



BIOGRAPHY

St. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei, opened a new path of holiness in the Catholic Church, teaching that men and women can become holy by performing their work and daily duties with a Christian spirit.

EARLY LIFE

St. Josemaria Escriva was born in Barbastro, Spain, on January 9, 1902. He had five siblings: Carmen (1899-1957) and Santiago (1919-1994), plus three younger sisters who died when they were small children. His parents, Jose and Dolores, gave their children a deep Christian education.

In 1915, Jose Escriva's business failed and he found other work, which required the family to move to Logroño. It was as a teenager in Logroño that Josemaria for the first time sensed his vocation. Moved by the sight of footprints left in the snow by a barefoot friar, he sensed that God was asking something of him, though he did not know exactly what it was. He thought becoming a priest would help him discover and fulfill this calling from God, so he began to prepare for the priesthood, first in Logroño and later in Saragossa.



THE FOUNDING OF OPUS DEI

Josemaria's father died in 1924, leaving him as head of the family. After his ordination in 1925, he began his ministry in a rural parish, and subsequently continued it in Saragossa. In 1927, Fr. Josemaria's bishop gave him permission to move to Madrid to obtain his doctorate in law.

On October 2, 1928, during a spiritual retreat, Fr. Josemaria saw what it was that God was asking of him: to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the Christian's ordinary duties. From then on he worked on carrying out this task, meanwhile continuing his priestly ministry, particularly to the poor and the sick. During these early years of Opus Dei, he was also studying at the University of Madrid and teaching classes in order to support his family.

When the Civil War broke out in Madrid, religious persecution forced Fr. Josemaria to exercise his priestly ministry clandestinely and to move from place to place seeking refuge. He was eventually able to leave the Spanish capital and, after a harrowing escape across the Pyrenees, he took up residence in Burgos. When the war concluded in 1939, he returned to Madrid and finally obtained his doctorate in law. In the years that followed he gave many retreats to laity, priests, and religious, and continued working assiduously to develop Opus Dei.



GUIDING THE GROWTH OF OPUS DEI

In 1946 Fr. Josemaria took up residence in Rome. During his years in Rome, he obtained a doctorate in Theology from the Lateran University and was appointed by Pope Pius XII as a consultor to two Vatican Congregations, as an honorary member of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, and as an honorary prelate.

He traveled frequently from Rome to various European countries as well as to Mexico in order to spur the growth of Opus Dei. In 1974 and 1975, he made two long trips to a number of countries in Latin America, where he met with large groups of people and spoke to them about their Christian vocation to holiness.

Msgr. Escriva died in Rome on June 26, 1975. By the time of his death, Opus Dei had been established in dozens of countries and had touched countless lives. After his death thousands of people, including more than a third of the world's bishops, sent letters to Rome asking the Pope to open his cause of beatification and canonization.



BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION

Pope John Paul II beatified Msgr. Escriva on May 17, 1992, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Approximately 300,000 people attended the ceremony. "With supernatural intuition," said the Pope in his homily, "Blessed Josemaria untiringly preached the universal call to holiness and apostolate."

Ten years later, on October 6, 2002, John Paul II canonized the founder of Opus Dei. In his address to those who attended the canonization, the Holy Father said that "One could say that he was the saint of ordinary life. In fact, he was convinced that for those who live with the eyes of faith, everything is an opportunity to meet God, everything can be an incentive for prayer. Seen in this light, daily life reveals an unexpected greatness. Holiness is truly within everyone's reach."

MASS



INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ier 3, 15

**I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
and they shall feed you on knowledge and sound teaching.**

The Celebrant:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

The Celebrant:

The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL RITE

The Celebrant invites the faithful to manifest their contrition.

Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.



A brief pause for silence follows. Then all recite together the formula of general confession:

**I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

And striking their breast, they say:

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

Then they continue:

**therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

The absolution by the priest follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

R/. Amen.



The invocations, Lord, have mercy, follow:

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

The Celebrant and the Congregation:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;**

**you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**



OPENING PRAYER

The Celebrant:

Let us pray.

O God, who raised up your priest Saint Josemaria in the Church to proclaim the universal call to holiness and apostolate, grant that by his intercession and example we may, through our daily work, be formed in the likeness of Jesus your Son and serve the work of redemption with burning love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R/. Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden.

A reading from the book of Genesis

2: 4b-9, 15

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up; for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground. Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the earth. And breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to cultivate and take care of it.

The reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 2 (7-12) (R. from Psalm 117, 1):

R./ Laudate Dominum omnes gentes.

(Praise the Lord, all you nations!)

I will announce the decree of the Lord.
The Lord said to me: “You are my son.
It is I who have begotten you this day” **R/.**

“Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations,
put the ends of the earth in your possession.
With a rod of iron you will break them,
shatter them like a potter’s jar.” **R/.**

Now, O kings, understand,
take warning rulers of the earth;
serve the Lord with awe and trembling,
pay him your homage. **R/.**

Lest he be angry and you perish;
for suddenly his anger will blaze.
Blessed are they who put their trust in God. **R/.**



SECOND READING

*You received a spirit of adoption, through
whom we cry, “Abba, Father!”*

A reading from the letter of St. Paul
to the Romans

8: 14-17

Brothers and sisters:

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back onto fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption to sonship. When we cry: “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Marc 1, 17

The choir and the Congregation:

R/. Alleluia.

Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of people.

R/. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The deacon or the priest: The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

They left everything and followed him.

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke

5: 1-11

R/. Glory to you, Lord.

While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore.



Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing! Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For Simon Peter and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

The deacon or the priest:

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY



PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son he is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.



I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The Celebrant:

Brothers and Sisters,

In this solemn celebration in honour of Saint Josemaria, let us pray to God, the all-powerful Father, source of all goodness, to Jesus Christ, his Son, our Redeemer, and to the Holy Spirit, who unceasingly pours forth his grace into our hearts.

The readers:

1. For the Holy Church, sign and instrument of universal salvation, that the Holy Spirit keep her in unity and strengthen her in the Faith, so that the knowledge and love of Christ our Redeemer may spread continuously throughout the world. We pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.



2. For the Holy Father, the (Arch) Bishop of this diocese, for all the bishops, priests and deacons of the Church, so that, enlightened by the grace of the Spirit of Wisdom, they may continue to be authentic witnesses to the Word of Truth and of Life.

We pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For the Prelate of Opus Dei, its faithful and cooperators, priests and laity, and for all of us, that we may serve the Church by sanctifying our daily work and seeking to win new souls for Christ.

We pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For all those who suffer, and for all the peoples of the world, that the good news of the Gospel bring peace and joy to their hearts.

We pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.



The Celebrant:

O God, who chose Saint Josemaria to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the ordinary duties of a Christian, hear the prayers that we address to you with filial confidence and grant that we may always accomplish your will in everything. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

R/. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

R/. Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

R/. Blessed be God forever.



Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R/. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

The Celebrant:

Holy Father,
accept these gifts that we offer in memory of Saint Josemaria, so that, through the sacrifice offered by Christ on the altar of the Cross and made present here in this sacrament, you may graciously sanctify all that we do.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

PREFACE

The Celebrant:

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.



V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For, as on the festival of Saint Josemaria you bid your Church rejoice, so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life, teach her by his words of preaching, and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

The Celebrant and the Congregation:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

The Celebrant:

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through you Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

All the concelebrants join their hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, say:

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and + Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed, he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.



In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.

The Celebrant:

The mystery of faith.

And the people continue, acclaiming:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

All the Concelebrants:

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.



Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

First Concelebrant:

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs with saint Josemaria and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

Second Concelebrant:

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world.

Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant N. our Pope, N. our (Arch) Bishop and N. the Prelate of Opus Dei, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own. Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.



To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

All the Concelebrants sing:

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

The Congregation: Amen.



THE COMMUNION RITE

The Celebrant:

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All sing:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The Celebrant:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

R/. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.



The Celebrant:

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R/. Amen.

The Celebrant:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/. And with your spirit.

The deacon or a priest invites all the faithful to exchange a sign of peace:

V/. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All make an appropriate sign of peace, according to local custom.

The Congregation:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.



Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Meanwhile, the Celebrant takes the host and breaks it over the paten. He places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:

May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

Then the Celebrant joins his hands and says quietly:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your Death gave life to the world, free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood, from all my sins and from every evil; keep me always faithful to your commandments, and never let me be parted from you.

or:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgment and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy.



The Celebrant:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R/. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 20, 28

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Celebrant:

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, may the mysteries we have received in this celebration of Saint Josemaria, strengthen in us the spirit of adoption as your children, so that, in faithful adherence to your will, we may advance joyfully along the path of holiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.



CONCLUDING RITE

The Celebrant:

The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

The Celebrant:

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

The Deacon or the Celebrant:

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R/. Thanks be to God.

The Latin texts of the Mass in honour of Saint Josemaria, priest, have been approved by the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments with the Decrees Prot. N. 689/02/L of December 2, 2003 for the prayers and Prot. N. 652/04/L of May 25, 2004 for the Liturgy of the Word.



O God, through the mediation of Mary our Mother, you granted your priest St. Josemaría 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 St. Josemaría, the favor of... **(make your request)**. Amen.

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

