St. Josemaria Escriva Feast Day Mass Kit: Writings of St. Josemaria Escriva

On October 11, 2012, the Church celebrated the opening of the Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explained that the Year of Faith “will be a moment of grace and commitment to a more complete conversion to God, to strengthen our faith in Him and proclaim Him with joy to the people of our time.”

The year 2012 also marked the 10th anniversary of the Canonization of St. Josemaria Escriva on October 6, 2002.

In honor of these events and the celebration of the feast day Mass of St. Josemaria, we have selected two excerpts from the writings of St. Josemaria Escriva for the 2012-2013 Feast Day Mass Kits.

The following excerpts are intended to help with the preparation of the homily for the Mass in honor of St. Josemaria Escriva and for special activities:

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“Passionately Loving the World”

“You daily encounter with Christ takes place where your fellow men, your yearnings, your work and your affections are. It is in the midst of the most material things of the earth that we must sanctify ourselves, serving God and all mankind.

This I have been teaching all the time, using words from Holy Scripture: the world is not evil, because it comes from the hands of God, because it is his creation, because Yahweh looked upon it and saw that it was good. It is we ourselves, men and women, who make it evil and ugly with our sins and unfaithfulness. Don’t doubt it, my children: any attempt to escape from the noble reality of daily life is, for you men and women of the world, something opposed to the will of God.

On the contrary, you must realize now, more clearly than ever, that God is calling you to serve him in and from the ordinary, secular and civil activities of human life. He waits for us everyday, in the laboratory, in the operating theatre, in the army barracks, in the university chair, in the factory, in the workshop, in the fields, in the home and in all the immense panorama of work. Understand this well: there is something holy, something divine hidden in the most ordinary situations, and it is up to each one of you to discover it.

I often said to the university students and workers who were with me in the ‘thirties that they had to know how to materialize their spiritual lives. I wanted to warn them of the temptation, so common then and now, to lead a kind of double life: on the one hand, an inner life, a life related to God; and on the other, as something separate and distinct, their professional, social and family lives, made up of small earthly realities.

No, my children! We cannot lead a double life. We cannot be like schizophrenics, if we want to be Christians. There is only one life, made of flesh and spirit. And it is that life which has to become, in both body and soul, holy and filled with God: we discover the invisible God in the most visible and material things.

There is no other way, my daughters and sons: either we learn to find our Lord in ordinary, everyday life, or we shall never find him. That is why I tell you that our age needs to give back to matter and to the apparently trivial events of life their noble, original meaning. It needs to place them at the service of the Kingdom of God; it needs to spiritualize them, turning them into a means and an occasion for a continuous meeting with Jesus Christ.”

St. Josemaria Escriva

Passionately Loving the World, 113-114

Passionately Loving the World is a homily given by St. Josemaria Escriva during Mass on the campus of the University of Navarra in Spain on October 8, 1967. The homily is published in the collection of interviews Conversations with Saint Josemaria Escriva and in the collection of homilies In Love with the Church.

Coincidentally, in 1967, the Church was celebrating the first Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Paul VI. In the homily St. Josemaria Escriva states that, “Faith is a virtue which we Christians need greatly, and in a special way in this ‘Year of Faith’ which our beloved Holy Father, Pope Paul VI has decreed. For without faith, we lack the very foundation for the sanctification of everyday life.”

To read the full text of “Passionately Loving the World” online go to www.escrivaworks.org. To purchase Conversations with Saint Josemaria Escriva visit our online shop at www.stjosemaria.org.
“Living by Faith”

“I would like Jesus himself to talk to us about faith, to give us lessons in faith. So let us open the New Testament and relive with him some of the events of his life. For he did not disdain to teach his disciples, showing them, little by little, how to give themselves wholeheartedly to carrying out the Will of his Father. He taught them both by words and by deeds.

Consider chapter nine of St John. 'And Jesus saw, as he passed on his way, a man who had been blind from birth. Whereupon his disciples asked him, Master, was this man guilty of sin, or was it his parents, that he should have been born blind?' These men, even though they were so close to Christ, could still think badly about that poor blind man. So do not be surprised if, as you go through life seeking to serve the Church, you also come across disciples of Our Lord behaving in a similar manner towards you or towards others. Don't let it worry you and, like the blind man, take no notice; just place yourselves wholeheartedly in Christ's hands. He does not condemn, he forgives. He is not cold and indifferent towards illness, but instead cures it with divine diligence.

Our Lord 'spat on the ground, and made clay with the spittle. Then he spread the clay on the man's eyes, and said to him, Go and wash in the pool of Siloe (a name that means, Sent). So he went and washed there, and came back with his sight restored.'

What an example of firm faith the blind man gives us! A living, operative faith. Do you behave like this when God commands, when so often you can’t see, when your soul is worried and the light is gone? What power could the water possibly contain that when the blind man’s eyes were moistened with it they were cured? Surely some mysterious eye salve, or a precious medicine made up in the laboratory of some wise alchemist, would have done better? But the man believed; he acted upon the command of God, and he returned with eyes full of light.

St. Augustine commenting on this passage wrote: 'It seems appropriate that the Evangelist should have explained the meaning of the name of the pool saying that it meant, Sent. Now you know who has been sent. If Our Lord had not been sent to us, none of us would have been freed from sin.' We must have complete faith in the one who saves us, in this divine Doctor who was sent with the express purpose of curing us, and the more serious or hopeless our illness is the stronger our faith has to be.”

St. Josemaria Escriva

*Friends of God*, 192-193

“Living by Faith” is a homily given by St. Josemaria Escriva on October 12, 1947. In his homily, St. Josemaria draws us closer to understand the virtue of faith and how “the man of faith sees the things of this life in their proper perspective.”

“Living by Faith” is one of the 18 homilies found in the collection *Friends of God*.

To read the full text of “Living by Faith” online go to [www.escrivaworks.org](http://www.escrivaworks.org). To purchase *Friends of God* visit our online shop at [www.stjosemaria.org](http://www.stjosemaria.org).