

## A Priest of Jesus Christ

The long-awaited day arrived. March 28, 1925, in the church of St Charles Seminary, Josemaria, aged 23, received ordination to the priesthood.

His little family, in their best clothes, witnessed the ceremony from the front bench: Mrs Dolores Escriva, Carmen, and little Santiago, who was just six.

Mrs Escriva felt the absence of her husband, Jose Escriva, on this great occasion. They had planned for this day together, but Mr Escriva died seven months before. Mrs Escriva had grown stronger, and she would not allow his absence to throw a shadow over this beautiful ceremony. And she knew that her husband was somehow present, close to the tabernacle, accompanying his son.

The Bishop opened the ceremony. The Little Watch-Mender was full of expectation. The moment of the imposition of hands was drawing near, and the Holy Spirit was about to come down to fill Josemaria, and the other men being ordained, with his light and his love. And to grant them the great power of bringing Christ onto the altar at Mass.

"O Heaven!" exclaimed the Little Watch-Mender, as he saw the measureless glory and majesty of God coming to rest on the hands of the newly-ordained priest. Josemaria was now a priest of Jesus Christ, and in time everyone would call him "Father".



Extract translated from "The Life and Adventures of a Water-Wheel Donkey and His Little Watch-Mender"

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