



Saint Josemaria Escriva

Founder of Opus Dei

[Home](#) - [Documentation](#) - [Documents of the Holy See](#) - Decree recognizing a miracle. December 20, 2001

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Holy See

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DECREE SUPER MIRO (on the miracle) of Blessed Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer

Blessed Josemaría Escrivá was born in Barbastro (Spain) on January 9 1902. In 1925 he was ordained a priest in Zaragoza. On October 2 1928, by divine inspiration, he founded Opus Dei, opening up to Christians in all walks of life a firm path to holiness and apostolate in the world, through doing ordinary work with love and faithfully fulfilling daily duties. He died in Rome on June 26 1975, with a widespread reputation for holiness. On May 17 1992 the Holy Father, John Paul II, beatified him in a solemn ceremony in St Peter's Square.

After his beatification many wonderful cures continued to be attributed to Blessed Josemaria's intercession. Among them was the rapid, complete and lasting cure of Dr Manuel Nevado Rey, a 60-year-old surgeon, of an illness described by the Medical Panel of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints as "Cancerized severe chronic third-phase radiodermatitis having progressed to the irreversible stage" on his hands, which had developed over thirty years and whose prognosis was infaust and untreatable.

This inexplicable cure took place at Almendralejo (Spain) in November 1992. The diocesan investigation at the Curia of the Archbishop of Badajoz heard the evidence concerning this cure from May 12 to June 4 1994, and received the decree of validity from the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints on April 26 1996.

Therefore, in accordance with the prescriptions of canon law, the case was submitted to examination by the above-mentioned Medical Panel, which, in the session of 10 July 1997, reached the unanimous decision that the cure of Dr

Nevado is scientifically inexplicable.

The study on the cure then moved on to theological considerations: in the first place at the Special Congress of Theological Consultors, which took place on 9 January 1998; and finally, on 21 September 2001, at the Ordinary Congregation of Cardinals and Bishops, proposed by His Eminence Cardinal Pio Laghi. Both groups reached unanimous agreement as to the fact of the miracle and its attribution to Blessed Josemaria Escriva.

After having received, from the undersigned Cardinal Prefect, a detailed and faithful account of all that is here set out, the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II, approving and ratifying the votes of the Congregation, ordered the Decree on the aforementioned miraculous cure to be issued.

When that indication had been fulfilled, summoning today the Cardinal Prefect, the Proposer of the Cause, the undersigned Secretary, and others according to due custom, the Holy Father declared in their presence: "Sufficient proofs exist of the miracle worked by God through the intercession of Blessed Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, priest, Founder of Opus Dei; namely the rapid, perfect and lasting cure of Dr Manuel Nevado Rey from cancerized severe chronic third-phase radiodermatitis having progressed to the irreversible stage."

The Holy Father has requested this Decree to be made public and included in the acts of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.

Rome, December 20 2001.

JOSÉ Card. SARAIVA MARTINS

Prefect

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Secretary