



# Saint Josemaria Escriva

Founder of Opus Dei

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## The Birth of Our Lord

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*And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn (Lk 2:6-7).*

A decree of Caesar Augustus has been proclaimed, ordering the whole world to be enrolled. For this purpose, every person must go to the city of his ancestors. – Since Joseph is of the house and family of David, he goes with the Virgin Mary from Nazareth to the city called Bethlehem, in Judea.

And in Bethlehem is born our God: Jesus Christ! – There is no room at the inn: He is born in a stable. – And His Mother wraps Him in swaddling clothes and lays Him in a manger.

Cold. – Poverty... – I am Joseph's little servant. – How good Joseph is! – He treats me like a father. – He even forgives me if I take the Child in my arms and spend hour after hour saying sweet and loving things to Him!...

And I kiss Him – you kiss Him too! – and I rock Him in my arms, and I sing to Him, and I call Him King, Love, my God, my Only? one, my All!...

*Holy Rosary, third joyful mystery*

*And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the*

*highest, and on earth peace among men of good will! (Lk 2:8-14).*

*Jesus Christus, Deus homo:* Jesus Christ, God-man. This is one of *the mighty works of God*, which we should reflect upon and thank him for. He has come to bring *peace on earth to men of good will*, to all men who want to unite their wills to the holy will of God – not just the rich, not just the poor, but everyone: all the brothers and sisters. We are all brothers in Jesus, children of God, brothers and sisters of Christ. His Mother is our mother.

There is only one race in the world: the race of the children of God. We should all speak the same language, taught us by our Father in heaven – the language Jesus spoke with his Father. It is the language of heart and mind, which you are using now, in your prayer – the language of contemplation, used by people who are spiritual, because they realize they are children of God. This language is expressed in a thousand motions of our will, in the clear insights of our minds, in the affections of our heart, in our commitment to lead a virtuous life, in goodness, happiness and peace.

You must look at the Child in the manger. He is our Love. Look at him, realizing that the whole thing is a mystery. We need to accept this mystery on faith and use our faith to explore it very deeply. To do this, we must have the humble attitude of a Christian soul. Let us not try to reduce the greatness of God to our own poor ideas and human explanations. Let us try to understand that this mystery, for all its darkness, is a light to guide men's lives.

*Christ is Passing By, 13*