

COMMUNICATION OFFICE

OPUS DEI



OPUS DEI PRELATURE

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# INFORMATION HANDBOOK

2024

## ABOUT US

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**The Information Handbook** is a publication of the Communication Office of Opus Dei in Rome and is published to help journalists and other media professionals.

It contains a summary of the nature, history and organization of the Opus Dei Prelature, an institution of the Roman Catholic Church.

The current version for the Philippines has been revised and brought up to date by the Communication Office of Opus Dei in the Philippines.

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For further information on the internet:

**[www.opusdei.ph](http://www.opusdei.ph)**

is the web page of Opus Dei in the Philippines, with up-to-date information on Opus Dei here and around the world. It includes features on the Prelate, St. Josemaría Escrivá, and resources for Christian Life..

**[www.romana.org](http://www.romana.org)**

is the official bulletin of the Opus Dei Prelature. It is published twice a year and is available in Italian, English and Spanish. Distribution is by subscription. The website contains the electronic version of the bulletin plus the facility to subscribe to the paper version.

**[www.escriva.org](http://www.escriva.org)**

contains all the published works of St Josemaría Escrivá. The website also allows visitors to open a personal folder where they can store the texts they wish.

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# 1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OPUS DEI PRELATURE

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## 1.1. Characteristics and mission

Opus Dei is a pastoral institution of the Catholic Church founded in Madrid on October 2, 1928 by St. Josemaría Escrivá. In 1982 St. John Paul II established Opus Dei as a personal prelate. Its complete name is Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei, but it is also called Prelature of Opus Dei or simply Opus Dei, a Latin expression meaning “Work of God”.

The aim of Opus Dei is to contribute to the evangelizing mission of the Church, by promoting among Christians of all social classes a life fully consistent with their faith, in the middle of the ordinary circumstances of their lives and especially through the sanctification of their work.

Sanctifying work means working according to the spirit of Jesus Christ, trying to carry it out as well as possible, for the glory of God and the service of others. Work then becomes a place of encounter with God, and an environment for self-improvement and social transformation.

The main activity of Opus Dei is centered around the spiritual formation and pastoral care of its members, so that they can carry out, in their own place in the Church and in society, a multifaceted apostolic activity, promoting around them the ideal of the universal call to holiness and apostolate. Faithful of Opus Dei try to find Christian solutions to the problems of society and to give constant witness to their faith.

Opus Dei offers formation and spiritual care not just to its own members but to anyone who wishes to receive it.

## 1.2. Message of Opus Dei

Since its foundation in 1928, Opus Dei has spread the message that all the baptized are called to Christian perfection – to holiness<sup>1</sup> – through the fulfillment of their work and their daily duties. “The spirit of Opus Dei ... leads each person to fulfill the tasks and duties of his own state, of his mission in the Church and in society, with the greatest possible perfection.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Mt 5:48; 1 Thess 4:3; Eph 1:4.

<sup>2</sup> *Conversations with Msgr. Escrivá*, 16.

The spread of this message coincides with one of the main purposes of the Second Vatican Council: to remind everyone that “all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity,”<sup>3</sup> ... “in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life ... They are called there by God so that ... they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. In this way they may make Christ known to others, especially by the testimony of their life.”<sup>4</sup>

### Some of the main features of the message of Opus Dei: Children of God

The whole spirit of Opus Dei is based on a fundamental evangelical principle: through baptism, Christians are children of God. That’s why St. Josemaría said that “divine filiation is the foundation of the spirit of Opus Dei.”<sup>5</sup> Therefore, the formation provided by the prelature seeks to foster confidence in divine providence, simplicity in one’s dialogue with God, a deep awareness of the dignity of each human being and of the need for fraternity among all people, a truly Christian love for the world and for all human realities created by God, and a sense of calm and optimism, together with the joy of letting the Holy Spirit act.

### Christian meaning of ordinary life

A Christian is called to seek holiness, that is identification with Jesus Christ, in and through the ordinary circumstances of life. All virtues are important for a Christian: faith, hope and charity, building on the human virtues – generosity, industriousness, justice, loyalty, cheerfulness, sincerity, and so on. In practicing these virtues, a Christian comes to reflect Jesus Christ.

Another consequence of the sanctifying value of ordinary life is that the little things that fill the life of an ordinary Christian take on great importance. “Great holiness consists in carrying out the little duties of each moment.”<sup>6</sup> Examples of such little things include small acts of service, good manners, respect for others, tidiness, punctuality, etc. These little things acquire real importance for the Christian life if they are done for love of God. Sanctifying work, sanctifying through work, sanctifying oneself in work.

“The spirituality of Opus Dei is based on the sanctification of ordinary work”<sup>7</sup> in the family, at work and in social life. Sanctifying work means carrying it out for the love of God, which means making an effort to do it to the highest standard possible, that is with professional competence and honesty, and with the desire to serve others. Whoever works in this way



<sup>3</sup> Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, 40.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, 31.

<sup>5</sup> *Christ is Passing By*, 64.

<sup>6</sup> *The Way*, 817.

<sup>7</sup> *Conversations with Msgr. Escrivá*, 34.

improves himself and improves others. Any honest work, from the most important to the humblest in human terms, can be sanctified. Fostering this spirit, the faithful of Opus Dei try to contribute radically to the building up and development of society.

### **Charity, apostolate and social action**

The members of Opus Dei try to bear witness to their Christian faith through their ordinary activities and their dealings with others. Their apostolate is directed at everyone without excluding anyone, and is a consequence of Christ's call to love God and others. Therefore their apostolate cannot be separated from the desire to contribute to finding solutions to the material needs and social problems of their surroundings.

### **Life of prayer and sacrifice**

Being in constant contact with God and overcoming oneself are necessary elements of the struggle to sanctify ordinary life. Hence the faithful of Opus Dei take on some specific ways of maintaining and growing a relationship with God: mental prayer, daily Mass if possible, sacramental confession, reading and meditating on the Gospel, devotion to Our Lady, etc. Another equally important element is sacrifice and penance: giving up small comforts, reducing personal consumption, growing in generosity, etc. Members are encouraged above all to seek sacrifice that help them fulfill their duties and make life more pleasant for others.

### **Love for freedom**

Personal freedom is a gift from God, a "wonderful human gift"<sup>8</sup> inseparably united to an equally personal responsibility and respect for the freedom and convictions of others. Consequently Opus Dei fosters respect for the legitimate pluralism which exists among Catholics: "pluralism is not simply tolerated. It is desired and loved, and in no way hindered."<sup>9</sup> The faithful decide for themselves in all professional, family, political, financial or cultural matters with personal freedom and responsibility, without involving the Church or Opus Dei in their choices.

### **Unity of life**

Friendship with God, ordinary day-to-day life at work or at home, the effort to do apostolate, etc. should all be harmoniously fused into a unity of life. In that way a deep consistency will be achieved between action, desires and aspirations. This interior unity will avoid "a kind of double life. On the one hand, an interior life, a life of union with God; and on the other, a separate and distinct professional, social and family life ... There is just one life, made of flesh and spirit. And it is this life which has to become, in both soul and body, holy and filled with God."<sup>10</sup>



*Dahl Paalisbo, a young KALFI member, posted on Facebook, photos of her typhoon-ravaged community on Mactan island, off Cebu.*

*She wanted to help but, being a student, she did not have resources. So, she used social media to call for help. The first one to respond was her mother, who gave goods from her small store.*

<sup>8</sup> *Christ is Passing By*, 184; *Friends of God*, 23.

<sup>9</sup> *Conversations with Msgr. Escrivá*, 67.

<sup>10</sup> *Conversations with Msgr. Escrivá*, 114.

## Family atmosphere

A characteristic of Opus Dei is its Christian family atmosphere. This family tone is present in all activities organized by the Prelature. It also shows through in the family warmth of its centers, the simplicity and trust in personal contacts, and the attitude of service and understanding in daily life.

## Marriage as a Christian vocation

For most ordinary Christians, marriage and family are the setting for their daily sanctification. "For a Christian marriage is not just a social institution, much less a mere remedy for human weakness. It is a real supernatural calling ... Husband and wife are called to sanctify their married life and to sanctify themselves in it." (cf. <https://escriva.org/en/es-cristo-que-pasa/23/>).

## 1.3. Historical overview

- 1928**      *October 2:* While on a spiritual retreat in Madrid, St. Josemaría Escrivá founds Opus Dei under divine inspiration.
- 1930**      *February 14:* The apostolic work with women begins.
- 1933**      The first apostolic initiative of Opus Dei opens in Madrid: the *DYA Academy*, mainly for students.
- 1934**      *DYA* becomes a residence for college students. From that base the founder and the first members offer Christian formation, and spread the message of Opus Dei among young people. An important aspect of this work is the teaching of the Catholic faith, and looking after the poor and sick in the outlying neighborhoods of Madrid.
- 1936**      During the Spanish Civil War, as a consequence of religious persecution, St. Josemaría and other members of Opus Dei are forced to hide in various places of Madrid, and finally flee the city. The circumstances mean a temporary suspension of his plans to expand the apostolic work of Opus Dei to other countries.
- 1939**      Josemaría Escrivá returns to Madrid and restarts the expansion of Opus Dei to other Spanish cities. The start of World War II prevents expansion to other countries.
- 1941**      The bishop of Madrid, Leopoldo Eijo y Garay, grants the first diocesan approval of Opus Dei.
- 1943**      *February 14:* During Mass, God lets St. Josemaría see the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, as a canonical solution to having priests formed in the spirit of Opus Dei.



*The photo (above) shows the bell from the church of Our Lady of the Angels in Madrid, which Saint Josemaría heard ringing when he "saw" Opus Dei in 1928.*





**1944** The bishop of Madrid ordains the first three members of Opus Dei to become priests: Alvaro del Portillo, José María Hernández Garnica, and José Luis Múzquiz.

**1946** St Josemaría moves to Rome. In the years that follow, he travels throughout Europe to prepare the beginnings of Opus Dei in several different countries.

**1947** The Holy See grants Opus Dei the first pontifical approval of a universal character.

**1950** Pius XII grants the definitive approval to Opus Dei. This approval enables married people to join Opus Dei, and secular clergy to be admitted to the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross.

**1952** The *Estudio General de Navarra* begins in Pamplona, Spain. This will become the University of Navarre in 1960.

**1965** Paul VI inaugurates the ELIS Center, a vocational training center for young people set up by members and co-operators of Opus Dei in the outskirts of Rome, together with a parish entrusted to Opus Dei in the same neighborhood.

**1969** A special general congress of Opus Dei meets in Rome to study the change of Opus Dei's legal status in the Church to that of a personal prelature, a juridical structure introduced by the Second Vatican Council and suited to the pastoral characteristics of Opus Dei.



*Pius XII*



**1970-1975** The founder of Opus Dei makes long trips through Latin America, Spain and Portugal, where he addresses large groups of people on topics affecting their Christian life.

**1975** Josemaría Escrivá dies in Rome on June 26. Some 60,000 people belong to Opus Dei at this point. On September 15 Alvaro del Portillo is elected to succeed the founder.

**1982-1983** St John Paul II establishes Opus Dei as a personal prelature, appointing Alvaro del Portillo as its prelate. The formal execution of the pontifical document establishing Opus Dei as a personal prelature takes place on March 19, 1983.

**1991** St John Paul II ordains the Prelate of Opus Dei, Alvaro del Portillo, as bishop.

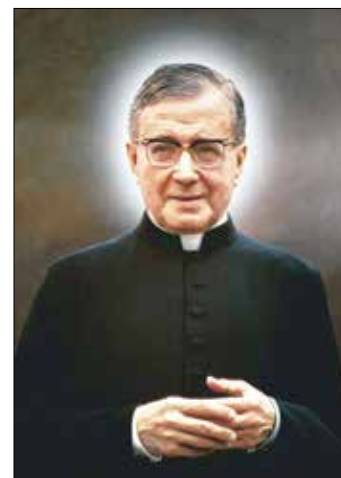
- 1992** Beatification of Josemaría Escrivá in Rome by St. John Paul II.
- 1994-1995** Death of Bishop Alvaro del Portillo in Rome on March 23, 1994. On April 20, St. John Paul II appoints Msgr. Javier Echevarría as prelate of Opus Dei, confirming the election carried out by the general elective congress and, on January 6, 1995, he ordains Msgr. Javier Echevarría as bishop.
- 2002** *October 6:* Canonization of Josemaría Escrivá in St. Peter's Square in Rome.
- 2014** *September 27:* Beatification of Alvaro del Portillo in Madrid.
- 2016** *December 12:* Death of Bishop Javier Echevarría, second successor of St. Josemaría, in Rome.
- 2017** *January 23:* Following the third elective congress of the prelature, Pope Francis appoints Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz as prelate of Opus Dei.
- 2019** *May 18:* Beatification of Guadalupe Ortiz.

#### 1.4. The founder, St. Josemaría Escrivá

Josemaría Escrivá was born in Barbastro, Spain, on January 9, 1902. He had four sisters: Carmen (1899-1957), plus three other younger sisters who died very young; and one brother: Santiago (1919-1994). His parents gave their children a deeply Christian upbringing and education.

In 1915, St. Josemaría's father's textile business failed, so the family relocated to Logroño, where he found other work. It was in Logroño that Josemaría sensed his vocation for the first time. After seeing some bare footprints left in the snow by a friar who had walked that way a short time earlier, he felt that God wanted something from him, though he did not know exactly what. He thought that he could more easily discover what it was if he became a priest, so he began to prepare for the priesthood, first in Logroño and later in Saragossa. Following his father's advice, he also studied for a law degree at the University of Saragossa. His father died in 1924 and Josemaría was left as head of the family. Ordained on March 28, 1925, he began his ministry in a rural parish, and afterwards in Saragossa.

In 1927, with the permission of his bishop, Fr. Josemaría moved to Madrid to work on his doctorate in law. In that city, on October 2, 1928, God showed him clearly the mission he had been hinting to him for several years; and he founded Opus Dei.<sup>11</sup> From that day on, he worked with all his energy to develop the institution that God asked of him, while he continued to



*On October 6, 2002, Pope John Paul II canonized Josemaría Escrivá, calling him "the saint of the ordinary" and describing his teachings as "timely and urgent today."*

<sup>11</sup> cf. *Apostolic Constitution Ut Sit* of John Paul II (November 28, 1982), Introduction

fulfill the various priestly responsibilities he had at that time. These brought him into daily contact with sickness and poverty in the hospitals and the poor districts of Madrid.

When the Spanish Civil War broke out in 1936, Josemaría was in Madrid. The religious persecution forced him to take refuge in a variety of places. He exercised his priestly ministry in a clandestine fashion until he was finally able to leave Madrid in 1937. After escaping across the Pyrenees to southern France, he took up residence in Burgos.

At the end of the war in 1939 he returned to Madrid. In the years that followed he gave many retreats to lay people, priests, and members of religious orders. In the same year, 1939, he completed his doctorate in law.

In 1946 he took up residence in Rome. There he obtained a doctorate in theology from the Lateran University and was named consultor to two Vatican Congregations, as well as honorary member of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, and honorary prelate. He followed closely the preparations for the Second Vatican Council and its various sessions (1962-1965), keeping in touch with many of the Council Fathers. From Rome he frequently went to various countries in Europe, and from 1970 also to countries in Latin America, to spur on the apostolic work of Opus Dei.

He died in Rome on June 26, 1975. Thousands of people, including many bishops (a third of all the bishops in the world), asked the Holy See to open his cause of beatification and canonization.

Pope John Paul II beatified Josemaría Escrivá in 1992. He proclaimed him a saint ten years later, on October 6, 2002. On that occasion he referred to the founder as “the saint of ordinary life.”



*St Josemaría Escrivá with Blessed Alvaro del Portillo and Msgr. Javier Echevarria—both became Prelate of Opus Dei after St Josemaría.*



*Msgr. Javier Echevarria greets Pope John Paul II after the canonization rites of St. Josemaría Escrivá.*



## **1.5. Successors of St. Josemaría as the head of Opus Dei**

### **1.5.1. Blessed Alvaro del Portillo (1975-1994)**

Blessed Alvaro del Portillo was born in Madrid on March 11, 1914. He had doctorates in civil engineering, history and canon law. He was in Opus Dei since 1935. He was a member of the General Council of Opus Dei from 1940 to 1975, serving as secretary general from 1940 to 1947 and from 1956 to 1975. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 25, 1944.

Very soon he became one of the main helpers of the founder and St. Josemaría's closest collaborator till the end of his life. He was a consultant to several Congregations and Councils of the Holy See. He took part in the Second Vatican Council, first as head of the ante-preparatory Commission on the Laity and then as secretary to the Commission on the Discipline of the Clergy, and also as a consultant to other commissions. His books *Faithful and Laity in the Church* (1972) and *On Priesthood* (1974) are largely the fruit of that experience. He also helped in the production of the new Code of Canon Law, promulgated by St John Paul II in 1983.

In 1975 he was elected to succeed Josemaría Escrivá as head of Opus Dei. When Opus Dei was established as a personal prelate in 1982, Blessed Alvaro was appointed prelate. Pope John Paul II ordained him as bishop on January 6, 1991.

During his nineteen years as head of Opus Dei, the work of the prelature started in twenty other countries. In 1985 he founded the Roman Academic Center of the Holy Cross, which would later become the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. He died in Rome on March 23, 1994. Pope John Paul II went to pray before his mortal remains. He was beatified on September 27, 2014 in Madrid, the city where he had been born. “Especially outstanding was his love for the Church,” wrote Pope Francis in a message he sent for the occasion.



### **1.5.2. Bishop Javier Echevarría (1994-2016)**

Javier Echevarría was born in Madrid on June 14, 1932. He was the youngest of eight children. He studied first in San Sebastian, in the school run by Marianist priests, and later in Madrid, in a Marists Brothers school.

In 1948 he met some young members of Opus Dei in a student residence. On 8 September of that year, feeling called by God to seek holiness in ordinary life, he asked for admission in Opus Dei. He started his Law degree in the University of Madrid and continued it in Rome. In 1953 he obtained a doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas, and in 1955 one in Civil Law at the Pontifical Lateran University. On 7 August of that year he was ordained to the priesthood.

He worked closely with St Josemaría, acting as his personal secretary from 1953 until the latter's death in 1975. When Blessed Alvaro del Portillo succeeded St. Josemaría as head of Opus Dei that September, Msgr. Javier Echevarría was appointed secretary general of Opus Dei and, in 1982, vicar

general. In 1994, following the death of Blessed Alvaro, he was elected prelate of Opus Dei and on January 6, 1995, he was ordained a bishop in St Peter's Basilica by St John Paul II.

From the start of his ministry as prelate his priorities were the evangelization in the fields of the family, young people and culture. He promoted the start of the formative activities of the prelature in 16 countries, such as Russia, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. He travelled to the five continents to encourage the evangelizing work of the faithful of Opus Dei and others who take part in its apostolates. He encouraged the start of many solidarity and healthcare projects, especially for the disadvantaged. He followed with particular interest certain projects set up to help the sick and immigrants.

In his catechetical journeys and pastoral ministry, the main themes in his preaching were love for Jesus Christ on the cross, fraternal charity, the importance of grace and the word of God, union with the Pope, family life and service to others. He wrote numerous pastoral letters and several books on the spiritual life, one of which has been translated into English: *Paths to God – Building a Christian Life in the 21st Century* (2001). His other books are in Spanish and include those on service to the Church (2001), the suffering of Jesus in Gethsemane (2005), the Eucharist and the Christian life (2005), the Mass (2010), and the Creed (2014). His last publication (also in Spanish) is a collection of meditations on the works of mercy (2016).

He was a member of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and of the Apostolic Signature. He took part in the meetings of the Synod of Bishops held in 2001, 2005 and 2012, as well as those dedicated to America (1997) and Europe (1999). He died in Rome on December 12, 2016, from respiratory insufficiency.





## 1.6. Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz, prelate of Opus Dei

Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz was born in Paris on October 27, 1944, to a Spanish family exiled in France because of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). He is the youngest of eight children. In 1961 he asked for admission in Opus Dei. He obtained a degree in Physics in 1966 at the University of Barcelona, and a degree in Theology in 1969 at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome. In 1971 he obtained a doctorate in Theology at the University of Navarre.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1971. In his first few years as a priest he concentrated his ministry on young people and university students. In the 1980s he was one of the professors who started the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, where he was an ordinary professor of Fundamental Theology.

He is a consultor for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (1986), for the Congregation for the Clergy (2003), and for the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization (2011). In 1989 he entered the Pontifical Theological Academy.

Some of his books have been translated into English: *The Mystery of Jesus Christ, God as Father and Love in Action*. He has written extensively on theology and philosophy, both books and articles for specialist magazines. In 2013 a book-length interview with Rafael Serrano was published with the title *God, the Church and the World*.

For 22 years he was a close collaborator of the prelate of Opus Dei, whom he accompanied in his pastoral visits to more than 70 nations. From 1994 to 2014 he was vicar general of the prelature and, from 2014, auxiliary vicar. On January 23, 2017, following the third elective congress of the prelature, Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz was appointed prelate of Opus Dei by Pope Francis.



## 2. THE FAITHFUL OF THE PRELATURE

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### 2.1. Priests and laity

The Opus Dei prelate is made up of a prelate, a presbyterate or clergy of its own, and laity, both women and men.

The members of Opus Dei are faithful (christifideles) of the prelate. The lay faithful are at the same time faithful of the diocese and the parish where they live. They are ordinary Catholics whose membership in Opus Dei does not involve a special status or consecration in the Church. They come from all social classes and cultures and are involved in the most varied jobs or professions. Their status in civil society and the State is the same as the other citizens with whom they live.

There are no categories or degrees of membership in Opus Dei. They all are and know themselves to be fully faithful of the





prelature. There are only differences in the way of living that same vocation according to the personal circumstances of each one. These circumstances determine the degree of objective availability for the tasks of the prelature – as such and in that sense, there are numeraries, associates and supernumeraries.<sup>12</sup>

The majority of the faithful of Opus Dei (around 70%) are supernumerary members. Generally they are married men or women, for whom the sanctification of their family duties is the most important part of their vocation.

The numeraries and associates commit themselves to celibacy, for apostolic reasons, and so are more easily available for the tasks of formation in the prelature. Celibacy does not change in any way their identity as ordinary faithful, their professional situation or their place in the Church and in society.

The associates of the prelature live with their families, or wherever is convenient according to their personal circumstances. Numeraries ordinarily live in small groups, in centers of Opus Dei. They have their own jobs and remain available to attend to the apostolic undertakings and the formation of the other faithful of the prelature. Some numerary

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<sup>12</sup> St Josemaría chose expressions from civil life because the ecclesiastical terms that existed at the time were used for consecrated persons and, if they were to be applied to members of Opus Dei, they might make it difficult to understand their secular status. These names continue to be used in academic and diplomatic environments.

women, called assistant numeraries, have as their main profession, the management and administration of Opus Dei Centers, so that the activities of evangelization of the prelature are carried out with the spirit of a Christian family. This work constitutes for them their ordinary professional activity.

The priests of the prelature come from the laymen of Opus Dei: numeraries and associates who, after years of belonging to the prelature, having undertaken the studies required for priesthood and discerned that call, are invited by the prelate to receive Holy Orders. Their pastoral ministry is carried out mainly at the service of the people and apostolic works of the prelature, contributing in this way also to the pastoral work of the local diocese. Their help can also be given directly, for example, through pastoral work in parishes, acting as university or hospital chaplains, or also working in the diocesan offices.



## 2.2. Incorporation into the prelature

Those who ask to join Opus Dei do so moved by a divine calling. Such a calling is a specification or determination of the Christian vocation they received at baptism, and it leads them to seek sanctity and participate in the mission of the Church according to the spirit with which God inspired St Josemaría.

In order to join Opus Dei a person must freely ask to do so, in the personal conviction of having received this divine vocation; and the request needs to have been accepted by the authorities of the prelature.

The request is made in writing, with a letter, and admission is granted after a minimum of six months. After an additional period of at least one year, the person can be temporarily incorporated into the prelature through a formal declaration. In accordance with canon law, nobody under 18 may be juridically incorporated into Opus Dei. After a minimum of five more years, the incorporation can become definitive.<sup>13</sup>

Incorporation into Opus Dei means, on the part of the prelature, a commitment to provide the person with ongoing formation in the Catholic faith and in the spirit of Opus Dei, as well as the necessary pastoral care from the priests of the prelature. On the part of the person to be incorporated, it means a commitment to remain under the jurisdiction of the prelate in all that concerns the aim of the prelature, and to respect the norms by which it is governed,<sup>14</sup> as well as striving to become holy and to do apostolate according to the spirit of Opus Dei.

This implies, mainly, fostering the spiritual life through prayer, sacrifice and the reception of the sacraments; attending the formation provided by the prelature to acquire a deep and permanent knowledge of the doctrine of the Church and the spirit of Opus Dei; taking part in the evangelizing task of the prelature, in the measure of the possibilities of each one, etc. Departure from the prelature brings about the cessation of mutual rights and duties.<sup>15</sup>



### 2.3. Religious and spiritual formation

The prelature provides its faithful with ongoing religious and spiritual formation in a manner compatible with each individual's professional, family and social duties.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 17-25.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 27.

<sup>15</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 33.

The various means of formation are a help to gain a thorough knowledge of Catholic faith and morals, to acquire a deep life of piety, to seek identification with Christ in ordinary life.

These means of formation include weekly classes, called “circles”, dealing with doctrinal and ascetical topics. The monthly day of recollection involves setting aside some hours, on one day a month, for personal prayer and reflection on topics to do with Christian life. In addition, once a year, the faithful of the prelature attend a retreat lasting between three and five days, and a theology course lasting between one and three weeks.

Similar activities are also offered to people who take part in the apostolic work of the prelature, and to anyone else who wishes to attend.

This formation is given to men and women separately in the centers of the Opus Dei prelature and in other appropriate places. For example, a circle may be given at the home of one of the people who attends, and a day of recollection may be held in a church whose parish priest permits it to be used for that purpose.

## 2.4. Professional and public activity

Joining the Opus Dei Prelature brings about no change in an individual’s personal status. The rights and duties he or she has as a member of civil society and the Church remain the same. “The laity incorporated into the prelature do not change their own personal theological or canonical status, that of ordinary lay faithful, and it is as such that they conduct themselves in all their activities.”<sup>16</sup> Their rights and duties in society and in the Church continue as before.

By virtue of the exclusively spiritual nature of its mission, the prelature does not intervene in temporal questions that confront its lay faithful. Each one acts with complete personal freedom and responsibility.

Opus Dei does not treat the decisions of its members as its own. As far as their professional activities as well as their social and political actions are concerned, each member of the prelature, within the limits of Catholic doctrine freely assumed, has the same freedom as any other citizen. The authorities of the prelature must totally avoid even so much as giving advice on these matters.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Congregation for Bishops, Declaration August 23, 1982, in *L'Osservatore Romano*, November 28, 1982, and in *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* 75, 1983, 464-468.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 88.3.



### 3. PRIESTLY SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CROSS

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<sup>18</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 57-78. The Second Vatican Council underlines the importance of the associations for clerics: “One should hold also in high regard and eagerly promote those associations which, having been recognized by competent ecclesiastical authority, encourage priestly holiness in the ministry by the use of an appropriate and duly approved rule of life and by fraternal aid, intending thus to do service to the whole order of priests” (Second Vatican Council, *Decree Presbyterorum ordinis*, no. 8).

The Priestly Society of the Holy Cross is an association of clergy intrinsically united to Opus Dei. Its president is the prelate of Opus Dei.<sup>18</sup> The members of this association are the priests and deacons incardinated in the prelature, as well as many other priests and deacons incardinated in dioceses and other ecclesiastical circumscriptions, who join the Priestly Society.

The members who are incardinated in dioceses or other circumscriptions receive spiritual help to seek holiness in the exercise of their ministry, according to the spirit of Opus Dei. Their membership in the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross does not involve incorporation into the presbyterate of the prelature. Each one continues to be incardinated in his own diocese and depends solely on his own bishop, to whom alone he gives an account of his pastoral work. Among the members,



*The aim of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross is to promote the sanctity of the secular clergy according to the spirit and ascetical practice of Opus Dei (cf. St. John Paul II, Apostolic Constitution Ut Sit, November 28, 1982, preface and art. I). Priests incardinated in various dioceses join the Priestly Society, so as to find a help and a stimulus in seeking sanctity in their priestly ministry, which embraces all the dimensions of their existence.*

the following are expressly fostered: love for their diocese and fraternal unity with all the members of the diocesan clergy; obedience to and veneration for their own bishop; piety, the study of the sacred sciences, zeal for souls and a spirit of sacrifice; the effort to promote vocations; and the desire to fulfill as well as possible the ministries entrusted to them by their bishop.<sup>19</sup>

As in the case of lay people incorporated into the prelature, for a priest to be admitted into the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross he needs the inner conviction of having received a call from God to seek sanctity according to the spirit of Opus Dei. The other conditions and timing for their incorporation are similar to those that apply to lay people in the prelature.

The specific means of formation which diocesan priests of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross receive are similar to those offered to the lay faithful of the prelature, such as doctrinal or ascetical classes and monthly days of recollection. In addition, each one makes his own arrangements regarding the common means of formation laid down for priests by canon law, and those his own bishop may arrange or recommend.

The spiritual and formative activities of the members of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross do not interfere with the ministry entrusted to them by their bishop. The coordination of these activities is the responsibility of the spiritual director of the Opus Dei prelature, who has no governmental role in the prelature.

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<sup>19</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 59.1 and 61.

## 4. COOPERATORS OF OPUS DEI

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Cooperators of Opus Dei are men and women who, without belonging to Opus Dei, collaborate with its work. They ordinarily help in various educational, charitable and cultural activities in which Opus Dei takes responsibility for the Christian orientation. Their cooperation arises from the conviction that the spirit of Opus Dei and the work of its members help the development of a more human society and the spread of the Gospel. No specific vocation is required to be a cooperator.

Cooperators can help in the work of the prelatore both spiritually and materially. Those who are believers commit to pray, if possible daily, for Opus Dei and its apostolates. The majority help in the educational and social projects also with financial or material contributions, with their work or their advice.

Cooperators receive the spiritual benefits of the prayer of all the faithful of Opus Dei and the possibility of taking part, if they so wish, in the means of formation. On the other hand, the Holy See has granted some indulgences which Catholic cooperators can obtain on specific days of the year.

Among the cooperators of Opus Dei there are also some who are not Catholic, not Christian and some who are not believers. Some religious communities (which currently number several hundred) who help with their daily prayer for Opus Dei, are collective cooperators of Opus Dei.

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*Kaye became a cooperator because it made her give herself to others. Hence she organized an NGO to reach out to poor communities in the country.*



# 5. APOSTOLIC INITIATIVES

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## 5.1. Corporate and personal initiatives

Each faithful of Opus Dei makes an effort to live an authentic life of faith in his or her place in society. Opus Dei supports them in this endeavor, and its principal activity consists in this.<sup>20</sup>

Besides their personal witness, the faithful of Opus Dei, with the cooperators, and many other people, moved by the Gospel message of helping those in need, can also work together, as when they set up and run educational, charitable and cultural undertakings with the clear aim of rendering a service to society.

These are always civil initiatives, and are financially and professionally managed by those who set them up, with full personal responsibility.

## 5.2. Relationship with Opus Dei

Some of these initiatives entrust their Christian orientation to the Opus Dei prelate, through appropriate means of doctrinal and spiritual formation, as well pastoral care of those who wish.

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<sup>20</sup> Cf. *Conversations with Msgr. Escrivá*, no. 27.





There are two types of agreement between these initiatives and the prelatore:

- a) In the case of those called corporate apostolic undertakings, Opus Dei as an institution contributes to the development of the Christian life among the people involved, providing teachers, mentors, consultants, and pastoral care of priests of the Prelature.
- b) In the case of other private institutions, members of Opus Dei help as religion teachers, mentors and priests in providing Christian orientation and spiritual assistance.

Opus Dei only makes agreements with initiatives of clear public benefit. It does not get involved with business activities, commercial companies, political organizations, etc.

### 5.3. Examples of corporate works around the world

Among the corporate works are secondary schools, universities, centers for the promotion

of women, medical clinics in underdeveloped areas, schools for farm workers, institutes for vocational training, student residences and cultural centers. Some examples are:

The **University of Navarre**, founded in Pamplona (Spain) in 1952, has 13 faculties and offers more than 60 academic degrees. The campus also includes the University Hospital (Clínica Universidad de Navarra). The **IESE** business school, is part of the university and has branches in Barcelona, Madrid, New York and Munich. Examples of other universities of this type are the **Universidad de Piura** (Perú), the **Universidad de La Sabana** (Colombia) and the **University of Asia and the Pacific** (Philippines).

**Harambee Africa International** is an international solidarity initiative, focused on improving the lives of people in Sub-Saharan Africa. Started in 2002, its varied projects benefitting 20 countries so far include: women empowerment through craft training schools; training for sustainable agriculture; fight against AIDS transmission

*A corporate work of Opus Dei, the University of Navarre started in 1952 as a law school with 48 students and four professors. It has expanded over the years into a contemporary institution offering dozens of majors to more than 10,000 students, and yet still remains moored to its founding principles.*



for mother and child; education initiatives for teachers and students; emergency medical services for mothers and children; libraries; family farm schools; youth projects for orphans and the handicapped; well water; and scholarships for nursing students, among others.

**Monkole**, in Kinshasa (Congo), is a hospital which attends to people in the capital who are in extreme need. Medical assistance is also given at mobile dispensaries at two locations outside the capital (Eliba and Kimbondo). Attached to Monkole is the Higher Institute of Nursing, which prepares young Congolese women for the nursing profession.

**Midtown Sports and Cultural Center**, in Chicago (USA), is situated in a multiracial neighborhood where many young people live. Midtown uses sports to make up for the disadvantages of the environment, motivating boys and helping them keep their free time occupied with activities that promote their personal growth. It also provides tutoring, educational courses, Christian formation, and reinforces or complements public school classes. Of Midtown's students, 95% finish high school, and 60% – a figure well above the average for young people in that area generally – go on to college.

**Ondare Center for Professional Formation** in Toshi (to the west of Mexico City), is an educational institute for women in a rural area populated by numerous ethnic groups. Among other activities, it offers administrative training to help women find positions in business and public life in nearby cities.

**Kianda Foundation** in Nairobi (Kenya), is an educational foundation

set up in 1961 for the promotion of social and spiritual welfare of women in that country. Through programmes run by university students, they help women living in rural communities to set up and run their own businesses. An example is **Kimlea Technical School**.

**The Baytree Centre**, in London (UK), is a social inclusion charity, based in the heart of Brixton. An integral part of the community since 1991, it gives English classes and provides integration support for newly arrived migrants and refugees. Baytree offers workshops, academic coaching, personal mentoring, and other personal development activities for women and girls from inner city families.

**Kinal, Vocational and Technical Training**, set up in Guatemala in 1961, offers young people from low-income families the opportunity to acquire secondary and technical education. It also offers training courses for adults, mostly for technical jobs. Some 200 students and technicians have graduated annually for the last 15 years.

**El Peñón Experimental Agricultural Center** and **Montefalco School**, in the state of Morelos (Mexico), have provided education to the peasant population in the Valle de Amilpas since 1953, and have contributed to raising their cultural and socio-economic level. The peasant population in the Valle de Amilpas since 1953.

**Las Garzas Agricultural School**, in Chile, is a technical college started in 1963 for vocational training in the agricultural area. Thanks to an Alumni Association which provides the necessary funding, the course is free for all pupils.



## 6. ORGANIZATION

### 6.1. Personal prelatures

The Second Vatican Council created the juridical structure known as the personal prelate, in the decree *Presbyterorum ordinis*, no. 10, which stated that, among other institutions, “special dioceses or personal prelatures” could be established “to carry out special pastoral tasks in different regions or among any race in any part of the world.” A new juridical figure was described which, being flexible in nature, could contribute to the effective spreading of the Christian message and Christian life.

Personal prelatures are, therefore, institutions belonging to the pastoral and hierarchical structure of the Church.<sup>21</sup> They depend on the Dicastery for the Clergy and are established by the Pope, having listened to the opinion of the Episcopal Conferences. At the head of a prelate there is a pastor, a prelate, who is



appointed by the Pope. Priests and lay people depend on the prelate who exercises over them a certain power of governance or jurisdiction. The power of governance of the prelate is restricted to those aspects which do not interfere with the power of governance of the diocesan bishop.

Most jurisdictions in the Church are territorial, as in the case of a diocese, where the faithful who belong to it are determined according to their territory or domicile. However, jurisdiction is not always linked to territory, but may depend on other criteria, such as employment, religious rite, immigrant status, or an agreement with the jurisdictional body in question. The last-mentioned applies in the case of military ordinariates and personal prelatures.

Because of their structure and other characteristics, personal prelatures are clearly different both from associations and movements of the faithful, and from religious institutes and the consecrated life.

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<sup>21</sup> Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, canons 294-297, and the constitution *Pastor bonus* of John Paul II (1988), no. 80.

## 6.2. The Opus Dei prelature

Opus Dei was established in 1982 as a personal prelature of international scope. It is governed by the provisions of the general law of the Church, by the apostolic constitution *Ut sit* (of 28 November 1982, formally executed on 19 March 1983) and by its own statutes (Codex iuris particularis Operis Dei).<sup>22</sup> This juridical structure corresponds to its nature, as a single organism made up of laity and priests cooperating in a pastoral and apostolic task: striving for and spreading the ideal of holiness in the middle of the world – in daily work and in the ordinary circumstances of life.

The lay faithful of the prelature are, and remain, as any other lay Catholic, faithful of the dioceses in which they live.<sup>23</sup> They depend on the prelate in what refers to the fulfillment of the obligations of a spiritual and apostolic character, which they took on when they made the declaration for their incorporation into the prelature.<sup>24</sup>

Priests who are part of the presbyterate of the prelature depend fully on the prelate.<sup>25</sup> The prelature is responsible for their financial support.

## 6.3. Structure

The prelate is the proper ordinary of the prelature. The style of government in Opus Dei is collegial. The prelate and his vicars always carry out their work assisted by councils, made up largely of laity: the Central Advisory for the women and the General Council for the men. General congresses of the prelature are usually held every eight years. They are attended by members from the countries in which Opus Dei is present. At these congresses the work of the prelature is studied, and the proposed direction of its future pastoral activity is presented to the prelate. When it is necessary to appoint a new prelate, a general elective congress is convened. His election must be confirmed by the Pope,<sup>26</sup> who thereby confers the office of prelate on the person elected.<sup>27</sup>

The prelature of Opus Dei is divided into areas or territories called regions. At the head of each region, whose boundaries usually coincide with those of a particular country, is a Regional Vicar and two councils: a Regional Advisory for women and a Regional Commission for men.

Some of the regions are further subdivided into delegations. Within the limits of its territory, a delegation has a corresponding governmental organization: a vicar of the delegation and two councils.

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<sup>22</sup> Pope Paul VI and his successors decided that a study should be undertaken of the possibility of giving Opus Dei a juridical form suited to its true nature. In the light of the documents of the Council, this form was to be that of a personal prelature. In 1969 work started on this.

<sup>23</sup> Cf. Statutes, 172.2.

<sup>24</sup> Cf. Statutes, 27.3 and 125.2.

<sup>25</sup> Cf. Statutes, 125.2.

<sup>26</sup> Cf. Statutes, 130.

<sup>27</sup> Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, can. 178-179.

Finally, at local level, there are the centers of Opus Dei. These are dedicated to organizing the means of formation and pastoral care of the faithful of the prelature in a particular area. Centers may be for women or for men.



#### 6.4. Relations with the dioceses

The lay faithful of Opus Dei continue to be faithful of the dioceses in which they reside (as is the case for members of the military ordinariates or other personal circumscriptions) and thus remain under the authority of the diocesan bishop in exactly the same way and regarding the same matters as any other Catholic in the diocese. The jurisdiction of the prelate extends to the obligations contracted by the faithful with the prelature.

The priests of the prelature foster fraternal relations with the members of the diocesan presbyterate, and observe with all due care the general discipline of the clergy.<sup>28</sup> Diocesan bishops may, with the prior consent of the prelate or his vicar, appoint a priest of the presbyterate of the prelature to a position or office in the diocese (e.g. parish priest or judge). Such a priest will render an account of his work only to the diocesan bishop and will carry it out according to the bishop's directives.

Opus Dei's Statutes (title IV, chapter V) lay down criteria for ensuring a harmonious relationship between the prelature and the dioceses within whose territory the prelature carries out its specific mission. Some characteristics of this relationship are the following:

- a) Opus Dei never begins its apostolic work or establishes any center of the prelature without the prior consent of the local bishop.
- b) When an existing church or parish is to be entrusted to the

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<sup>28</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 41 and 56.

prelature, an agreement is drawn up between the diocesan bishop and the prelate or the relevant regional vicar. The general regulations of the diocese governing churches in the care of secular clergy will be observed in such cases.<sup>29</sup>

- c) The regional authorities of the prelature regularly inform and keep in touch with the bishops of dioceses in which the prelature carries out its pastoral and apostolic work, and also with the bishops holding offices within the Episcopal Conferences and related agencies.<sup>30</sup>

The apostolic work of the members of Opus Dei, like that of many other Catholics, seeks to bring about Christian renewal, the benefits of which will, with the grace of God, be experienced by parishes and local churches throughout the world. These include conversions, a greater participation in the Eucharist, more assiduous reception of the other sacraments, the spreading of the Gospel message to many who are distant from the faith, initiatives on behalf of those in need, improved civic and social responsibility, helping out with catechism courses and other parish activities, and cooperation with diocesan bodies.<sup>31</sup>

## 6.5. Financial matters

The faithful of the prelature are responsible for providing for their own personal and family needs by means of their ordinary work.<sup>32</sup> Together with the cooperators, they also take on responsibility for the costs incurred in carrying out the pastoral work of the prelature. These costs are essentially those relating to the support and formation of the priests of the prelature; those of the curia of the prelature, the regional vicar and the central offices in each region or delegation; the alms which the prelature provides, and the contributions sent, in case of need, to the parents of numeraries and associates.

In addition, the faithful of Opus Dei, with the assistance of the cooperators and many others, develop social initiatives, on a non-profit making basis, for the good of many souls. These include charitable and educational activities where the spiritual and doctrinal orientation is entrusted to the prelature. Each undertaking is financed in the same way as any other similar institution: e.g. by residential fees, grants, donations, etc.

Obviously, the faithful of Opus Dei, as all other Catholics, also contribute to their parishes, or to whatever diocesan or religious initiatives they want.

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<sup>29</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 180.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 174.2.

<sup>31</sup> As John Paul II has stated "The fact that the lay faithful belong both to their own particular Church and to the prelature, in which they are incorporated, means that the mission proper to the prelature flows together with the evangelizing effort made by each particular Church, as the Second Vatican Council foresaw when it desired the figure of personal prelatures." (John Paul II, Address 17/3/2001, no.1, in *L'Osservatore Romano*, 18/3/2001, p.6)

<sup>32</sup> Cf. *Statutes*, 94.2.





## 7. OPUS DEI IN THE PHILIPPINES

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*St. Escriva meets Bernie Villegas, the first member of Opus Dei from the Philippines.*

### 7.1. History of Opus Dei in the Philippines

As early as the mid-1940s, the founder of Opus Dei, Josemaría Escrivá, had already been requested by Alberto Balcells, a Spaniard who had settled in the island of Negros, to send people of Opus Dei to the Philippines. At that time, however, Opus Dei was focused on its work of evangelization in Western Europe and the American Continent.

The opportune time came when three young Filipinos – Bernardo Villegas, Jesus Estanislao and Placido Mapa – returned to the Philippines in 1964 from their studies at Harvard University in the US. While at Harvard, the three of them attended activities organized by Opus Dei at the Elmbrook University Center, located at the very heart of the campus. Later on, they joined Opus Dei.

In 1964, the apostolate of Opus Dei started in a small house on C. Ayala Street in Singalong, Manila, close to some colleges where some of the first members of Opus Dei were studying. Bernie Villegas and Jess Estanislao were joined in late 1964 by two priests from Spain, Fr. José Morales, who became the first head of Opus Dei in the Philippines, and Fr. Javier de Pedro; and a young engineer, Manila-born José Rivera. By April 1965, the apostolic activities moved to a bigger house in Malate where the Maynilad Study Center became a venue for education and training of both university students and professional men.

In October 1965, Soledad Usechi, Lali Sastre and Maria Teresa Baron arrived from Spain to start the work of Opus Dei with women. Through the help of Doña Luisa Lorenzo, whom they met in Madrid, a modest house was acquired on Leon Guinto Street in Singalong, Manila. Rina Villegas was the first Filipina student to join Opus Dei in December of that year. When the Mayana School of Home and Fine Arts for women was established in 1966, the apostolic activities with married women and house helpers began. Tanglaw Residence for female students was established in 1967.

The work of evangelization spread to other university campuses, especially at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. By that time, two other priests,

Fr. José Cremades and Fr. John Portavella, arrived from the United States, to attend to the growing number of students and professionals attending the activities of Opus Dei. To serve the northern part of Manila, the Banahaw Cultural Center was established in 1967 at a residence on N. Domingo Street in Cubao, Quezon City.

In August 1967, Jesus Estanislao and Bernardo Villegas established a business and economic think tank called the Center for Research and Communication (CRC), which would later on develop into a full-blown university, the University of Asia and the Pacific, in 1995. CRC was an instrument for Opus Dei to carry the Church to the workplace, imparting Catholic social teachings to professionals in journalism, law, business, education and other key sectors.

In the mid-1970s, members of Opus Dei, such as Placido Jr. and Corazon Mapa, Miguel and Maria Teresa Guerero, together with many other parents set up the Parents for Education Foundation (PAREF) to establish schools for their children. They were inspired by the teaching of St. Josemaría that parents are the primary educators of their children. The chaplaincy of these schools would be entrusted to the priests of Opus Dei. The first ones were PAREF-Woodrose School for girls in 1977 and PAREF-Southridge School for boys in 1979. Since then, more schools organized by parents have been established in



*On October 6, 1965, Sole Usechi, Maria Teresa Martinez Baron and Lali Sastre were in a small living room inside the headquarters building of Opus Dei in Rome. A few months earlier, they had received the invitation from the Founder of Opus Dei to start apostolic work in the Philippines.*

Quezon City, Cebu, Iloilo, Antipolo and Cagayan de Oro.

Members of Opus Dei have cooperated with other men and women of good will in trying to apply the social doctrine of the Church, especially the preferential option for the poor. Together they have established training centers for out-of-school youth and girls from rural areas in fields like hotel and restaurant management, electro-mechanical skills, small scale farming and information technology. These technical schools – Punlaan School, Anihan School, Dualtech Training Center, Center for Industrial Technology and Enterprise (CITE), the Dagatan Family Farm School, the Balete Family Farm School for girls and the Dingle Family Farm School – have helped thousands of low-income households overcome poverty by giving their children skills that make them very employable and increase their potential to earn.

The expansion of the work of evangelization of Opus Dei outside of Metro Manila started in 1972 when the Makiling Conference Center (a venue for spiritual retreats and classes on Catholic teachings) was built in the city of Calamba, Laguna. The expansion to the provinces continued when the first centers in Cebu opened in 1981, followed by Iloilo, Bacolod and Davao. Apostolic activities are held as well in Angeles City, Tarlac, Baguio, Lipa, Batangas, Legaspi, Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro, Canlubang and Mendez.

There are approximately 3,000 members of Opus Dei in the Philippines. The Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in the Philippines is Fr. Julio Diéguez, with office at 20 Sampagueta Street corner Balete Drive, 1112 New Manila, Quezon City, Philippines.

## 7.2. Centers of Opus Dei in the Philippines

### 7.2.1. Centers for Women

#### ALABANG AND LAS PIÑAS

##### Crestfield Center

109 Marcos Alvares St., Talon Uno,  
Las Piñas City  
Tel. (+632) 8806-7257  
Fax. (+632) 8806-7273  
Email: crestfield2018@gmail.com  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/crestfieldcenter](http://www.facebook.com/crestfieldcenter)

##### Narra Nueva Study Center

21 Corregidor Street corner Ambil Street  
Tierra Nueva Village, Cupang,  
Muntinlupa City 1771  
Tel. (+632) 8807-0588  
Email: narranueva@gmail.com  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/narranueva](http://www.facebook.com/narranueva)

#### ANTIPOLO

##### Tipolo Study Center

Block 1, Lot 8, Mills Street, Sta. Monica 3  
Mission Hills Subdivision, Antipolo  
Tel. (+632) 8637-1641  
Email: tipolocenter@gmail.com  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tipolostudycenter](http://www.facebook.com/tipolostudycenter)

#### DAVAO CITY

##### Dayao Study Center

Quinto Apartments, Quimpo Boulevard  
Tel. (+6382) 296-1725  
Email: lamdagfoundation@yahoo.com  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dayaostudycenter](http://www.facebook.com/dayaostudycenter)

#### MAKATI CITY

##### Bel-air Center

26 Jupiter Street, Belair Subdivision,  
Makati City  
Tel. (+632) 8895-3352  
Email: belaircenter20@gmail.com



### Melantic Center

17 Melantic St., San Lorenzo Village,  
Makati City  
Tel. (+632) 8817-3932; 8817-9801  
Email: 17melanticcenter@gmail.com

### MANDALUYONG CITY

#### Calayan Cultural Center

120 Lopez Rizal St., Mandaluyong City  
Tel. (+632) 8531-7486  
Email: calayancultural@gmail.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/  
calayanyuppies

### CITY OF MANILA

#### Iraya Study Center

9th & 10th Floors, Mt. Carmel Residences  
S.H. Loyola corner Sulucan Street,  
Sampaloc, Manila  
Tel. (+632) 8354-2745  
Email: irayastudycenter@gmail.com  
Website: www.irayastudycenter.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/  
irayaphilippines

#### Tahilan Residence and Study Center

2396 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila  
Tel. (+632) 8525-7574; 8536-6342  
Email: tahilanmgmt@gmail.com  
Website: www.tahilan.org  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/  
tahilanresidence.studycenter

### PASIG CITY

#### Balanghai Study Center

21 General Malvar St., San Antonio Village,  
Pasig City  
Tel. (+632) 8634-7223; 8634-7224  
Email: balanghaistudycenter@gmail.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/balanghai

#### Dalayrayan Center

4 Escriba Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City  
1600  
Tel. (+632) 8695-3236  
Email: dalayrayan@gmail.com

### Pasig Center

22 General Capinpin St., San Antonio  
Village, Pasig City  
Tel. (+632) 8656-2984  
Email: pasig.center@gmail.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/  
yuppietimeout

### QUEZON CITY

#### Daniw Study Center

90 Esteban Abada St., Loyola Heights,  
Quezon City  
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Email: daniwcenter@gmail.com  
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/  
DaniwStudyCenter

#### Mayana Cultural Center

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Email: centermayana@gmail.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/  
MYPmakeyourpath

#### Tanglaw University Center

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Subdivision, Quezon City  
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/  
happytothecore

### BACOLOD CITY

#### Kasanag Study Center

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## CALAMBA CITY

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## CEBU CITY

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/banilad.studycenter](http://www.facebook.com/banilad.studycenter)

## ILOILO CITY

### Tawili University Center

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tawili92](http://www.facebook.com/tawili92)

## 7.2.2. Centers for Men

## ALABANG AND MUNTINLUPA

### Molave Study Center

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Tel. (+632) 8842-1301  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MolaveStudyCenter](http://www.facebook.com/MolaveStudyCenter)

## MAKATI CITY

### Sangandaan sa Makati Cultural Center

119 Aguirre Street corner Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati CBD 1229  
Tel. (+632) 8819-0728

## CITY OF MANILA

### Isarog Cultural Center

762 Julio Nakpil Street cor Pilar-Hidalgo Lim St, Brgy 696, Malate, Manila 1004  
Tel. (+632) 8522-2716  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/isarogcenter](http://www.facebook.com/isarogcenter)

### Maynilad University Center

5th Floor, Torre Lorenzo Residences  
Pablo Ocampo Street corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila 1004  
Tel. (+632) 5313-6717  
Website: [maynilad.org](http://maynilad.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MayniladUC](http://www.facebook.com/MayniladUC)

### Sarangani Study Center

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Sampaloc, Manila 1008  
Tel. (+632) 8365-0810  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saranganisc](http://www.facebook.com/saranganisc)

## PASIG CITY

### Amber Drive University Center

4 St. Josemaría Escrivá Drive  
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600  
Tel. (+632) 8636-6119  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AmberDriveUC](http://www.facebook.com/AmberDriveUC)

## QUEZON CITY

### Banahaw Cultural Center

152 N. Domingo Avenue  
Cubao, Quezon City 1109  
Tel. (+632) 8727-2289  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/banahawculturalcenter](http://www.facebook.com/banahawculturalcenter)

### Kapuluan Center

17 Maginhawa Street  
UP Village, Quezon City 1101  
Tel. (+632) 8922-9613

### Lantaka Youth Club

28 Eugenio Lopez Street  
South Triangle, Quezon City 1103  
Tel. and Viber: (+63 956) 302-7190



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LantakaYouthClub](http://www.facebook.com/LantakaYouthClub)

**Lauan University Center**  
111 B. Gonzales Street. Loyola Heights,  
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### BACOLOD CITY

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### CEBU CITY

**Sugbu Study Center**  
377 John Paul II Avenue

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### DAVAO CITY

**Kota Study Center**  
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### ILOILO CITY

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TuburanStudyCenter](http://www.facebook.com/TuburanStudyCenter)

## 7.3. Some corporate works and social initiatives of members in the Philippines

The **University of Asia and the Pacific**, established in 1995, is an institution of higher learning that offers undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees, as well as short programs in various fields of specialization. The University's programs are grounded in liberal arts education, with special orientation towards values education, people development, research, and communication. The precursor of UA&P was the Center for Research and Communication, an economic think tank begun in 1967.



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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/uap.asia](http://www.facebook.com/uap.asia)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-asia-and-the-pacific](http://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-asia-and-the-pacific)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/uapasia](http://www.instagram.com/uapasia)

Youtube: [www.youtube.com/c/UapAsia](http://www.youtube.com/c/UapAsia)

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/4yiQALB8bt1Tq3Tat3K4e>

**Punlaan School**, established in 1975, is a technical-vocational institution for young women in Metro Manila. A good number of them come from less-privileged families. Accredited by the Department of Education, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Department of Tourism, it provides knowledge, skills, and values training for professional work in food, hotel, restaurant, and tourism-related sectors.



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Website: [www.punlaanschool.edu.ph](http://www.punlaanschool.edu.ph)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/punlaanschool](http://www.facebook.com/punlaanschool)

**Parents For Education Foundation, Inc. (PAREF)**, established in 1976, is a community of 16 schools (preschool, elementary, and high school) established by parents and educators committed to support parents as the primary educators of their children. The schools foster the personal integral development of children and prepare them for university studies.



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Website: [www.paref.edu.ph](http://www.paref.edu.ph)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/parefschools1976](http://www.facebook.com/parefschools1976)

**Education for the Upbringing of Children (EDUCHILD)**, formed in 1976, is an organization of parents that runs programs to help fellow parents in the delicate task of rearing a family. The case studies and round table discussions that Educhild organizes keep parents attuned with the best practices to address the challenges facing families today. It also runs courses on family and marriage for singles, young professionals, and grandparents. Educhild is present in the major cities of the Philippines, and has marriage and family programs addressed to those in the “peripheries.”



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Website: [www.educhild.ph](http://www.educhild.ph)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EduchildPH](http://www.facebook.com/EduchildPH)

**Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc. (Dualtech)**, established in 1982, is a technical-vocational school that provides electro-mechanical skills training to high school graduates and prepares them for immediate employment in the industrial sector. Through the dual training system, the school collaborates with industry partners for the on-the-job training of its students.



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Tel. (+632) 8-888-6420  
Email: [info@dualtech.org.ph](mailto:info@dualtech.org.ph),  
[dualtechtrainingcenter@gmail.com](mailto:dualtechtrainingcenter@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.dualtech.org.ph](http://www.dualtech.org.ph)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dualtechtrainingcenter](http://www.facebook.com/dualtechtrainingcenter)

**Theological Centrum**, established in 1985, is a project of priests and professionals to assist bishops of the local churches in the formation of diocesan priests and seminarians. Theological Centrum organizes various activities for them, such as Holy Hours, out of town retreats, spiritual direction, seminars on spirituality, and conferences on Philosophy and Theology. It publishes newsletters and books for spiritual reading and the ecclesiastical sciences.



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Website: [www.theologicalcentrum.org](http://www.theologicalcentrum.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/theologicalcentrum](http://www.facebook.com/theologicalcentrum)

**Anihan Technical School**, established in 1986, is a technical-vocational institute in Calamba, Laguna for young women, especially for those from the marginalized sector. It operates a two-year Senior High School offering a Food Service Program for the Technical-Vocational-Livelihood Track. For those who have graduated senior high school, Anihan offers a one-year program on Quick Service Restaurant Operations. Those who complete the programs receive National Certificates II in Cookery, Bread and Pastry Production, and Food and Beverage Services; and are ready for immediate employment in the food services industry.



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Website: [www.anihanschool.com](http://www.anihanschool.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AnihanTechnicalSchool](http://www.facebook.com/AnihanTechnicalSchool)

**CITE Technical Institute** is a technical training institution founded in 1990 to address the needs of less-privileged youth in the Visayas and Mindanao. It offers programs in Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, and Computer Engineering Technology. It also provides technical re-training and management upgrading courses to industry workers. Beyond technical training, it offers values formation to students, parents, and industry partners.



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Website: [www.cite.edu.ph](http://www.cite.edu.ph)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/citeinfo](https://www.facebook.com/citeinfo)  
LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/cite-technical-institute-inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cite-technical-institute-inc)

**Balete Family Farm School**, established in 1990, is the first such school for girls in the Philippines, located in Balete (Batangas). It offers a 4-year Junior High School (Grades 7-10) program for those coming from rural families in the locality. The special training in agri-entrepreneurship given in Grades 9 and 10 is designed to develop them to become entrepreneurs. Balete graduates are qualified to take the National Certificate Test for Crop Production.



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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BaleteFFSI](https://www.facebook.com/BaleteFFSI)

**Dagatan Family Farm School (DFFS)** was inaugurated in 1988, and is a secondary learning institution for young men coming from the province of Batangas. Originally catering to sons of farmers, Dagatan FFS, adjusted its curriculum to include Entrepreneurship and the whole value chain related to agriculture. Through farming one learns to practice the work values and attitudes any professional will need. Today, with concerns on food security and aging farmers, DFFS gains greater relevance in the field of agriculture education.



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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DFFS>

**Family Cooperation Health Services Foundation, Inc. (FAMCOHSEF)**, founded in 1991, is a project of women in the health sector. It provides education and training in health care and environmental sanitation for families in low-income communities. Through its programs FAMCOHSEF empowers families to take charge of their health in order to prevent diseases, improve hygiene, and reduce incidence of malnutrition. Graduates of the Care of the Elderly Training Program find gainful employment both locally and abroad.



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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/famcohsef](https://www.facebook.com/famcohsef)

### **FPTI-Banilad Center for Professional Development (BCPD),**

established in 1992, is a technical vocational school that offers post secondary Hotel and Restaurant Service courses. It is accredited with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. In 2014, BCPD was accredited with the Department of Education department as a stand-alone senior high school offering Home Economics strand under the Technical Vocational and Livelihood track. BCPD prepares young women especially those from low income families, for employment, to start their own business, or to pursue higher studies. In 2021, BCPD started a one-year Food Service Technology course for out-of-school youth, which is designed to provide “second-chance education” to such individuals.



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Website: [www.bcpd.edu.ph](http://www.bcpd.edu.ph)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/officialbcpdfpti](https://www.facebook.com/officialbcpdfpti)

### **CACHET or Campaign for Character Education Tenacity,**

established in 1998, is a collaboration of Alalay sa Pamilya at Bayan Foundation, University of Asia and the Pacific and the Department of Education that seeks to assist public school youth to make and carry out responsible decisions in their family, studies, friendships and relationships, lifestyle and career choices, through a continuing formation in which the parents are the principal educators in collaboration with the school.



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### **Dingle Family Farm School**

Dingle Family Farm School (DiFFS) is an agro-industrial oriented secondary school (Grades 7-10) for boys located at the heart of rural communities of Dingle, Iloilo, Western Visayas Region. The school envisions all graduates to be intellectually equipped and sufficiently prepared to pursue higher education in agriculture and agri-entrepreneurship to participate in community development. The school commits to working with parents, community leaders, industry, and the government to provide students with relevant and quality secondary education, training, and values formation. The school is guided by the Family Farm Schools' core principles of personalized formation, parents' participation in their children's education, alternating weeks of study and work in school and at home, and rural development.



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**Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD),** established in 1999, is dedicated to professionalizing corporate directorship and raising the corporate governance standards of the Philippines. It offers corporate governance learning solutions for board members and senior executives through



customized in-depth learning sessions composed of lectures, case studies and structured learning experiences.

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(+639) 17-551-5073

Email: [communications@icd.ph](mailto:communications@icd.ph)

**Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA)**, established in 2000, works with national government agencies, local governments units and hospitals to advance good governance and good citizenship through strategic thinking, and to transform the public sector and spur growth in the country.



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**The Philippine Center for Civic Education and Democracy (PCCED)**, started in 2004, is dedicated to strengthening civic education as a means to effective citizen participation in democratic life out of love of country. It has developed a number of programs to equip teachers, civic educators, youth leaders, local authorities, civil society groups and institutions.

Tel. (+639) 17-824-3812  
Website: [www.pcced.org.ph](http://www.pcced.org.ph)  
Email: [citizenship.ph@pcced.org](mailto:citizenship.ph@pcced.org)

**Philippine Foodbank Foundation, Inc.**, started in 2017, gathers food from donor companies in Philippines and distributes to undernourished people in many parts of the Philippines, both in urban and rural groups, and also in Myanmar, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia.



No. 2 Lapu-Lapu Ave., Magallanes, Makati City  
Tel. (+632) 8-851-9673  
Website: <http://foodbank.org.ph>



**Mayani** (from “may ani”, there is harvest or “my ani”, my harvest), founded in 2019, is an agri-tech social enterprise that seeks to uplift the lives of small farmers and fisherfolk by providing them fair market access, eventually helping them rise from poverty and enjoy improved economic conditions.

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Website: <https://mayani.ph>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mayaniph/>



## 8. SOME DATA

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### 8.1. People

In 2023, the prelature was made up of around 93,784 people, of whom about 2,106 were priests.

Of the total, approximately 57% are women and 43% men. The distribution by continent is as follows: Africa 4%, America 34%, Asia 4%, Europe 57%, Oceania 1%.

Apart from the priests of the prelature, around 2000 priests and deacons, incardinated in different dioceses throughout the world belong to the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross.

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## 8.2. Years when Opus Dei began its work in various countries

1945	Portugal	1982	Singapore, Trinidad & Tobago
1946	Italy and Great Britain	1984	Sweden
1947	France and Ireland	1985	Taiwan
1949	Mexico and United States	1987	Finland
1950	Chile and Argentina	1988	Cameroon and Dominican Republic
1951	Colombia and Venezuela	1989	Macao, New Zealand and Poland
1952	Germany	1990	Hungary and Czech Republic
1953	Guatemala and Peru	1992	Nicaragua
1954	Ecuador	1993	India and Israel
1956	Uruguay and Switzerland	1994	Lithuania
1957	Brazil, Austria and Canada	1996	Estonia, Slovakia, Lebanon, Panama, Uganda
1958	Japan, Kenya and El Salvador	1997	Kazakhstan
1959	Costa Rica	1998	South Africa
1960	Holland	2003	Slovenia and Croatia
1962	Paraguay	2004	Latvia
1963	Australia	2007	Russia
1964	Philippines	2008	Indonesia
1965	Belgium and Nigeria	2009	Korea and Romania
1969	Puerto Rico	2011	Sri Lanka
1978	Bolivia	2019	Vietnam
1980	Congo, Ivory Coast and Honduras		
1981	Hong Kong		

# 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- *La Abadesa de las Huelgas* (1944): Juridical-theological study.
- *Conversations with Msgr. Escrivá* (1968): Collection of interviews which appeared in *Time*, *Le Figaro*, *New York Times*, etc.
- *Christ is Passing By* (1973): Homilies on the great moments of the Christian year: Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, etc.
- *Friends of God* (1977): Homilies which invite the reader to practice the Christian virtues, based on the Gospel.
- *The Way of the Cross* (1981): Narrative of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ and considerations on his suffering, forgiveness, and the infinite love of God.
- *In Love with the Church* (1986): Texts about the Church, the Catholic priesthood and Christian unity.
- *Furrow* (1986): Points for meditation on the human virtues which must shine in the lives of Christians.
- *The Forge* (1987): Points for meditation, mostly autobiographical, to foster personal prayer and progress along the path of Christian life.
- There are now critical-historical editions in Spanish of the writings of St Josemaría for: *Camino* (2002), *Santo Rosario* (2010), *Conversaciones con Mons. Escrivá de Balaguer* (2012), *Es Cristo que pasa* (2013) and *La Abadesa de las Huelgas* (2016).
- In 2018 a new set of 25 as yet unpublished homilies of St Josemaría were published with the title *In Dialogue with the Lord*.
- In 2022 a new set of 4 foundational letters of St Josemaría were published with the title *St. Josemaría Escrivá: The Collected Letters, Volume 1*.
- More information: [www.escrivaworks.org](http://www.escrivaworks.org).

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- The periodical *Studia et Documenta* is an annual publication which specializes in the history of Opus Dei and the life of St Josemaría.



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