

## **“A Miracle I Owe to St. Josemaría”**

Joana Bouça has two children. Twelve years ago St. Josemaría helped her after a bad accident. More recently she received another favor through his intercession during the birth of her second child.

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Twelve years ago, while on vacation, I volunteered at a youth center run by members of Opus Dei. The day we went to the shore something happened that changed my life

forever. As we were preparing to leave, gathering for a group photo, an iron protective railing gave way and I fell almost 20 feet, striking my shoulder against the wooden dock to which the boat was moored.

It took three surgeries to stabilize my spine. After some time I was able to walk again. In the days following the accident several doctors I didn't know came into my room and asked the same question: "Who is the saint watching over you?" And I replied, "St. Josemaría Escrivá." "Well, then," they said, "he's the one you have to thank for being able to move your legs after such a fall." Indeed I had said his **prayer card** before leaving for the beach that day, asking for his protection.

Recently I became a mother for the second time. Due to the accident, I have a fibrous spine, which reduces the effectiveness of the epidural

anesthesia. Also everything happened so quickly there wasn't time to administer the injection. So I had to endure the pain. Time went by, and still no child. It was late, and my strength was failing, so I asked St. Josemaría once more: "Let this birth come at 1 a.m.!" And thank God, just as I was about to ask for a Cesarean, at 1:02, Juanito was born.

In the days that followed, I had one more scare, when the doctors thought the baby would have to be kept for a week to perform an "antibiotherapy" and a "phototherapy." Once more I had recourse to St. Josemaría, and they decided those procedures weren't needed. So we were able to go home in peace.

Joana Bouça lives in Porto, Portugal.

**Many people ask St. Josemaría to intercede with God for them. See other stories [here](#).**

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