

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." -Sir Winston Churchill

You want to know the  
difference between a master  
and a beginner?

The master has failed  
more times than the  
beginner has even tried.



## The Gospel of Work

1. Honor God with your Daily Work
2. Share the Light, Do Not Hide It Under a Bucket
3. Share the Joy, Your Joy in Christ
4. Help Others
5. Learn for Them
6. Don't be Discouraged by Anyone
7. Witness Through your Happiness
8. Work Heartily Because Your Work is God's Work
9. No matter what happens to you or who you're working with, You Are Working for God!

(from notes taken while listen to The Joe Sikorra Show on Immaculate Heart Radio the week of March 20, 2017)

*"From the example of St. Joseph we receive an invitation to serve, to act in the service of God and His people, to serve with Faithfulness, with Simplicity, and with Humility."* —Archbishop José Gomez

## Scriptures To Encourage Our Work

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. —Colossians 3:23-24

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.  
—1 John 4:8

Your every act should be done with love. —1 Corinthians 16:14

When we were with you we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat.  
—2 Thessalonians 3:10

Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. Yes, all shall be put to shame and disgrace who vent their anger against you; those shall be as nothing and perish who offer resistance. You shall seek but not find those who strive against you; they shall be as nothing at all who do battle with you. For I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; it is I who say to you, do not fear, I will help you. —Isaiah 41:10

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you...plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart.  
—Jeremiah 29:11-13

I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go. —Joshua 1:9

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. —Philippians 4:13

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so,

your light must shine before others, that they may see your good [deeds = erga = work(s) = the things you do] and glorify your heavenly Father.  
—Matthew 5:14-16

### The Parable of the Talents.

14 ‘It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them.

15 To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately

16 the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five.

17 Likewise, the one who received two made another two.

18 But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

19 After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them.

20 The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’

21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’

22 [Then] the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’

23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’

24 Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter;

25 so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’

26 His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter?

27 Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?

28 Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten.

29 For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

30 And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’

## OUR WORK IS SACRED

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

Part II

Chapter 6

(Below 1-3 are from here: Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, specifically Chapter SIX paragraphs 264, 262, and 275.)

We learn three things: Christ is the answer to the Fall

1) We have a DUTY to work as Christ: No Christian, in light of the fact that he belongs to a united and fraternal community, should feel that he has the right not to work and to live at the expense of others (cf. 2 Thes 3:6-12). Rather, all are charged by the Apostle Paul to make it a point of honor to work with their own hands, so as to “be dependent on nobody” (1 Thes 4:12), and to practice a solidarity which is also material by sharing the fruits of their labor with “those in need” (Eph 4:28). Saint James defends the trampled rights of workers: “Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts” (Jas 5:4). Believers are to undertake their work in the style of Christ and make it an occasion for Christian witness, commanding “the respect of outsiders” (1 Thes 4:12).

2) Our work is SACRED: Pauline and Johannine writings bring to light the Trinitarian dimension of creation, in particular the link that exists between the Son—Word — the Logos — and creation (cf. Jn 1:3; 1 Cor 8:6; Col 1:15-17). Created in him and through him, redeemed by him, the universe is not a happenstance conglomeration but a “cosmos”.<sup>[574]</sup> It falls to man to discover the order within it and to heed this order, bringing it to fulfillment: “In Jesus Christ the visible world which God created for man — the world that, when sin entered, ‘was subjected to futility’ (Rom 8:20; cf. *ibid.* 8:19-22) — recovers again its original link with the divine source of Wisdom and Love”.<sup>[575]</sup> In this way — that is, bringing to light in ever greater measure “the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph 3:8), in creation, human work becomes a service raised to the grandeur of God.

3) Our Work confirms We are SACRED: Work confirms the profound identity of men and women created in the image and likeness of God: “As man, through his work, becomes more and more the master of the earth, and as he confirms his dominion over the visible world, again through his work, he nevertheless remains in every case and at every phase of this process within the Creator's original ordering. And this ordering remains necessarily and indissolubly linked with the fact that man was created, as male and female, ‘in the image of God’”[592] This describes human activity in the universe: *men and women are not its owner, but those to whom it is entrusted, called to reflect in their own manner of working the image of him in whose likeness they are made.* [Emphasis Added]

#### Working Titles of God

Creator, King, Composer, Performer, Metalworker, Potter, Garment Maker, Dresser, Gardner, Orchardist, Farmer, Winemaker, Shepherd, Pastoralist, Tentmaker, Camper, Builder, Architect, Teacher, Hunter, Warrior, Author

Remember This:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. —Colossians 3:23-24

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. — Philipians 4:  
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Saint Josemaria Escriva  
Founder of Opus Dei  
Canonized October 6, 2002

Novena Prayer

O God, through the mediation of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, you granted countless graces to your priest Saint Josemaria, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way to holiness through daily work and the ordinary duties of a Christian. Grant that I also may learn to turn all the circumstances and events of my life into opportunities to love you and serve the Church, the Pope and all souls, with joy and simplicity, lighting up the paths of the earth with faith and love.

Through the intercession of Saint Josemaria, please grant me the favor I request...(make your petition). Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

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“Your daily encounter with Christ takes place right where you work, where your aspirations and your affections are. That is where we must seek sanctity, in the midst of the most material things of the earth, serving God and all humankind. Heaven and earth seem to merge, my daughters and sons, on the horizon. But where they really meet is in your hearts, when you strive for holiness in your everyday lives...”

—St. Josemaria Escriva, from the homily: *Passionately Loving the World*, October 8, 1967

(For more: [www.josemariaescriva.org](http://www.josemariaescriva.org))