



INFORMATIVE PAPER
CONCERNING THE LIFE AND
FAME OF SANCTITY OF THE
SERVANT OF GOD
**ISIDORO
ZORZANO**
MEMBER OF THE OPUS DEI
AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

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To make known to the world the life of this Servant of God is to encourage the world to seek a better life. Isidoro's example demonstrates that sanctity is accessible to every man, that each of us can find it naturally in the course of his secular professional work and in the social environment which surrounds him.

THE PROCESS OF BEATIFICATION BEGINS

The opening session in the process of Isidoro's beatification was held on October 11, 1948, the feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin. His Excellency Most Reverend Monseigneur D. Leopoldo Eijo Garay, Patriarch of the Indies, and Bishop of Madrid-Alcala presided over the solemn function. In attendance were Monseigneur Escrivá de Balaguer, President-General of the Opus Dei, numerous members of this Secular Institute, the relatives of Isidoro Zorzano, engineers from the General Railway Offices and the National Railway Company, professors from the School of Industrial Engineering, many fellow students, and employees and personnel who worked under the direction of this Servant of God.

This Paper, which is to be published periodically, has in view to make known the various aspects of the life of the Servant of God as well as some of the favors obtained through his intercession.

Isidoro sanctified himself in the fulfillment of his duties amid the machinery and the workshops of the Malaga railroad yards, among the blueprints in his office in Madrid, while performing his quiet and humble apostolic labors according to the spirit of the Opus Dei. He was convinced that the sanctification of the work before him at each moment was to be his path to his goal, and he spared no effort to attain it.

On August 24, 1930, he felt the call of God urging him to acquaint himself with the Opus Dei, which at that time was just coming into being and which was later to become the first Secular Institute of the Church. His craving for sanctification immediately found a safe channel in which to travel, and from that moment forward he gave himself up to the attainment of sanctity with an admirable determination which finally

reached its culmination in his last illness, a prolonged agony of more than six months, a time which he offered all his sufferings to God for the need of His Church and of the Opus Dei.

Brief Biographical Notes

Isidoro was born in Buenos Aires on September 13, 1902. Three years later his family moved to Spain where he lived until his death.

At Ortigosa de Cameros he received his elementary school training, and at the College of St. Joseph, under the direction of the Marist Brothers, in Logroño, he received his bachelor's degree.

Having finished his secondary school education, he prepared to enter the Special School for Industrial Engineers in Madrid where he studied during the years 1920-1927. Isidoro was now an engineer. His life progressed without any extraordinary occurrences. He owed his professional successes principally to his tenacity and constancy and to his exemplary industry.

He gave his services for some months to the Spanish Society of Naval Construction.
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struction as superintendent of railroad machinery at Matagorda, Cadiz, and in 1928, he joined the Andalusian Railway Company at Malaga. During this period of his life, he planned the electrification of the Cordoba-Belmez, the Guadix-Almeria, and the Malaga-Bobadilla Railway lines. Later, in 1932, he was transferred to the general workshops of the same company as inspector of locomotives and tenders.

His working day, while at Malaga, was a very strenuous one. He rose early in the morning, and before beginning his work, made his meditation and assisted at Holy Mass. His whole life was permeated with the spirit of Opus Dei; for this very reason his life was not a monotonous succession of days, but was a constant progress which gathered momentum as it advanced toward sanctity.

This pamphlet is sent free to anyone who desires to know something about Isidoro. Those, however, who wish to extend the devotion to him or to manifest their thankfulness for favors received can help by sending their contributions for the continuance of the publication of this paper and for the extension of the works of the apostolate in which Isidoro labored.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We acknowledge the contributions sent us by the following people: A. G. from New York, N. Y. \$10; A. M. from Chicago, Ill. \$1; M. G. from Boston, Mass. \$50; S. M. from Chicago, Ill. \$5; X. X. from Washington, D.C. \$10; X. X. from Chicago, Ill. \$10; R. C. from Milwaukee, Wisconsin \$100; M. R. from Toronto, Ont. \$5; A. O. from Los Angeles, Calif. \$2.

When he finished his daily tasks in the workshops, Isidoro taught higher mathematics in the Technical School. Despite these activities, he still found time to listen to and to advise in his own rooms, a group of students from the school, among them some of his subordinate workers from the workshops, whom he unselfishly directed and guided in their professional aspirations.

PRAYER FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

O God, Who filled Your servant Isidoro with so many treasures of grace in the exercise of his professional duties in the midst of the world: grant that I also may learn to sanctify my ordinary work and become an apostle to my friends and associates. Deign to glorify Your servant, and, through his intercession, grant me the favor I request (here make your petition). Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that this prayer is not intended for public devotion and that in interpreting the favors received through his intercession and the sanctity of the Servant of God, in no way is it intended that the judgment of the Holy Church be anticipated.

In addition to his work as an engineer, Isidoro conducted a successful apostolate among his associates and employees as treasurer of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Action, as a member of the Federation of Catholic Students of which he was the founder at Malaga, and also as teacher in the House of the Child Jesus, a home for street urchins and orphans.

In 1936, he went to Madrid. Although he was born in the Argentine and, therefore, could have left the Red zone when the civil war began, he preferred to remain, occupied to the full with service to his people at the serious risk of his life. The Lord had said: "Greater love than this hath no man, that he lay down his life for his friends." Isidoro never hesitated to expose his life to danger.

In the midst of the religious persecution he went to the prisons to give moral and material aid to the imprisoned. Meanwhile, he succeeded, using with ingenuity all the means at his disposal, in hearing Mass and receiving Communion as frequently as possible, and he made it possible, too, for others to do the same.

In 1939, at the end of the Spanish war, he took over at Madrid the leadership of the Bureau of Studies and Unification of Materials for the entire national railway network; at the same time he occupied positions in the Opus Dei which entailed a great deal of work.

He became very ill, and the diagnosis from the very onset of the illness was

that the malady would be fatal. Isidoro was told of the seriousness of his condition as soon as it was known. Wracking pain, persistent insomnia, fever, lack of appetite, intense fatigue caused by the slightest movement, frightening sensations of suffocation — all these torments lasted not only for a few weeks, but for many long months. It was not the intense suffering which is fleeting or momentary and may therefore be made endurable by some hidden reserve-strength of the will, but rather it was a long implacable suffering which demanded a superhuman endurance. The Servant of God, however, demonstrating an heroic fortitude, had forgotten himself, so completely was he preoccupied with others. All who met him during this period remember his sincere, contagious cheerfulness, his spirit of mortification, and his utter confidence in God.

Such, in general outline, was the exemplary life of this man of God in the midst of the world. On July 15, 1943, at half past five in the evening, Isidoro Zorzano died with that same peace and calm which had always characterized him and which he had known how to conserve throughout his entire period of illness.

As a fitting conclusion to these lines, we may include some words written by one of his companions on the day of his death: "Isidoro is dead. He passed through life unnoticed. He fulfilled his duty. He loved much. He was faithful to the little things. And he sacrificed himself always."

THIS PAPER IS PUBLISHED WITH ECCLESIASTICAL APPROBATION

FAVORS OBTAINED THROUGH HIS INTERCESSION

Numerous favors, many of which possess a truly extraordinary character, have been obtained since the death of the Servant of God through his intercession.

On a variety of occasions and under many circumstances great numbers of people have invoked with faith Isidoro's help, asking his aid for the solution of spiritual and material problems of all types.

All who have invoked his name in suffering and in sickness, in contradictions and in problems, have found strength for their souls and, in a great number of cases, the answers to their petitions.

Confidence in the efficacy of his intercession has increased among people of all social groups, and has extended to various countries.

The following are some of the numerous favors obtained through the intercession of the Servant of God.

TUBERCULOSIS CURES

**** R.U.** had long suffered from a very grave case of tuberculosis of the lungs. The prognosis was serious, and the doctors had announced the inevitable need of such drastic treatment as pneumothorax or frenicotomy. No sooner had the operation been decided upon, however, than there began a rapid healing which led to the closing of the lung lesion without the assistance of surgery. The specialist who had been treating R.U. was extremely surprised at this turn of events, for even with an exclusive rest treatment the cure would have been most difficult to bring about and the recovery would have been very slow. R.U. had, however, entrusted his cure to the Servant of God, a piece of whose sudarium he had carried as a relic.

**** J.M.**, of Chicago, attributes entirely to the intercession of the Servant of God, the cure of his brother who had been hospitalized for over a year with tuberculosis.

PLEURISY

**** A.F.**, in Rome, suffered an attack of pleurisy. He immediately recommended his recovery to the Servant of God. The doctors were quite certain in predicting a long sickness with high fever and a prolonged convalescence. Nevertheless, his cure was so rapid that the doctor in charge expressed his astonishment at the "almost miraculous" cure.

AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

**** Mr. U** was the victim of an automobile accident, and, as a result, suffered fractures of the femur, knee, and foot; severe hemorrhaging also set in. After an operation the leg was placed in a cast, and the course of recovery progressed normally until, about two weeks later, a blood clot formed which paralyzed the patient. In spite of the fact that the doctors were pessimistic about the possibility of the patient's recovering, A.C., a friend of Mr. U., invoked the intercession of the Servant of God. "I didn't care what they thought," said A.C. later, "because I knew that Isidoro, through his intercession, would bring about

his cure; therefore I continued to believe despite the belief of the others." A few days later, the patient was out of danger.

IMPAIRED VISION

**** F.A.**, a lawyer living in Rome, suffered an eye ailment which became seriously aggravated, taking the form of a severe conjunctivitis and keratitis to which was added an infiltration of the cornea of the right eye. He offered up his sufferings to God, and asked the Servant of God to intercede for him. In a few days the infection of the right eye disappeared, and, later, both eyes returned to their normal state. He was thus enabled to present himself for his legal examinations. He attributed the cure to the intercession of the Servant of God.

INTESTINAL TUBERCULOSIS

**** In Barcelona**, Miss J.B. was given up by the doctors among whom was Dr. R.C., a specialist in diseases of the alimentary tract. He gave her but a very short time to live for she was suffering from a very seriously advanced case of intestinal tuberculosis. The case was so serious that she was scarcely able to eat. She entrusted her cure with great fervor to the Servant of God, and the lesions disappeared completely without leaving the slightest scar. Today she leads a completely normal life in a religious institution.

VARIOUS FINANCIAL FAVORS

**** C.M.** from Chicago writes: "After having lost my job, I prayed each day to Isidoro and asked him to intercede for me. My prayers were answered, and I received a position far better than I had ever hoped."

**** A.V.** reports from Coimbra, Portugal, that he was in great need of credit without which he would forfeit a great sum of money which had been posted as a bond for the construction of a highway. Forfeiture was imminent when he recommended the problem to the Servant of God. A few days later the bank made the necessary money available on terms far more advantageous than he had ever expected.

Anyone who has obtained favor upon invoking Isidoro's aid is requested to send notice of such favor to any of the addresses listed below. These notices must be very detailed, generally including names and addresses, although, if the writer expresses the desire, the personal identification will be eliminated when the report is published in this leaflet.

Address:

Very Rev. Postulator of the Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God — Isidoro Zorzano.
Viale Bruno Buozzi 73
Rome, Italy.

OR:

Very Rev. Joseph L. Muzquiz
5544 Woodlawn Avenue
Chicago 37, Illinois

**** X.X.**, in Madrid, needed twenty thousand pesetas to meet an urgent bill, but he had no humanly possible means of obtaining the money. After many visits to the tomb of Isidoro, during which he "asked him for the twenty thousand pesetas," X.X. visited a relative on an entirely different piece of business. During the course of the conversation, the relative astounded him by making the gratuitous offer of the twelve thousand pesetas with the immediate promise of eight thousand more. X.X. realized, in the midst of the understandable emotion, that the two amounts added up to the necessary twenty thousand pesetas. He had no hesitancy in ascribing this favor to the intercession of the Servant of God.

**** Several business concerns**, in a similar manner, have entrusted the success of their financial affairs to the Servant of God, and have always received rapid and unexpected solutions to their problems. Among other instances, the case of a company in Madrid may be cited; the company had for two years been dragging along in difficult financial condition because a client, with evident bad faith, refused to pay a huge debt; there was no feasible way of collecting the debt. The Director General of the company referred the matter to Isidoro, and very promptly the entire debt was recovered, on July 15, the anniversary of Isidoro's death.

**** The student of Dublin C.P.** was in a very distressing economical situation. He had been denied to him the annual subvention he used to receive and the income of the private classes he gave, was not sufficient at all to cover his economical needs.

He recommended the matter to Isidoro intensely and with a great faith. Very soon he obtained what it had seemed impossible to get before; the subvention he received or previous years was unexpectedly totally granted to him.

PROFESSIONAL MATTERS

****** In professional problems of a difficult nature the intercession of the Servant of God has also been invoked successfully.

In addition to other cases the following may be cited. During World War II, two physical chemists were doing research at an European university. It was becoming impossible for them to remain in the city, and at the same time it was imperative that they complete the work begun. They had neither the time nor the apparatus required to complete their investigation. The only available equipment was being used almost all day long for military research work. The two scientists recommended their problem to the Servant of God with amazing results. Things turned out so that, when they needed a special apparatus, the person using it for war work left it for them to use for the moment. In addition, the air raid alarms, which had frequently interrupted their work, diminished, no longer making the pursuit of the work so absolutely impossible. Thus, through the aid of Isidoro, the work developed so satisfactorily that they soon finished their research activities.

SPIRITUAL FAVORS

****** Miss N.G.'s father was gravely ill, and was to undergo surgery. He had not gone to confession for many years. N.G. entrusted the matter to the Servant of God and with much confidence spoke to her father. He responded very favorably, and, being deeply impressed, went to confession.

VOCATIONS

****** Isidoro's zeal for the extension of God's kingdom and for the perfection of souls caused him to offer, while on his deathbed, many of his sufferings for the intention that many vocations might be dedicated generously to the service of the Lord. Many people, after their vocations had been recommended to Isidoro, have undertaken a life of perfection in the face of all adverse circumstances. In some cases, as in that of a young student in Valencia, Spain, the realization of the vocation was accompanied by an interior light which, in the case of this particular student, changed his entire attitude and caused him

AN ANECDOTE

One spring evening in Madrid, in his small room at the Hospital, Isidoro suffered an attack of singularly intense asphyxia. He breathed with great difficulty and could not speak above a whisper; this painful anguish caused the typical cold sweat of those who are gravely ill. A grayish light came through the window, the kind of light which produces a profound melancholy in so many people.

The Founder of the Opus Dei had come to visit Isidoro, to speak of his joys and worries, and to extend to the sick man the human comfort of his paternal love. Isidoro's face lit up with that peaceful smile which was so typically his own. That day the Father told him of news which affected Church and which was troubling the Bishop of the diocese. The sick man listened with anxious interest; it was to be seen at a glance that he had forgotten his own sufferings, so completely did Isidoro live his love for the Church in filial respect and concern for the Hierarchy.

After a few hours the Father left. Little by little the patient regained his composure. But the fever, as usual every evening at that time, mounted again, and soon Isidoro's difficulty in breathing again manifested itself. Nevertheless, he meditated in silence.

When, at nightfall, they brought him a sedative, the only remedy which would allow him to sleep when besieged by such attacks, Isidoro refused to take it. He decided to offer his sufferings of that night for the needs of the Church and the happy solution of the problems which were troubling the Bishop.

to dedicate himself to the Lord on the very anniversary of the death of the Servant of God.

HELP AT THE HOUR OF DEATH

****** As a reward for the heroic patience with which he bore the sufferings of his own last illness, the Servant of God has obtained the same exemplary death for those who have invoked him at that hour.

Bartolome Llorens, of the Opus Dei, who died a saintly death at Catarroja, Valencia, on May 31, 1946, recommended himself to the Servant of God with a great confidence shared by his relatives and friends. Those who attended him at his death and who had also known or heard of the Servant of God, when they witnessed the cheerfulness of Bartolome Llorens before death, were greatly impressed with the resemblance it bore to that peace which surrounded Isidoro at the time of his own painful death.

Bartolome Llorens daily said a private prayer, which he himself had composed, in

which he asked the Servant of God to intercede for his recovery, if it suited the glory of our Lord, accepting in advance the outcome of his illness whatever it might be. On the night of his death he smiled and said that he was "going to be reunited with Isidoro."

We should appreciate it if the readers of this paper would send us the names and addresses of other people who may be interested in receiving this as well as succeeding issues.

Those who wish to extend the private devotion to Isidoro may also ask for pictures of the Servant of God, indicating the address and quantity desired. To cover the cost of printing, mailing, etc., please enclose \$1.00 for every hundred pictures.

THIS PAPER IS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH, SPANISH AND ITALIAN

Address:

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