

He lost consciousness, fell on one side and immediately began to turn different colors: red, purple, clammy yellow...

Father Álvaro gave him absolution and hurriedly called the doctor, but by the time he arrived, the Father was already coming to. It had been an anaphylactic shock. He was left blind for several hours, but afterwards recovered completely. Although some of the consequences of the disease would remain with him in the years to come, he no longer had diabetes. The attending physician was dumbfounded. The sickness had lasted more than ten years.

**PRAYER TO JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA
FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH DIABETES**

O my Jesus,
You accepted Your suffering so that we might have eternal life.
Give my hardship meaning and ease my fears
as you turn my suffering into a source of joy.

Your servant,
Saint Josemaria Escriva was cured
after suffering with diabetes for ten years.
He used his many obstacles and physical ailments
as a passageway to holiness.
Through his experiences You taught him that
“sorrow is the touchstone of love..”
Overcome my sorrow with Your enduring love
and purify my body and soul.
I ask this through the intercession
of Mary, Our Mother,
and
Saint Josemaria Escriva. Amen.

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Heavenly Help for Those Who Suffer

from

Diabetes

Seek the intercession of St. Josemaria Escriva



Saint Josemaria Escriva **(1902—1975)**

Josemaria was one of six children born to Jose and Dolores Escriva in Barbastro, Spain. When the young boy was 12 years old the family moved to Logrona for economic reasons. In the last days of 1917 Josemaria realized a first calling to the priesthood when he saw footprints left in the snow by a passing monk. He studied in both Logrona and Zaragoza and was ordained in the latter on March 28, 1925. After serving as a parish priest, he moved to Madrid in 1927 to study law. Two years later we find him creating for lay people an organization known as Opus dei (Latin for "God's Work"). Through this movement Josemaria meant to help Catholics learn that sanctity can be achieved without abandoning the secular life.

During the infamous Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939, Josemaria went into hiding to escape persecution by anti-clerics, yet he continued to risk his life in order to minister to faithful Catholics. When hostilities ended, he resumed his studies for a doctorate in law and was often invited by bishops to preach spiritual retreats to the clergy. Another organization founded by the holy priest was the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, begun in the year 1943.

Josemaria moved to Rome in 1946 and obtained his doctorate in theology. Pope Pius XII acknowledged Escriva's work by granting Opus Dei his official approval on June 16, 1950. The Pope also honored him by appointing him Consultor to two Vatican Congregations, and he was made an honorary member of the Pontifical Academy of Theology.

About this time Josemaria had already been suffering for ten years from serious diabetes, but we are told that he was miraculously cured and that, with the restoration of his health, he continued to encourage membership in Opus Dei throughout Spain, Portugal, Mexico and South America. By the time of his death, Opus Dei was known on five continents, with a membership of 60,000 members in 80 nationalities.

Josemaria wrote a number of spiritual works and was considered a saint before his death on June 26, 1975. His cause was introduced six years later and he was canonized by Pope John Paul II on October 6, 2002.

During the canonization ceremony the Pope made the following observation: *"With supernatural intuition, Saint Josemaria untiringly preached the universal call to holiness and apostolate. Christ calls everyone to become holy in the realities of everyday life. Hence work too is a means of personal holiness and apostolate when it is done in union with Jesus Christ."*

Between 1946 and 1960

These were years of physical suffering. The Father's diabetes was the cause of great discomfort. He lived with a constant headache, suffered chronic thirst, and gained too much weight, in addition to the other problems that can arise in connection with this illness. Each day he was injected with a heavy dose of insulin. But his attitude remained one of unflinching cheerfulness. He joked with good humor about the excess sugar in his blood:

"I guess they'll have to call me *Pater dulcissimus* ('Most Sweet Father')."

He seemed to give no importance to the incurable nature of the disease.

On April 27, 1954, Father Álvaro had just given him an injection of insulin and they were seated at a table. All of a sudden, the Father asked him:

"Álvaro, give me absolution."

Father Álvaro, failing to understand him, replied:

"But Father, what are you talking about?"

"Absolution!"

Seeing his confusion, the Father began to prompt him with the sacramental words:

"Ego te absolvo..." ("I absolve you...")