



Saint Josemaría Escriva

Founder of Opus Dei

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Saint Josemaría's devotion to our Lady

Bishop Alvaro del Portillo

“We have to love the Blessed Virgin Mary more. We will never love her enough. Love her a lot!” is Saint Josemaría's advice at *The Forge*, n. 527. Msgr. Alvaro del Portillo recounts some of his memories of Saint Josemaría's devotion to our Lady in the following extract from *Immersed in God*.

His Marian devotion was distinguished by the profundity of its theological content. By this I mean that it was based not so much on “reasons of the heart” as on faith – faith, that is, in the prerogatives given by God to our Lady and in her role in our redemption.

To give you some idea – when St. Teresa of Avila, to whom he had a great devotion, was proclaimed a doctor of the Church, the Father pointed out that **“she is not the first woman doctor of the Church. The first doctor, even though she does not have the title, is our Lady, because nobody else ever has had or could have such close dealings with God our Lord as she had and will always have. She must have been given, like nobody else, light from the Holy Spirit. She it is that knows most about God. She is the one with the greatest knowledge of God.”**

Our founder habitually concluded his homilies and meditations with an invocation to our Lady. In his book *Holy Rosary*, he has left very moving expressions of his contemplation of the principal mysteries of the lives of Jesus and Mary; his other