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First Biography of Fr. Joseph Muzquiz

Fr. Joseph was one of the first three priests of Opus Dei, and died with a reputation for holiness in Boston in 1983. John Coverdale has written a brief biography of this exemplary priest.

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John Coverdale, author of *Uncommon Faith*, an account of the life of St. Josemaría Escrivá and the early years of Opus Dei, has written the first biography of Fr. Joseph

Muzquiz: *Putting Down Roots*. Fr. Joseph was one of the first three priests of Opus Dei, and died with a reputation for holiness in Boston in 1983.

As the blurb on the back of the cover states: "On a winter afternoon in 1949, a 36 year old priest accompanied by a 27 year old graduate student stepped off a TWA flight at New York's Idlewild Airport. Father Jose Luis Muzquiz and Sal Ferigle had come to start Opus Dei, the Work of God, in the United States.

"The Founder of Opus Dei, St. Josemaría Escrivá, had not been able to give them anything beyond his blessing and a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They had almost no money and only a rudimentary command of English. Only a handful of Americans had even heard of Opus Dei, and two decades before the Second Vatican Council, its message

of the call to holiness in the midst of ordinary life was a shocking novelty to most Catholics.

"Father Joseph, as he soon became known, was undaunted. Within six months he had succeeded in purchasing a large house near the University of Chicago which he planned to turn into a university residence. It would be a base for meeting young people with ideals and a spirit of adventure who would in turn blaze a trail for many others both in the United States and numerous other countries.

"This short biography tells the story of his eventful life: from his youth and engineering studies through his first meeting with St. Josemaría, his ordination as one of Opus Dei's first three priests, and his work in establishing Opus Dei in the United States, Canada, Switzerland and Japan, to his final years as chaplain

of several Opus Dei centers in Boston and his death at age 71."

Putting Down Roots contains eight pages of photos, and is published by Scepter Publishers, New York.

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joseph-muzquiz/](https://opusdei.org/en-ca/article/first-biography-of-fr-joseph-muzquiz/) (02/20/2026)