

Ordinary Life and Holiness in the Teachings of St Josemaria

Introduction Historical and theological framework

This three-volume book is the first attempt to expound systematically the teaching of St Josemaria on sanctification of work and ordinary life.

The easiest way to understand St Josemaria's teaching:

“Consider the life of the early Christians. They lived their Christian vocation seriously, seeking earnestly the holiness to which they had been called by their Baptism. Externally they did nothing to distinguish themselves from their fellow citizens.” St JOSEMARIA, *Conversations*, 24.

“We have come to say . . . that sanctity is not something for a privileged few; that our Lord calls every one of us, that he expects love from everyone; from everyone, no matter where they are; from everyone, whatever might be their state in life, their profession, or their position. Because that ordinary, everyday life, with nothing showy about it, can be a means of sanctity.” St JOSEMARIA, *Letter* 24 March 1930, 2.



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READING GUIDE

What is the ultimate end of Christian life?

“We are to give all glory to God. He wants it: gloriam meam alteri non dabo, I won't give my glory to others (Is 42:8). Therefore we want Christ to reign, as per ipsum et cum ipso, et in ipso, est tibi Deo Patri Omnipotenti in unitate Spiritus Sancti omnis honor et gloria; through Him, and with Him, and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours (Roman Canon). And a demand of his glory and reign is that all, together with Peter, should go to Jesus through Mary.” St JOSEMARIA, *Instruction*, 19 March 1934, 36.

