

opus dei examination of conscience

Opus Dei Examination of Conscience: A Pathway to Spiritual Growth and Self-Reflection

opus dei examination of conscience is a profound spiritual practice rooted in the Catholic tradition, particularly emphasized within the spirituality of Opus Dei. This method of self-reflection is designed to encourage individuals to look deeply into their hearts, assess their actions, and cultivate a closer relationship with God through sincere repentance and growth in virtue. Unlike a mere checklist of sins, the Opus Dei examination of conscience invites a nuanced and personal dialogue with oneself, fostering a transformative journey toward holiness.

Understanding the Opus Dei Approach to Examination of Conscience

Opus Dei, founded by St. Josemaría Escrivá, emphasizes the sanctification of ordinary life and the pursuit of holiness in everyday activities. The examination of conscience within this context is not just an occasional ritual but a daily opportunity to align one's life with God's will. It acts as a spiritual compass, helping individuals recognize areas where they have fallen short and where they can strive to grow in charity, humility, and virtue.

What sets the Opus Dei examination of conscience apart is its holistic and practical nature. It goes beyond merely listing sins to include reflections on attitudes, motivations, and the disposition of the heart. This approach encourages a deeper awareness of how one's choices affect relationships with God, others, and oneself.

The Purpose and Benefits of an Opus Dei Examination of Conscience

Engaging regularly in an Opus Dei examination of conscience offers several spiritual benefits:

- **Greater Self-Awareness:** By honestly assessing thoughts, words, and deeds, individuals gain insight into their true selves, including strengths and weaknesses.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Recognizing patterns of sin or recurring faults allows for targeted efforts to cultivate virtues and break harmful habits.
- **Strengthening Prayer Life:** The practice naturally leads to more sincere and heartfelt prayer, as one seeks God's grace for amendment and perseverance.
- **Improved Relationships:** As one becomes more attentive to how actions impact others, there is a greater capacity for forgiveness, charity, and understanding.
- **Preparation for Confession:** A thorough examination helps make the sacrament of reconciliation more meaningful and effective.

How to Perform an Opus Dei Examination of Conscience

While the examination of conscience is a personal and flexible practice, Opus Dei offers guidance to make it both structured and deeply reflective. Typically, the process can be done daily, often in the evening, and involves several key steps:

1. Invitation to Prayer and Stillness

Begin by creating a quiet environment, inviting the Holy Spirit to illuminate your heart. A brief prayer asking for sincerity and openness helps set the tone for an honest reflection.

2. Review the Day

Recall the events of the day, focusing on your interactions, decisions, and inner movements. Consider not only what was done but also thoughts and desires that influenced your behavior.

3. Reflect on Specific Areas

Opus Dei encourages reflection on particular facets of life, such as:

- Charity towards others
- Patience in trials
- Humility and pride
- Use of time and talents
- Purity of thought and intention
- Faithfulness in small duties

This focused approach helps identify subtle areas for growth beyond obvious faults.

4. Acknowledge Faults and Failures

With honesty and without discouragement, recognize moments where you failed to act according to your ideals or God's commandments. This self-honesty is essential for genuine conversion.

5. Give Thanks and Express Hope

Conclude by thanking God for His mercy and the graces received during the day. Express hope and resolve to persevere in striving for holiness, asking for help in areas of weakness.

Key Elements of Opus Dei's Spirituality in the Examination

The examination of conscience in Opus Dei is deeply influenced by the founder's teachings, which emphasize the sanctification of ordinary life and the universal call to holiness.

Several elements are particularly relevant:

Practicality and Realism

St. Josemaría Escrivá encouraged people to find God in their daily work and circumstances. The examination, therefore, focuses on real-life situations and concrete actions, making it accessible and applicable to everyone regardless of their state in life.

Joyful and Hopeful Attitude

While examining faults, the attitude is not one of despair but of hopeful confidence in God's mercy. This balance nurtures perseverance without falling into scrupulosity or excessive guilt.

Integration with Daily Life

The practice is meant to be a natural part of daily routine, not a burdensome obligation. This integration supports consistent spiritual progress and helps one remain attentive to God's presence throughout the day.

Tips for Deepening Your Opus Dei Examination of Conscience

To make your examination of conscience more fruitful, consider these practical tips inspired by Opus Dei spirituality:

1. **Set a Regular Time:** Consistency helps develop the habit and ensures the practice doesn't get overlooked amid daily busyness.
2. **Use a Journal:** Writing down insights can deepen reflection and track progress over time.
3. **Focus on One Virtue at a Time:** Targeting specific virtues such as patience or humility can bring clarity and measurable growth.
4. **Seek Spiritual Guidance:** Discussing struggles and progress with a spiritual director or confessor can provide encouragement and personalized advice.
5. **Remember God's Mercy:** Always approach the examination with trust in God's forgiveness and desire to help you improve.

Common Misconceptions about Opus Dei Examination of Conscience

Some may mistakenly think that the Opus Dei examination of conscience is primarily about scrupulosity or self-condemnation. In reality, it is a loving and hopeful encounter with oneself and God. It is not meant to instill fear but to inspire growth and transformation. Another misunderstanding is that it requires complex theological knowledge; however, the examination is designed to be straightforward and accessible for all, regardless of their level of religious education.

The Role of Confession and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

While the examination of conscience can be practiced independently, it often serves as preparation for the sacrament of confession. Opus Dei encourages frequent confession as a means of receiving God's grace to overcome faults and renew commitment to the Christian life. The examination helps ensure that confession is sincere, thorough, and fruitful.

Incorporating the Opus Dei Examination into Modern Life

In today's fast-paced world, carving out time for spiritual reflection can be challenging. Yet, the Opus Dei examination of conscience offers a practical tool for modern believers seeking to live authentically and holistically. By setting aside a few quiet moments each day, individuals can reconnect with their deepest values and invite God's grace to transform their lives.

Many have found that this practice not only nurtures their spiritual health but also enhances emotional well-being and personal relationships. The self-awareness gained through honest reflection can lead to better decision-making, reduced stress, and a more peaceful heart.

Ultimately, the opus dei examination of conscience serves as a gentle yet powerful guide, helping people navigate the complexities of life with faith, hope, and charity. It reminds us that holiness is attainable in our daily lives and that God's love is always present, inviting us to grow closer to Him with each passing day.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Opus Dei examination of conscience?

The purpose of the Opus Dei examination of conscience is to help individuals reflect deeply on their daily actions, thoughts, and motivations in light of Christian teachings, fostering spiritual growth and greater union with God.

How often should one perform the Opus Dei examination of conscience?

Members of Opus Dei are encouraged to perform the examination of conscience daily,

typically in the evening, to review their day, recognize faults, and seek forgiveness and improvement.

What are the key elements considered in the Opus Dei examination of conscience?

Key elements include reflecting on one's love for God and neighbor, honesty, humility, fulfillment of duties, use of time, avoidance of sin, and progress in virtues such as charity, patience, and purity.

Does Opus Dei provide specific guides or prayers for the examination of conscience?

Yes, Opus Dei offers specific guides and prayers to assist members in conducting a thorough and meaningful examination of conscience, often tailored to personal circumstances and spiritual goals.

How does the Opus Dei examination of conscience differ from general Catholic practice?

While similar in principle, the Opus Dei examination of conscience emphasizes sanctifying ordinary work and daily life, encouraging members to find God in their professional and personal duties as part of their spiritual reflection.

Can non-members of Opus Dei use their examination of conscience methods?

Absolutely. The methods and guides provided by Opus Dei for the examination of conscience are publicly available and can be beneficial to any Catholic seeking a structured and deep reflection of their spiritual life.

What role does confession play in the Opus Dei examination of conscience?

Confession is a key component of the Opus Dei spiritual life. The examination of conscience prepares individuals for confession by identifying sins and areas for spiritual growth, fostering sincere repentance and renewal.

Additional Resources

Opus Dei Examination of Conscience: A Deep Dive into Spiritual Self-Reflection

opus dei examination of conscience represents a distinctive approach within the broader Catholic tradition, emphasizing rigorous self-assessment as a pathway to spiritual growth and sanctity. Rooted in the teachings of St. Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei, this method of examination of conscience is designed not only to identify sins but also

to foster an authentic conversion of heart and daily commitment to holiness.

Understanding the Opus Dei model requires a comprehensive look at how its examination of conscience differs from conventional practices, its underlying theological principles, and its practical application among members and sympathizers. This article explores these dimensions, offering an analytical perspective that underscores the spiritual and psychological implications of such a practice.

Theological Foundations of Opus Dei Examination of Conscience

At its core, the Opus Dei examination of conscience is deeply influenced by the spiritual doctrine of sanctifying ordinary life. St. Josemaría Escrivá taught that holiness is accessible to everyone through their daily work and duties. Unlike some traditional forms of examination that might focus heavily on sin enumeration, the Opus Dei approach integrates a broader reflection on one's relationship with God, others, and oneself.

This practice is not merely a checklist of moral failings but a dynamic tool for interior transformation. It encourages introspection on attitudes, motivations, and the fidelity to one's vocation. The examination of conscience in Opus Dei is therefore both rigorous and hopeful, designed to awaken a sincere desire for amendment and growth.

Structure and Content of the Opus Dei Examination

Typically, members of Opus Dei engage in a daily examination of conscience, often at night, as a means of reviewing the day's actions, thoughts, and omissions. The process is methodical, guided by a series of questions or points that help uncover not only overt sins but also venial faults and areas where charity and virtue may be lacking.

Some characteristic features include:

- Focus on daily personal interactions and professional responsibilities.
- Reflection on fidelity to God's will in ordinary circumstances.
- Attention to humility, charity, patience, and other virtues.
- Consideration of one's openness to grace and the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

This multifaceted approach ensures that the examination is not confined to moral failings but extends to the cultivation of virtue, making it an instrument for holistic spiritual development.

Comparative Perspectives: Opus Dei and Traditional Examination of Conscience

While the concept of examination of conscience is widespread in Catholic spirituality, the Opus Dei method exhibits unique emphases that distinguish it from more traditional forms. Standard examinations often prioritize identifying mortal and venial sins based on the Ten Commandments or the Seven Deadly Sins. In contrast, Opus Dei's framework is more expansive, reflecting its charism focused on sanctification through everyday life.

For instance, a conventional examination might ask:

1. Have I lied, stolen, or committed acts of impurity?
2. Have I missed Mass or neglected prayer?

Conversely, Opus Dei's examination might probe deeper into:

- Have I performed my work with diligence and love?
- Did I respond with patience and charity to difficult people?
- Have I allowed pride or discouragement to influence my decisions?

This broader lens helps practitioners develop a continuous awareness of God's presence in all aspects of life, aligning with Opus Dei's mission to find holiness in ordinary circumstances.

Psychological and Spiritual Impact

The Opus Dei examination of conscience also carries significant psychological benefits. Regular self-reflection promotes mindfulness and accountability, which can lead to improved emotional regulation and personal growth. By focusing on virtues as well as faults, the practice fosters a balanced view of the self that avoids excessive guilt or scrupulosity.

Moreover, the daily rhythm of examination cultivates a sense of ongoing conversion and resilience. Practitioners learn to appreciate progress and setbacks as part of the spiritual journey, encouraging perseverance rather than despair.

Practical Application and Accessibility

Opus Dei provides various resources to assist members and interested individuals in performing their examination of conscience. These include written guides, spiritual retreats, and one-on-one spiritual direction. The availability of structured materials makes the practice accessible, even for those new to spiritual exercises.

Additionally, the examination of conscience is often linked with confession and spiritual counsel within Opus Dei, creating a supportive environment for overcoming obstacles and deepening faith.

Pros and Cons of the Opus Dei Examination of Conscience

Considering the effectiveness of this practice, it is important to weigh its advantages and potential challenges:

- **Pros:**

- Encourages a holistic approach to personal sanctity.
- Integrates faith with everyday life and work.
- Promotes emotional and spiritual maturity.
- Provides clear structure and guidance for daily reflection.

- **Cons:**

- May be perceived as demanding or rigorous for some practitioners.
- Risk of legalism if not balanced with grace and mercy.
- Requires discipline and consistency, which can be challenging.

Overall, the practice's benefits often outweigh its difficulties, particularly when approached with a spirit of openness and trust in God's mercy.

Integrating Opus Dei Examination of Conscience into Modern Spiritual Practice

In a contemporary religious landscape marked by fast-paced lifestyles and spiritual distractions, the Opus Dei examination of conscience offers a structured moment for pause and self-assessment. Its emphasis on ordinary life sanctification resonates with many seeking to bridge faith and daily responsibilities.

Moreover, the method's adaptability allows it to be integrated into various routines, whether through brief nightly reflections or more extended spiritual exercises during retreats. This flexibility is crucial for maintaining spiritual health in today's demanding environments.

In summary, the opus dei examination of conscience stands out as a profound and practical tool for ongoing spiritual renewal. Its distinctive focus on everyday holiness, combined with a comprehensive self-review, positions it as a valuable resource for those committed to deepening their Christian vocation.

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opus dei examination of conscience: *Opus Dei* John L. Allen, 2006-05-04 *Opus Dei* is one of the most talked about but least known religious organizations of our time. For years no one has been allowed access to its secrets. Until now ... Here, Vatican insider John Allen uncovers its true nature. Granted unlimited access to those within its ranks, gaining a wealth of interviews with the heads of *Opus Dei* around the world, Allen finally separates the myths from the facts: the actual use of whips and the cilice; the true extent of *Opus Dei*'s funds; the identities of its influential members in politics, banking and high office; and how much power this shadowy group really has. 'Definitive, persuasive and absorbing' *Daily Telegraph* 'Focuses on some of the most controversial aspects of the organization, from its treatment of women to its recruitment and its money' *Independent* 'He reports on all aspects of the *Opus Dei* cult (including structure and finance, and the practice of mortifying the flesh with a cilice) ... and, most usefully, includes details of the bishops and personnel around the world who are *Opus Dei* clergy' *New Statesman* 'An admirable book ... the first stop for anyone interested in [*Opus Dei*]' *Sunday Times*

opus dei examination of conscience: *Opus Dei* John L. Allen, Jr., 2005-11-01 The first serious journalistic investigation of the highly secretive, controversial organization *Opus Dei* provides unique insight about the wild rumors surrounding it and discloses its significant influence in the Vatican and on the politics of the Catholic Church. *Opus Dei* (literally "the work of God") is an international association of Catholics often labeled as conservative who seek personal Christian perfection and strive to implement Christian ideals in their jobs and in society as a whole. Founded in Spain in 1928, it now has 84,000 members (1,600 of whom are priests) in eighty countries. But far from running bingo nights at local parishes, *Opus Dei* has become a center of controversy and suspicion both within and outside the Church. It has been accused of promoting a right-wing political agenda and of cultlike practices, aggressive recruiting, brainwashing new recruits, and isolating members from their families. Its notoriety escalated with the publication of the runaway bestseller *The Da Vinci Code* (*Opus Dei* plays an important and sinister role in the novel) and with the previous pope's much-debated canonization of its founder (often linked with Francisco Franco's fascist regime) and the discovery that convicted FBI spy Robert Hanson was a member of *Opus Dei*. With the expert eye of a longtime trusted observer of the Vatican and the skill of an investigative reporter intent on uncovering closely guarded secrets, John Allen finally separates the myths from the facts in *Opus Dei*. Granted unlimited access to the prelate who heads the organization and to *Opus Dei* centers throughout the world, Allen draws on a wealth of interviews with current members, as well as with highly critical ex-members, to create an unprecedented portrait of the activities, practices, and intentions behind its veil of secrecy. Allen reveals the remarkable power that *Opus Dei* commands in shaping Vatican policy and presents a detailed look at the full extent of its network, which includes people in key positions in politics, banking, academia, and other influential arenas. He even describes the arcane rituals—including self-flagellation—performed to preserve and promote a spiritual tradition strange and unsettling to modern sensibilities. For years, *Opus Dei* has been the subject of conspiracy theories and dark, uninformed speculation. *Opus Dei* sets the record straight.

opus dei examination of conscience: *The Canonical Path of Opus Dei* Amadeo de Fuenmayor, Valentín Gómez-Iglesias, José Luis Illanes Maestre, 1994 This book tells the complete history of how the Prelature of *Opus Dei* developed within the legal structure of the Catholic Church. What makes this history compelling is that the unique characteristics of *Opus Dei*'s spirit did not fit into any existing framework in Church law when *Opus Dei* was founded in 1928 by Msgr. Josemaria Escriva, who was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1992, nearly 17 years after his death. Msgr. Escriva sought to create a framework which harmonized the spirit of *Opus Dei* with the legal norms of the Church. The authors show how that quest was carried out over 54 years, from its earliest years in Madrid, approvals in various dioceses and by the Holy See, and culminating in the creation of *Opus Dei* as a personal prelate. /

opus dei examination of conscience: The Founder of Opus Dei: The Life of Josemaría

Escrivá, Volume II Andres Vazquez de Prada, 2017-03-31 This second volume of the three-volume biography of St. Josemaría covers one of the most remarkable periods of his life: from the outbreak of the civil war in 1936 to his departure for Rome in 1946. In Republican Spain fierce anti-Catholic persecution led St. Josemaría to do his priestly work in secret, fully aware that if caught, he would be executed - as were 6000 other priests. This book recounts the saint's dangerous journey across the Pyrenees to the Nationalist zone, where he could exercise his priestly ministry more freely, his tireless labors to counter (with both heroic charity and determination) the slanders that threatened to overwhelm Opus Dei, and more. Here is an unforgettable picture of the saint's activity during the years of crisis that threatened to obliterate his great gift to the church: Opus Dei.

opus dei examination of conscience: *The Founder of Opus Dei: The Life of Josemaría Escrivá, Volume I* Andres Vazquez de Prada, 2017-03-31 This is the first volume of three about the life of Saint Josemaría Escrivá. He has been hailed as a pioneer in helping ordinary Christians find God in their daily lives. Moved as a teenager by footprints of a barefoot Carmelite priest in the snow, Josemaría felt called to greater generosity in the priesthood and in his struggles to build up Opus Dei during the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. This latest biography is the most extensively researched work on his family history, childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. The reader benefits from an enormous wealth of details in extensive notes and appendices. Accompanying them are excerpts from his correspondence, spiritual writings and testimonials from dozens of friends and acquaintances. The remarkable story continues in volumes II and III.

opus dei examination of conscience: *Their Kingdom Come* Robert Hutchison, 2014-09-02 Robert Hutchison's *Their Kingdom Come* is an explosive expose of one of the most powerful and secretive sects operating within the Roman Catholic Church-Opus Dei. This book reveals that Opus Dei: -Has become the Catholic Church's paramount financial power -Influences its members through a combination of secret rites and insistence on absolute obedience -Uses a strategy of discretion to cloud its real intentions -Aims to prepare Christendom for the next crusade against Islam

opus dei examination of conscience: *The Founder of Opus Dei: The Life of Josemaría Escrivá, Volume III* Andres Vazquez de Prada, 2017-03-31 Dream, and your dreams will fall short, Saint Josemaría Escrivá told early members of Opus Dei. This third and final volume of the most extensively researched work on the founder of Opus Dei covers his years in Rome, from 1946 until his death there in 1975. It describes how Opus Dei overcame major obstacles and blossomed from a handful of members in Spain into a worldwide institution, with more than 60,000 members of 80 nationalities. Andres Vazquez de Prada, a Spanish diplomat, writer, and historian who knew Saint Josemaría personally, narrates the story, using previously unpublished letters, diaries, and other sources from the archives of the Prelature of Opus Dei.

opus dei examination of conscience: *Ordinary Work, Extraordinary Grace* Scott Hahn, 2009-06-03 A deeply personal introduction to the biblical theology and spirituality of Opus Dei by the bestselling Catholic author Scott Hahn. To conspiracy theorists, Opus Dei is a highly secretive and powerful international organization. To its members, however, Opus Dei is a spiritual path, a way of incorporating the teachings of Jesus into everyday life. In *Ordinary Work, Extraordinary Grace*, Scott Hahn, a member of Opus Dei, describes the organization's founding, its mission, and its profound influence on his life. Hahn recounts the invaluable part Opus Dei played in his conversion from Evangelical Christianity to Catholicism and explains why its teachings remain at the center of his life. Through stories about his job, his marriage, his role as a parent, and his community activities, Hahn shows how Opus Dei's spirituality enriches the meaning of daily tasks and transforms ordinary relationships. He offers inspiring insights for reconciling spiritual and material goals, discussing topics ranging from ambition, workaholicism, friendship, and sex, to the place of prayer and sacrifice in Christianity today. Engaging and enlightening, *Ordinary Work, Extraordinary Grace* is at once a moving personal story and an inspiring work of contemporary spirituality.

opus dei examination of conscience: *The Appalling Strangeness of the Mercy of God* Ruth V.K. Pakaluk, Michael Pakaluk, 2011-03-21 This book is the powerful story of an amazing woman, Ruth Pakaluk, who converted to Catholicism at Harvard, married her college sweetheart and joyfully

welcomed seven children. She became a renowned pro-life leader and brilliant debater, who was struck with breast cancer and died at the young age of forty-one. Ruth's inspiring story is told primarily through her humorous, sparkling and insightful letters in which her realistic cheerfulness shines. A biographical overview by her husband fills in important details about her life, and a collection of her talks on abortion, faith and being a Catholic wife and mother conclude the volume. Ruth Pakaluk exemplified the powerful integrity of someone who lived what she believed. She was steadfastly committed to Christ and to the culture of life, and this commitment was manifested in her consistent affirmation of life in her family, in society and even in the face of her own death. Peter Kreeft, well known Professor of Philosophy and author, described Ruth as the best, most effective and inspiring pro-life speaker he had ever heard. She was such a compelling, articulate pro-life debater that eventually Planned Parenthood spokeswomen refused to spar with her in public. All Ruth's virtues revealed in this book #NAME? truth, and her faith & hope while battling a terminal illness - offer inspiration and encouragement to anyone striving to put Christian faith into action.

opus dei examination of conscience: *The Way* Josemaria Escriva, 2025-03-25 OVER FOUR MILLION COPIES SOLD • A meaningful Lenten resource from Saint Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei, full of timeless reflections that point the way to a life that is infused with faith. The inspiration for Hallow's 2025 Lent Pray40 Community Prayer Challenge The Christian's life in this world is a journey in search of the love of Christ. St. Josemaría's book is an open invitation to set out on that journey, and its final stage speaks to us of the love that comes, as a result of seeking and finding Christ, as the fulfillment of that arduous journey, a love that, in fact, was there all along, seeking us out.—Bishop Javier Echevarría, from the introduction Reflecting Saint Josemaría Escrivá's conviction that God can be found in the everyday, *The Way* blends passages from sacred Scripture with anecdotes drawn from Escrivá's life and work, snatches of conversation, and selections from his personal letters. These short, poignant meditations, totaling 999 "points," together form a guide to a better life and "a more worthy soul." *The Way* beautifully conveys Escrivá's belief that the human is not foreign to the divine, and that the fully Christian spiritual attitude can be described as unity of life.

opus dei examination of conscience: *Jesus Secret* Dr. Robert Sibley, 2012-10-01 *The Jesus Secret* is the first fiction book written by Dr. Robert Sibley based on his nonfiction book *The Unknown Life of Jesus*. It is a historical novel about the life of Jesus. It is an exciting adventure of two college professors, Carl Iverson and Katherine Ralston, searching for the truth of what really happened to Jesus. Dr. Iverson had received an ancient manuscript written in Aramaic at the time of Jesus, discovered in Israel. The manuscript described Jesus's life after the crucifixion, giving evidence that he survived the crucifixion. (An actual manuscript was found called the Talmud of Immanuel.) The book provides the evidence that Jesus lived out his life in Kashmir and had a family. The excitement comes when powers of the church try to prevent Carl and Katherine from finding the truth. *The Jesus Secret* describes the lost years of Jesus, how he survived the crucifixion, his family, a background on how the church was established, and the corruption within the church to hide the truth. The final chapters describe what may happen if the truth is discovered. After reading the book, the reader will have a better understanding, respect, and love for Jesus, the most evolved soul ever to help guide humanity on their spiritual journey.

opus dei examination of conscience: *Insanity and Genius* Harry Eiss, 2014-06-02 In his book about the discovery of the structure of DNA, James Watson wrote, "So we had lunch, telling ourselves that a structure this beautiful just had to exist." Indeed, the quest most often asked by scientists about a scientific theory is "Is it beautiful?" Yes, beauty equals truth. Scientists know, mathematicians know. But the beauties, the truths of mathematics and science were not the truths that inspired the author as a child, and he intuitively knew that the truths he needed come from a different way of knowing, a way of knowing not of the world of logic and reason and explanation (though they have a value), but rather a way of knowing that is of the world expression, a world that enters the truths beyond the grasp of logic. That is what this book is all about. It is an exploration of the greatest minds of human existence struggling to understand the deepest truths of the human

condition. This second edition updates the previous one, incorporating new publications on Van Gogh, recent discoveries in neurology, psychology, and the rapid developments in understanding DNA and biotechnology. We've come a long way already from that original discovery by Watson and his coauthor Francis Crick.

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opus dei examination of conscience: Opus Dei Maggy Whitehouse, 2006

opus dei examination of conscience: *40 Years With a Saint* Cesare Cavalleri, 2017-03-24 First published in English in 1996 as *Immersed in God*, this 20th anniversary edition serves an anecdotal account of the life of St. Josemaria Escriva (1902-1975). Blessed Alvaro (1914-1994) was at the saint's side for almost 40 years as his confessor, and from 1976 to his death as the Prelate of Opus Dei, was the successor to St. Josemaria. Blessed Alvaro relates dozens of accounts of Saint Josemaria's apostolate, his service to the Church, and his personality. Many of these stories only came to light after his death, when letters and tributes poured into Rome from around the world. The author and the interviewer of Don Alvaro is Cesare Cavalleri, born in 1936, who edited the theological journal *Studi Cattolici*, and was a columnist and television critic for the Italian newspaper *Avvenire*. These lively anecdotes are gathered in 13 chapters which form a mosaic of the life of St. Josemaria and provided thousands of readers around the world with a picture of the saint, just before publication of an official three volume biography, *The Founder of Opus Dei*, by Andres Vazquez de Prada.

opus dei examination of conscience: The Virtues of Holiness Juan Luis Lorda, 2017-03-29 *The Virtues of Holiness* offers a road-map for navigating our everyday activities: work, family, leisure pursuits. It shows how we can reach the heights of Christian life in and through these activities. For many people this is unfamiliar territory, and the author has written this book just for them. Fr. Lorda offers his readers a daily spiritual plan and describes strategies for gaining the virtues needed for following Christ closely. The next steps are familiarity with the life of Christ and developing a deep interior relationship with Him. Although its path is challenging, *The Virtues of Holiness* leaves no doubt that the struggle to stay close to Christ lies within the reach of every Christian. The author draws on a wide range of Christian apologists from the Church Fathers to St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as the 16th century Spanish mystics, John of Avila, John of the Cross, and Teresa of Avila. The result is a book that is accessible to readers of all ages, and especially young believers.

opus dei examination of conscience: Living the Eucharist Paul Bernier, 2005 If the liturgy is truly to be the source and summit of our lives, says, Fr. Paul Bernier in this simple, clear, and perceptive book, then we need to look more closely at what we are really doing when we celebrate Eucharist, and see more clearly how it connects to our lives outside the church door. Bernier shows how the liturgy is meant to help us learn to dance to God's tune. A movement that was danced to perfection by Jesus, and whose melody is repeated over and over in the eucharistic liturgy. Fr. Bernier explores the five main rhythms of this liturgical, divine melody--the gathering rhythm, the storytelling rhythm, the prophetic rhythm, the nurturing rhythm, and the missioning rhythm. He shows how these rhythms are meant to lead us deeper into sharing Christ's life, both in the liturgy in every moment of our days.

opus dei examination of conscience: Saxum John F. Coverdale, 2017-03-31 *Saxum*—the Latin word means rock—is the nickname that St. Josemaría Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei, bestowed on Alvaro del Portillo. Don Alvaro, as he came to be known, was for many years the founder's closest associate as well as his successor and first Prelate of Opus Dei after it became a personal prelature—a foundational rock for this dynamic international Catholic group devoted to promoting sanctity in ordinary life. Written in anticipation of Bishop del Portillo's September 2014 beatification—his official recognition by the Church as “blessed” and a stage on the way to his possible canonization as a saint—the book is a fact-filled biography set against the background of

historic events like the Spanish Civil War and Vatican Council II. It depicts a person of powerful integrity and conviction who set aside a promising engineering career to follow the vision embodied in Opus Dei. Don Alvaro emerges in these pages as a tower of strength, reliability, and good humor in the face of a host of threats and challenges that might well have defeated a lesser man. John Coverdale, an attorney and historian, is the author of two other books detailing the early days of Opus Dei—Uncommon Faith, about St. Josemaría and his companions during and shortly after the civil war in Spain, and Putting Down Roots, about Father Joseph Muzquiz, along with Alvaro del Portillo one of Opus Dei's first priests, who played a key role in introducing it in the United States.

opus dei examination of conscience: Christ of the Coal Yards Harry Eiss, 2010-02-19 No one heard the shot. No one ever found the gun. It was Sunday, July 27, 1890. Vincent had recently finished Wheatfield with Crows, thought to be his final painting, one that he described as representing "vast fields of wheat beneath troubled skies," one where he said in a letter he meant to send to Theo "I did not need to go out of my way to try to express cheerlessness and extreme loneliness." The letter never got sent, but was found stuffed in his smock. That morning, as usual, he walked out into the wheat fields with his easel, brushes, tubes of color and folding stool, perhaps hoping to reach his destination before the gang of local boys and girls were up and able to tease him and throw tomatoes. Le Crau, a wide plain of ripe grain, fields of citron, yellow, tan, and ochre, spread out beneath the bright Provençal sun. It's safe to assume he heard the cicadas singing loudly, the swiping swishes of the farmers' scythes already cutting through the rich wheat stalks, the gusts of wind whispering through the olive branches. Driven and filled with energy for months, he had been quickly, with an assurance that overcame and perhaps even came from his doubts and struggles, putting his own dramatic visions on canvas after canvas. But today he did not go into the fields to paint, or, perhaps, in the beginning he did, perhaps in the morning that was his intention. No one will ever know. He said he brought the revolver to frighten off the crows. Possibly that was his original intention when he included it with his lunch of bread and milk. In the end it's probably not relevant, except for the endless attempts to analyze him, to dig into his complex psyche, at once brilliant and yet impelled to self-destruction. The Ravoux family were sitting on the terrace of their café when he returned, a bit concerned because he was late, but not overly so. When he finally appeared, his walk was more uneven than usual, and he held his hand over his stomach. "Monsieur Vincent," Mrs. Ravoux said, "we were worried, we are glad to see you come. Has anything bad happened?" "No, but I . . ." he left his reply unfinished as he passed inside. Mr. Ravoux followed him upstairs, where he found him sitting on his bed, facing the wall. "I wanted to kill myself." This book is a critical examination of Vincent van Gogh that offers insights into his life, his religious beliefs, his relationships with women, and, of course, his paintings. It includes discussions of his letters, and responds to many of the previous works about him, dispelling some of the myths that have no foundation and pointing out how many of the claims made about him and many of the popular beliefs that have grown up around him are at best guesswork. It explores psychological, neurological, theological, philosophical, aesthetic, and historical paradigms for comprehending his enigmatic and enticing personality.

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