

A letter from the Prelate of Opus Dei to the Murray Hill Institute conference participants.

To the participants of the Murray Hill Institute Conference, I send my warmest greetings on this significant occasion.

The theme of your conference, *Finding God in and through Everyday Work*, is at the heart of the teaching of Saint Josemaría, recently canonized by the Holy Father. In proclaiming him “the Saint of ordinary life”, John Paul II has wanted to draw special attention to the fact that the message of Saint Josemaría invites all persons who live a normal and ordinary life to find Christ in the midst of their family, professional or social affairs.

In the broad framework of ordinary life, work occupies a very important place, because—as the new saint affirms—it is also the *prime matter* of personal holiness as well as the *ambit* in which the Christian collaborates in the saving mission of the Church. All honest professions, be they intellectual or manual, offer the possibility of an encounter with God, if they are done with human perfection, with supernatural outlook, seeking above all the glory of God rather than self-affirmation, and with a spirit of service toward others.

It is my sincere wish that, as you explore the message of Saint Josemaría and its application in today’s professional environments, you would discover the greatness of your ordinary life and its value as a path to holiness. What the Murray Hill Institute proposes to foster is a very necessary and praiseworthy goal. In today’s society, dominated by a culture that values success in professional life above everything else while relegating to second place the intrinsic value of the person and the family, the teachings of Saint Josemaría can serve to make your work more “human.” It will help you discover the primordial value of service to others—in the first place, to your family—which is an indispensable condition for it to be pleasing to God.

I accompany you with my prayers as you generously and daringly strive to engage these ideals, so capable of enlivening the dominant culture with a Christian spirit. I entrust to Saint Josemaría’s intercession the fruitfulness of your efforts to build a society in keeping with the dignity of God’s children.

May God bless you and your families.

Bishop Javier Echevarria

Prelate of Opus Dei