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# **Opus Dei's Prelate begins North American Pastoral Visit**

Bishop Javier Echevarria, the Prelate of Opus Dei, spoke with more than 2,000 members of Opus Dei, family, and friends in Manhattan on Sept. 13, at the start of a pastoral trip to the United States and Canada.

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In a gathering at the Manhattan Center concert hall, Bishop

Echevarria explained Opus Dei's message of finding God in family, work, and friendships.

“God is not a distant being, somewhere off with the shining stars,” Bishop Echevarria said. “He wanted to come into the world and walk alongside us, doing what we do, showing us that everything we do can be converted into the work of God.”

Bishop Echevarria also spoke of how much Opus Dei's founder Saint Josemaria Escriva prayed for the United States. “Saint Josemaria prayed for this land,” Bishop Echevarria said. “How much he loves you. He follows you closely with the heart of a father and a mother.”

Participants in the get-together asked Bishop Echevarria questions about different matters, ranging from how to impart faith to children, to how to

find joy in forgiveness in the aftermath of September 11.

During his trip, which lasts from Sept. 12 to Sept. 29, Bishop Echevarria will visit New York, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, San Francisco and Houston.

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