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# **Why does ‘Ad charisma tuendum’ insist on the “charism” of Opus Dei? Are charism and hierarchy opposing realities?**

Questions and answers about  
the Motu Proprio “Ad charisma  
tuendum” and the  
Extraordinary General  
Congress of Opus Dei.

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As Vatican II says, the Holy Spirit makes use of hierarchical and charismatic gifts to guide the Church (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 4). This *motu proprio* reaffirms the charism of Opus Dei received by Saint Josemaría Escrivá, and its mission to help build up the Church. Some gifts are at the service of others, and the Church needs all of them. And throughout history, she has wisely found ways to enrich and protect them reciprocally.

The *motu proprio* reminds us that the government of Opus Dei must be at the service of the charism – of which we are administrators, not owners – so that it may grow and bear fruit, confident that it is God who works all things in all people.

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charism-and-hierarchy/ (02/09/2026)