



# Saint Josemaria Escriva

Founder of Opus Dei

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## The intercession of the saints

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**«When God calls me and takes me to heaven, from there I'll be able to help you much more, and very effectively.»**

From the day of his death on June 26, 1975, accounts of favors from all over the world attributed to the intercession of Monsignor Josemaría Escrivá began to arrive at the Opus Dei Prelature headquarters in Rome. Conversions, resolutions to practice the Christian faith more deeply, cures, practical favors - all indicators of devotion which the Holy See called “an authentic expression of popular piety.”

### The intercession of the saints

Saints spend their lives in this world loving God and other people, imitating Jesus Christ who “went about doing good.” And when they get to heaven, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says (no. 2683), they “constantly care for those whom they have left on earth... Their intercession is their most exalted service to God’s plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world.”

### It all began with a prayer

Plenty of people first started praying through Saint Josemaría’s intercession after finding a [prayer-card](#), often by chance.

### At the market

“I pray to Monsignor every day”, wrote a Guatemalan woman who works in a market. “I would be grateful if you could send me copies of the prayer for some people who want to obtain favors from the Monsignor, since I have told them that he works marvelous cures for sick people, and that he cures the curse of alcoholism. Some have already seen these marvels. So please send me some more [prayer-cards](#).”

### From prison

The following letter, franked with a prison stamp, was written some years ago, before the beatification of Monsignor Escrivá. “I received the [prayer-cards](#). Some of the other prisoners here are pious and say the Rosary daily. I handed them out after Sunday Mass, celebrated by the prison chaplain. I suggest you send him some too as nobody here knew this beautiful prayer. And, above all, it provides help for everyone in their daily needs. The chaplain visits six other blocks where there are old people like me who appreciate something of great Christian value.”

### **In the desert**

The prayer-card is often passed from hand to hand and ends up in the remotest places. The following is what happened to a Chilean lawyer. “Two weeks ago a colleague and I went to the north of the country. We had to visit a number of towns and villages to check on the progress of various cases. The road passes through huge tracts of the Atacama desert, one of the most arid in the world. As we had time to spare, we decided to visit the Encanto Valley, an archaeological site in the area. It was hard going and often difficult to distinguish between the road and the desert. We arrived at the hut giving entrance to the site. On entering I started to examine the primitive artifacts on display and was greatly surprised to see Msgr. Josemaría’s prayer-card, somewhat faded by the sun, pinned to the wall. I asked the attendant if he prayed to him, and he replied yes, that he had a great devotion to him for many years.”

### **At the hospital**

“In Galway”, writes an Irish doctor, “a lot of people recognize Monsignor Escrivá when I offer them a [prayer-card](#). Some say: ‘I have that prayer a long time and have been using it.’ Others add with conviction: ‘It’s a great prayer!’ In the hospital where I work, you can see it on bedside tables, at the head of the bed, on windowsills. In some cases, patients have copied it out by hand to give it to their relatives. (...) Many pray to Monsignor Escrivá to overcome their illness. Others give the prayer-card to their relatives to pray for their recovery. They treat it with great respect and are delighted when they receive a new copy.”