



Saint Josemaria Escriva

Founder of Opus Dei

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110th anniversary of Saint Josemaria's birthday

2012.1.5

Where and when was St Josemaria born? What were his other names? When was he baptized? Who were his parents? What did Saint Josemaria say about them? What kind of childhood did Josemaria have? Was his family well off or short of money? Questions and answers about his birth, childhood, family. The best articles, videos and photos around Saint Josemaria's birth and childhood.

The life

[Clik here](#) to see the [Interactive timeline with his biography](#)

The interactive timeline tells the story of St Josemaria's life and the history of Opus Dei with photos, video-clips and brief descriptions, in parallel with notable historical events

Barbastro, the city where was born

[Photogallery of Barbastro, the place where he was born](#)

His parents: José y Dolores

[Christian Parents](#), article by Esher Toranzo. His parents were José Escriva and Dolores Albas. The Escrivas came originally from Narbonne in France, but had been settled for centuries in the Catalonian district of Balaguer.

[Video: What said Saint Josemaria about his parents?](#)

St Josemaria recalled his parents' love: "They really loved each other, and they had to suffer a lot (...); and I always saw them smiling."

[Were The Escriva a christian family?](#)

St Josemaria recalled gratefully how his parents introduced him step by step to

the Christian way of life.

The life of Saint Josemaria in Video

[The first years, family, vocation and the founding of Opus Dei](#)

His christening

[The account of Saint Josemaria's christening explained to children](#)

On January 13, 1902, everyone in St Josemaria's house got up early and put on their best clothes. The little family was going to gather at the baptismal font in Barbastro Cathedral that morning.

Historical Questions & Answers about his family and childhood

With the assistance of the Center for Documentation and Studies on Josemaria Escriva (CEDEJ), José M. Cejas provides the historical viewpoint on questions about the life of Opus Dei founder St Josemaria Escriva, his family and many other questions.

[What kind of childhood did Josemaria have?](#)

[Was his family well off or short of money?](#)

[Why did Josemaria's father's business fail?](#)

For children

[The life of saint Josemaria for children](#)

Paulina Monckeberg, author and illustrator of the book *Vida y aventuras de un borrico de noria... y su relojerico* ("Life and adventures of a water-wheel donkey... and his little watch-mender") tells how the book came to be written. The book includes painful episodes from St Josemaria's childhood, like the deaths of three of his sisters, and especially that of Chon, who was next after him in age and to whom he was very close.

[Video of Mr Jose, Saint Josemaria's dad](#)

Mr Jose Escriva was Josemaria's dad. His business collapsed, and he had to take a job in Logroño. The family moved there in 1915.