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## **A Statue of St. Josemaria in St. Peter's**

A statue of St. Josemaria was placed just outside St. Peter's Basilica on August 30. It is the work of sculptor Romano Cosci.

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The statue is located in an exterior niche of the Basilica alongside other sculptures of the same dimension: St. Teresa of the Andes, St. Marcelino Champagnat, St. Gregory of Armenia, etc. John Paul II intended that the

niches in this area of the Basilica be occupied by saints and founders of our time.

In 2002 the same Italian artist, Romano Cosci, sculpted a figure of St. Josefa of the Heart of Jesus, foundress of the Handmaids of Jesus, which has also been placed in the Vatican.

Cosci works from his studio in Pietrasanta, a town in northern Italy. Shortly after the statue of St. Josemaria was placed in its niche, he declared: "This has been a great year; we have worked with intensity in order to complete a difficult project: the sculpture of a saint. Ordinarily it is difficult for an artist to be completely satisfied with his work. My intention is to please the faithful who view it, recognizing in it the figure of a priest who wanted to fulfill the will of God in everything."

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