St. Josemaría Escrivá

1902–1975

Feast Day:
June 26

Josemaría was born in a Spanish Catholic family. One winter day, he saw footprints of bare feet in the snow. He saw a monk walking in the snow to the church. Josemaría decided he wanted to suffer for God too and do whatever God wanted. He wanted to answer God's call every day, so he became a priest.

Fr. Escrivá moved to Madrid, the capital of Spain. There, he got people together to help him care for poor people and sick people. When he was 26, he founded a group called Opus Dei. Opus Dei means "the work of God." Its members work to share Jesus' love with others. The first members were students he knew.

Opus Dei spread to many countries throughout the world. Opus Dei projects include schools, hospitals, and retreat centers.

Fr. Escrivá journeyed through Europe and Latin America speaking about God's love. He told them they could be holy every day at school, with their families, and at work. He was devoted to Our Lady. He hung a picture of her in all his rooms. He was sitting before a picture of her when he died.