Now I'm free of that fear, and I talk about him boldly even at the risk of upsetting certain people. I've overcome my self-love and I'm no longer afraid of losing such and such a privilege by talking about him to people in church circles!

My spirit feels free, – totally abandoned to God's Will! It is thanks to Saint Josemaría that I've found this boldness, this courage – and I haven't in fact annoyed anyone!

I've received so many spiritual graces from him, so many suggestions about how to behave in a given situation, that I cannot deny that he has intervened.

Recently my husband has had two operations on his leg. I'm entrusting his recovery to Saint Josemaría, and I've great confidence in him! My husband is doing well.

United in prayer. I wish this testimony to be published with my name in full. Thank you.

**Julienne Auquière, née
Duby, Belgium
16 January 2006**

Saint Josemaría Escrivá

Founder of Opus Dei

PRAYER

O God, through the most Blessed Virgin Mary, you granted your priest St. Josemaría countless graces, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way of holiness through daily work and the ordinary duties of a Christian. Grant that I too may learn to turn all the circumstances and events of my life into opportunities to love you and 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, please grant the favour I request (here make your petition). Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

Further information

On Saint Josemaría: www.josemariaescriva.info

On the writings of Saint Josemaría: www.escrivaworks.org

On Opus Dei: www.opusdei.org.uk

On the bulletin of the prelatute: www.romana.org

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