

## Under the bed

One Sunday morning, when it was nearly time for the family to set off for Mass, Josemaria was nowhere to be found. The nursemaid came up in a state of great agitation, saying, "Madam, I can't find Josemaria!"

The day before, Doña Dolores had bought Josemaria a new suit, and he knew he would have to put it on to go to Mass. Doña Dolores went straight to her son's room; it wasn't the first time he had hidden.

Under the bed Josemaria kept as still as a stone, holding his breath... His mother was coming closer. Thump! Thump! Thump! He could hear something striking the floor. They'd found him!

There were no shouts, no scolding, but something even worse came into view: one of his father's walking-sticks. Josemaria gave up. He came out from under the bed, only because of the walking-stick, and for no other reason.

"But after all, Josemaria, do you want us to buy OLD clothes for you?" asked his mother, who understood how he felt. Josemaria hated putting on new clothes; he felt so ashamed when people they met said "Doesn't he look smart!" or "How sweet!"



Finally, after he had put on the embarrassing suit and while his hair was being combed, Doña Dolores taught him something he would never forget. "Josemaria: only be ashamed to sin."