

Classes in Love

When he returned to Saragossa from Perdiguera, Father Josemaria continued studying law. He taught in an academy and also gave private classes, to support his family. Two years later, in April 1927, with his Bishop's permission, he moved to Madrid to study for a doctorate in Law, and his mother, sister and brother soon moved there too.

Father Josemaria was now 25. He was appointed chaplain of the Foundation for the Sick, which was run by the Damas Apostolicas, and there he carried out intense pastoral work, looking after the sick and teaching catechism classes to children. "They came with dirty faces - you had to wipe their noses first, before cleaning up their poor little souls," he recalled later.

Father Josemaria crossed and re-crossed Madrid on foot, walking very fast. He would go and visit someone who was dying, or hear the confessions of very poor children in the outskirts of the city. His activity was exhausting in every way. He would appeal trustingly to God: "Lord, see what you're going to do about it... I'm tired out even before I start!"

His great concern was to take Christ's love to as many people as he possibly could. His Guardian Angel, the Little Watch-mender, scared away the devil,

and Father Josemaria heard their confessions. He would lovingly give them his crucifix to kiss.

Once he offered it to a dying gypsy to kiss. The man felt so sorry for his sins that he responded: "No, I can't kiss Our Lord with this rotten mouth!"

Father Josemaria answered, "But you're about to give him a big hug and a kiss the minute you get to Heaven!" He was very moved by the gypsy's attitude, and said to himself, "What a beautiful act of contrition!"

He received "classes in how to love", as he called them, from everyone. And after seeing the wonders that God worked through his priestly ministry, he would say, with all his loving soul, "You have to burst out singing!"



Extract from "Vida y venturas de un borrico de noria"

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