

ST JOSEMARÍA, Today

DEVOTION ON THE FIVE CONTINENTS

This newsletter aims to show examples of devotion to the saint of the ordinary on the five continents. Church buildings in many different countries are home to an image of Saint Josemaría. This selection is a sample of a devotion visible to the eye.

The message of Saint Josemaría has touched various generations in different cultures, and devotion to him has spread universally. The idea that we can become saints in the middle of the world, through a job well done and by carrying out our allotted tasks, is something people can relate to and find enormously attractive. It is a matter of combining ordinary duties with our eyes always fixed on Christ, and cultivating the virtues of good Christian living.





In the parish church of Saint Josemaría in Medellín (Colombia)

Medellín.Colombia

In a populous neighbourhood of Medellín there is a parish dedicated to Saint Josemaría Escrivá. After a lot of effort, the new parish began its liturgical and evangelising activity on 12 June 2004. At the same time, health and legal advice teams have been set up, as well as various recreational and cultural initiatives.

The previous year the parishioners felt that the church should have a statue of Saint Josemaría to encourage devotion to him. Many people helped with their donations. An Ecuadorian sculpture workshop was commissioned to do the work, which produced a 1.8 metre statue from a mould made by Arturo Guerrero. The artist wanted to portray Saint Josemaría with a smiling attitude. It was installed and blessed on 10 November 2023.

Rouen.France

An icon of Saint Josemaría was installed in Saint Joseph's Church in Rouen on 19 March 2023. The parish priest had had wanted to do this for some time, and it has finally come about. Véronique Vié, the artist who created the icon, commented: "What the Gospel tells us in words, the icon shows us and makes present to us".



Installation of an icon of Saint Josemaría in Rouen (France)

Montserrat.Spain

More than five hundred people from all corners of Catalonia took part in the blessing of the high relief statue of Saint Josemaría and Blessed Alvaro, which was placed on the road from San Miguel to the Basilica of Montserrat on Saturday 24 February 2024. The event was organised by the Association of Cooperators of Opus Dei in Catalonia. The work, in bronze, was made by the sculptor Rebeca Muñoz. On the base of the relief there is engraved a quotation from *The Way*: "**We go to Jesus – and we 'return' to him – through Mary.**" The abbey of Montserrat, near Barcelona, where Our Lady of the same name is worshipped, is an ancient place of Marian devotion, where people from all over the world go on pilgrimage. Among them, in the 20th century, were Saint John Paul II, Saint Josemaría Escrivá, and Blessed Alvaro del Portillo.



High relief of Saint Josemaría Escrivá and Blessed Alvaro del Portillo at the shrine of Montserrat (Barcelona, Spain)

Kinkala.Congo

The first parish in Africa dedicated to Saint Josemaría is in Nkama-Bangala, a Congolese village about 6 miles from the city of Kinkala in Congo-Brazzaville. The country is so called to distinguish it from the neighbouring state, Congo-Kinshasa, which is eight times larger.

Parish Church of Saint Josemaría in Congo-Brazzaville (right).



New Delhi.India

Our journey ends in two places in Asia. In one of the side chapels of the cathedral in New Delhi, the capital of India, one can pray in front of a statue of Saint Josemaría to ask for his intercession before God. Catholics are a minority in this country.

Above: St Josemaría in the Cathedral of New Delhi (India).



Malolos.Philippines

In Asia, too, but in a country with a Catholic majority, there are images of Saint Josemaría. For example, there is a statue in the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Malolos (Philippines), which is taken in procession, as can be seen in the photograph.

Above: St Josemaría in the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Malolos (Philippines).

Those who obtain favours through St Josemaría's intercession are asked to write about them to the Office for the Causes of Saints of the Prelature of Opus Dei through the website, or in writing or by email to the address shown overleaf.

FAVOURS

Benefits of the Novena for Work

I was working in a company with a very bad working environment, a lot of staff turnover, low ethical standards, an anti-Catholic atmosphere, and all this was affecting my health, both mental and physical.

I have many friends who are very devoted to St Josemaría and they all insisted that I do the novena to him for work. I finished the novena and... I was fired! I couldn't believe it! But... God knows best.

After the shock of the first few days, another friend told me: "Now it's time to do another novena to find a job". I finished the novena and found a job. I had a serious health problem, I was made redundant and went back to being unemployed, a time of uncertainty and unable to find work. My friends said to me: "We'll do the novena to St Josemaría together and you'll find a job for sure". I finished the novena and a few days later I was working again. What's more, this job is a godsend: it's a serious company, I like the work, the day flies by, I can help others, the transport arrangements are excellent, I feel very well looked after, and at the end of the working day I'm just a stone's throw from the chapel so I can go to daily Mass. What more could I ask for? Thank you St Josemaría!

M.M.B. – Spain

Immediate response

My boyfriend and I were looking for new jobs, we prayed the novena together and within a week of each other, we were both granted the blessing of acquiring new jobs.

M.V. - El Salvador

BIOGRAPHY

Saint Josemaría Escrivá was born in Barbastro (Spain) on 9 January 1902. He was ordained a priest in Saragossa on 28 March 1925. On 2 October 1928, by divine inspiration, he founded Opus Dei. He died suddenly in Rome on 26 June 1975. By then Opus Dei had spread to the five continents, serving the Church with the same spirit of full union with the Pope and the bishops that Saint Josemaría always practised. Saint John Paul II canonised him in Rome on 6 October 2002. His feast is celebrated on 26 June. His mortal remains rest in the Prelatic Church of Our Lady of Peace, Viale Bruno Buozzi 75, Rome.



PRAYER

O God, through the most Blessed Virgin Mary, you granted countless graces to your priest Saint Josemaría, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way to holiness through daily work and the ordinary duties of a Christian. Grant that I also may learn to turn all the circumstances and events of my life into opportunities to love you and serve the Church, the Pope and all souls, with joy and simplicity, lighting up the paths of the earth with faith and love. Through the intercession of Saint Josemaría please grant the favour I request (here make your petition). Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be..

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