



Saint Josemaria Escriva

Founder of Opus Dei

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His death on the Cross

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So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (Jn 19:17-19).

They do not know what they are doing

Now they are crucifying Our Lord, and with him two thieves, one on his right and one on his left. Meanwhile, Jesus says:

Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.

It is Love

«It is Love that has brought Jesus to Calvary. And once on the Cross, all his gestures and all his words are of love, a love both calm and strong. With a gesture befitting an Eternal Priest, without father or mother, without lineage, he opens his arms to the whole human race.

«With the hammer blows with which Jesus is being nailed, there resound the prophetic words of Holy Scripture: *They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones, and they stare and gloat over me. My people, what have I done to thee, or in what have I saddened thee? Answer me!*

«And we, our soul rent with sorrow, say to Jesus in all sincerity: I am yours and I give my whole self to You; gladly do I nail myself to your Cross, ready to be in the cross-roads of this world a soul dedicated to You, to your glory, to the work of Redemption, the co-redemption of the whole human race.»

All who pass by insult him and jeer at him

«On the uppermost part of the Cross the reason for the sentence is written: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. And all who pass by insult him and jeer at him. *If he is the king of Israel, let him come down here and now from the cross.*

«One of the thieves comes to his defense:

This man has done no evil...

«Then, turning to Jesus, he makes a humble request, full of faith: *Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*

Truly, I say to thee: This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise.

«At the foot of the Cross stands his Mother, Mary, with other holy women. Jesus looks at her; then he looks at the disciple whom he loves, and he says to his Mother:

Woman, behold thy son.

«Then he says to the disciple:

Behold thy mother.

My God, why hast thou forsaken me?

«The sun's light is extinguished and the earth is left in darkness. It is close on three o'clock, when Jesus cries out:

Eli, Eli, lamma sabacthani? That is: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

«Then, knowing that all things are about to be accomplished, that the Scriptures may be fulfilled, he says:

I am thirsty.

«The soldiers soak a sponge in vinegar and, placing it on a reed of hyssop, they put it to his mouth. Jesus sips the vinegar, and exclaims:

It is accomplished.

«The veil of the temple is rent, and the earth trembles, when the Lord cries out in a loud voice:

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

«And **he expires.**

A fountain of interior life

«Love sacrifice; it is a fountain of interior life. Love the Cross, which is an altar of sacrifice. Love pain, until you drink, as Christ did, the very dregs of the chalice.

The Way of the Cross, Eleventh and Twelfth station