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# **Photo Album: History in the Ankawa District of Erbil (Iraq)**

The first Mass in Iraq in honor of Saint Josemaría Escriva was celebrated on 24 June 2023 at the church of St. Anthony the Great in Erbil.

06/07/2023

24 June 2023 was a historical day for the Christian community in Erbil, the ancient capital of Iraq's Kurdistan Region.

The first Mass in Iraq in honor of Opus Dei founder Saint Josemaría Escrivá was celebrated at the church of St. Anthony the Great in the Ankawa district of Erbil, home to Christian faithful (up to 8,000 families) of the Assyrian Church, Chaldean Church, Syrian Catholic Eparchy, Syriac Orthodox Eparchy, Armenian Church and Latin Church, among others.

Lito Articoná, a Filipino based in Erbil, does project management work for the Office of the Chaldean Archbishop. Dr. Francisco Moya, a Spanish anthropologist based in Seville, makes trips to Erbil to study in depth the Scriptures in the Aramaic language. The two planned and organized the event.

Dr. Moya visits the monastery of the Chaldean Congregation of Antonian Order of St. Hormidz in Erbil, which is renowned for its collection of

ancient Syriac manuscripts. Father Samer Soreshow Yohanna, the superior general of the monastic order, readily agreed to celebrate the Mass in their church.

In this feature, we capture the highlights of the event in photos and quotations from the persons who were present.

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