



St. Josemaría Escrivá

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Something unusual in the snow caught the sixteen-year old boy's attention—footprints made by bare feet. The boy realized that these footprints were made by a friar without shoes walking in the cold snow. The friar had not worn shoes, even though it was winter, because he was living a life of poverty as a sacrifice to God. The boy thought that, if other people make sacrifices for God, should not he offer something to God as well? With this thought, God was preparing the young boy—whose name was Josemaría Escrivá—to become a priest and later a saint.

When Josemaría told his father that he wanted to become a priest, tears fell from his father's eyes. It was the only time Josemaría saw his father cry. His father told him that he would not stop him, but he begged his son to think about his decision carefully. He told Josemaría that being a priest would be difficult. A priest does not have a home like other people; instead, he is called to be a saint.

That was exactly what Josemaría wanted. He felt the call to the priesthood as a special blessing from God.

He wanted to be a saint.

Three years after he became a priest, Josemaría was deep in prayer. A sudden sight came to him, and he realized that God was giving him a special mission: to spread the message that all people can be holy in their everyday work.

So he started a group for men and women that helped people dedicate their work to God. This meant that a doctor, a farmer, a mother, a father, an artist, a teacher could make a promise to give their life and work to God and spread the message of God's love while still being a part of the everyday world. Josemaría called this group Opus Dei, which in Latin means "work of God."

Josemaría spent his life teaching the mission of Opus Dei. Groups spread across Spain and then the whole world. Josemaría wrote many books, which have sold millions of copies. Throughout his work and travels, Josemaría kept a spirit of humility and a deep love of God. He died a holy death in his workroom—giving his final glance to a picture of Mary.

St. Josemaría Escrivá, help me give all of my work to God!