"Thank you, my God, for that love for the Pope you have placed in my heart"

Here are some of the notes in which Saint Josemaría described his affection for the Pope.

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Veneration

"Your deepest love, your greatest esteem, your most heartfelt veneration, your most complete

obedience and your warmest affection have also to be shown towards the Vicar of Christ on earth, towards the Pope. We Catholics should consider that after God and the most Blessed Virgin, our Mother, the Holy Father comes next in the hierarchy of love and authority" (*The Forge*, no. 135).

"A delightful passion"

"Love for the Roman Pontiff must be in us a delightful passion, for in him we see Christ" (*In Love with the Church*, no. 30)

Apostolic

"Catholic, apostolic, Roman! I want you to be very Roman. And to be anxious to make your 'path to Rome', *videre Petrum* — to see Peter" (*The Way*, no. 520).

Theological

"Every day you must grow in loyalty towards the Church, the Pope and the Holy See... with a love that should be always *more theological*" (*Furrow*, no. 353).

Welcome

"Welcome the Pope's words with a religious, humble, internal and effective acceptance. And pass them on!" (*The Forge*, no. 133).

Prayerful

"May the daily consideration of the heavy burden which weighs on the Pope and the bishops move you to venerate and love them with real affection, and to help them with your prayers" (*The Forge*, no. 136).

Studious

"Faithfulness to the Pope includes a clear and definite duty: that of knowing his thought, which he tells

us in Encyclicals or other documents. We have to do our part to help all Catholics pay attention to the teaching of the Holy Father, and bring their everyday behaviour into line with it" (*The Forge,* no. 633).

Expansive

"Our Holy Mother the Church, in a magnificent extension of love, is scattering the seed of the Gospel throughout the world; from Rome to the outposts of the earth. As you help in this work of expansion throughout the whole world, bring those in the outposts to the Pope, so that the earth may be one flock and one Shepherd: one apostolate!" (*The Forge,* no. 638)

Unified

"Offer your prayer, your atonement, and your action for this end: *ut sint unum!* — that all of us Christians may share one will, one heart, one spirit. This is so that *omnes cum Petro ad*

Iesum per Mariam — that we may all go to Jesus, closely united to the Pope, through Mary" (*The Forge*, 647).

Marian

"Mary continually builds the Church and keeps it together. It is difficult to have devotion to our Lady and not feel closer to the other members of the mystical body and more united to its visible head, the pope. That's why I like to repeat: All with Peter to Jesus through Mary! By seeing ourselves as part of the Church and united to our brothers in the faith, we understand more deeply that we are brothers of all mankind, for the Church has been sent to all the peoples of the earth" (*Christ is Passing By*, no. 139).

Roman

"The Catholic Church is roman. I savour that word, roman! I feel completely roman, since roman

means universal, catholic. For it leads me to love tenderly the Pope, il dolce Cristo in terra, as Saint Catherine of Siena, whom I count as a most beloved friend, liked to repeat... We help to make that apostolic continuity more evident in the eyes of all men by demonstrating with exquisite fidelity our union with the Pope, which is union with Peter. Love for the Roman Pontiff must be in us a delightful passion, for in him we see Christ. If we deal with the Lord in prayer, we will go forward with a clear gaze that will permit us to perceive the action of the Holy Spirit, even in the face of events we do not understand or which produce sighs or sorrow" (*In Love with the Church*, no. 11-13).

Grateful

"Thank you, my God, for that love for the Pope you have placed in my heart" (*The Way*, no. 573).