



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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Isidoro lived in the world and there he sanctified himself. One can hardly find any extraordinary events in his life. The extraordinary thing about him is that he heroically sought perfection in his everyday work, in the small details of every moment.

*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 Zorzano was born in Buenos Aires September 13, 1902, of Spanish parents. He moved to Spain in 1905, where he remained until his death.

From 1920-27 he studied in Madrid at the special School for Industrial Engineers.

On August 24, 1930, he joined the Opus Dei, which was then just beginning and which later, upon receiving the Decretum Laudis of the Holy See, was to become the first Secular Institute of the Church.

From 1928 to 1936, in Malaga, Isidoro followed his profession as Engineer with the Andalusian Railroad Company.

During the Spanish Civil War, from 1936 to 1939, Isidoro, while living in Madrid, gave a cheerful example of heroic charity in the midst of all privations and difficulties.

After the war, Isidoro gave his services to the Spanish National Railroad.

On July 15th 1943 Isidoro died in Madrid after a long and painful illness during which he worked out the last steps of his sanctification.

On October 11th 1948, in Madrid, was initiated the process of beatification of that Servant of God, Isidoro L. Zorzano.

**THE WRITINGS OF THE  
SERVANT OF GOD**

At the beginning of the Process of Beatification of Isidoro, on October 11th 1948, the Most Rev. Patriarch Bishop of Madrid-Alcala published an Edict ordering the search and gathering of all the writings attributed to the Servant of God in order that they might be sent to the Holy See.

We copy the following paragraphs from this Edict.

We order: 1st That all the faithful who possess some writing, printed or unpublished, of the Servant of God, for instance private letters, cards, diaries, autobiographies or any other writing redacted by himself or by others by order of the Servant of God, must deliver them as soon as possible to the Ecclesiastical Tribunal or to the Promoter of the Faith, or at least must show these writings so that an authentic copy may be taken.

2nd. That all who have some notice of a writing of the Servant of God not presented or shown to the above Tribunal, be it in possession of private persons or in public libraries or archives, must tell the Ecclesiastical Tribunal by word or by letter as soon as possible. They must indicate all the necessary circumstances to make it possible for the Tribunal to demand it in a due form.

**ISIDORO'S ILLNESS**

Shortly after the close of the Spanish Civil War, Isidoro became aware of a severe pain, which he referred to as sciatic, which prevented his sleeping or resting. These first symptoms were only a prelude to what was to be months of agony. Although the pain was exhausting and seemed to produce a kind of stupor, he did not permit this to interfere with his usual punctual rising and the joyful carrying on of his normal life of intense work.

At the first sign of illness, all the resources of human science and of the deepest charity were put in practice. But it was not until the disease had progressed and a malignant swelling with a localization in the thorax was noticed that the doctors pronounced it Hodgkin's disease.

This illness consists of a chronic swelling of the glands which carries with it chills, high fever, excessive perspiration and loss of strength, progressive loss of appetite, with resultant malnutrition, pernicious anemia, and above all, an indescribably intense fatigue and exhaustion.

The X-rays revealed that the malignant swelling had compressed the principal bronchial tubes limiting the air passage and reducing the breathing apparatus to about one fourth its normal size. This condition produced in Isidoro an overwhelming

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fatigue with each slight motion, and the fatigue was intensified by a very sharp sensation of choking, which increased from day to day.

Upon hearing the diagnosis of the doctors, Isidoro submitted to all their prescriptions and to the orders of his superiors with the same gentleness he had shown in his sufferings and his ordinary work. "Obey the doctor," said the Founder of Opus Dei, "as you would me." Isidoro obeyed with cheerfulness knowing that his illness was incurable and that he had begun a long and inevitably cruel agony.

In these trials to which the Lord subjected him, plus the invisible sufferings which he was undergoing, Isidoro never failed to offer to God the joy and the heroic conquest of each moment. He could scarcely talk; he breathed only with great difficulty; he spent whole nights without sleeping, or if he did sleep, it was only fitfully; the constant restlessness and changing of position in order to be able to breathe, together with the frequent sieges of coughing and choking, were gradually consuming him. Eating became a heroic act of superhuman conquest; Isidoro had developed a repugnance for food because of the sufferings which attended the partaking of each morsel, such as, excessive fatigue and slowness of digestion. He knew, however, that it is characteristic of the spirit of Opus Dei always to live with joy, with the joy which comes from a perfect submission to God's will. For this reason he was always the same: smiling, contented, kind to all, with an imperturbable peace. Like a vigil lamp that burns in honor of the Lord, while dying, Isidoro glowed—full of jubilation for the life he was expecting.

Those who visited Isidoro during his stay in the various hospitals came away with amazement because of the intensity of his pain, but also full of admiration and joy for the example of his marvelous firmness. "He has known for a long time that he is going to die," one of the attending physicians said, "and nevertheless he is completely calm. When he is told he is better, he merely thanks us with a smile containing a depth of lovable irony."

Another doctor familiar with the progression of the malady related to other patients the deeds of strength that most impressed him regarding Isidoro's reaction to suffering, stating that his daily visit to the Servant of God was equivalent to a meditation. "All used to ask me about Isidoro without knowing him, the same as Isidoro would ask me about them. Some were impressed to such an extent by the face of the Servant of God and his patience and joy in suffering that they were moved to shake off their religious indifference."

During his stay in the hospitals Isidoro was reputed to be an exceptional person

## 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.

### CURES

\*\*I.U., sick with pulmonary tuberculosis, on receiving a relic of the Servant of God, Isidoro, wrote: "I am sure that I shall be cured through his intercession. Soon, God willing, I shall announce it to you, and this will be one of the many favors through which Isidoro will arrive at the altar." . . . In spite of the fact that he had a hemorrhage and that both lungs had been affected, before a month elapsed the doctor authorized him to carry on a practically normal life.

\*\*M.V. of Oporto (Portugal), contracted a grave case of typhoid fever. He wanted to have in his possession a crucifix which had belonged to Isidoro, and succeeded in obtaining it as an efficacious means of asking a cure through Isidoro's intercession. In a short time and in spite of the doctor's opinion and predictions to the contrary, M.V. was completely restored to health.

\*\*As a result of a fall at the Rome Airport, A.S. received a deep cut on the knee which affected the artery cavity. According to Professor Toscati, the surgeon who treated the wound, considering its seriousness, it was almost certain that a lameness would result. A.S., through the intercession of Isidoro, asked for his complete cure and in seven days the cut was completely healed, leaving after it not the slightest impediment in walking.

because of his sweetness and kindness; he encouraged those who were deeply affected on visiting him. Surrounding him there was a supernatural atmosphere which was the result of his love of God and his desire to be always conscious of being in God's presence. His face, illuminated by a gentle smile, never showed impatience or complaint and from day to day during the months and months of pain, Isidoro never betrayed any sign of his awareness of

\*\*A notary's mother was suffering with a serious liver ailment; her condition being alarmingly grave, the doctors decided to operate if there were no noticeable improvement within forty-eight hours. XX recommended the case to Isidoro's intercession and the infection disappeared, so that it was not necessary to risk an operation.

\*\*C.R. went to visit a friend, who had been confined to bed for several weeks with a very serious liver ailment. With confidence in Isidoro's intercession, he said to the sick woman, "Don't worry, I am going to ask that you are well by Sunday." He petitioned Isidoro, and before Sunday, XX was able to be up and in a few days was leading a normal life.

\*\*C.M. of Valencia, Spain, received a telephone call from a friend, M. of S., telling him that he was greatly disturbed because his nine year old daughter had developed a very high fever and was complaining of severe pain. Although the doctors were not agreed on the diagnosis, they feared pneumonia. C.M. brought a picture of Isidoro to his friend M., asking that he recommend the cure of the girl to his intercession with much faith. Within two hours after placing Isidoro's picture under his daughter's pillow and having recited for the first time the prayer on the leaflet the fever dropped and the child recovered completely in a short time.

monotony. For him each instant was a new moment to offer to the Lord; how could he show the least trace of impatience for the prolonging of his sufferings.

"We must do well what little we can for the Lord," Isidoro would say humbly, "to receive the reward of this immense peace in the last hour." It became evident that he died because of his consuming love of God.

## SPIRITUAL FAVOR

\*\*The business-man, A.R., visited one of the workers of his factory, who had a very grave illness.

He tried to convince him to ask for a confessor, but it was not an easy job because this man was completely apart from religious practice for many years.

A.R. asked with a great faith the help of the Servant of God, asking him to take the ill man under his protection. When he came to visit him again, only three days later, he was overjoyed to hear the news that he had already confessed.

## HELP IN DIFFICULT MATTERS

\*\*A.N. recommended to the Servant of God, Isidoro Zorzano, the solution of a difficult matter. Enthusiastic over the assistance received only two days later, A.N. sent from Tenerife, Canary Islands, a telegram: "Isidoro is acting in a magnificent way. Thanks."

\*\*Mrs M.G. went through a difficult matter of vital importance without obtaining any definite result. She recommended herself to the Servant of God, Isidoro, and in five days solved the problem in a completely satisfactory manner. In gratitude she wrote us sending 500 pesetas toward the cause of Isidoro's beatification.

\*\*XX of Havana left his home after having occasioned his mother's serious displeasure. On the following day the mother and all the brothers began a novena asking for the intercession of the Servant of God, Isidoro, for the return and repentance of XX although this seemed quite unlikely. About five o'clock in the morning on the second day XX presented himself totally changed and asked pardon for his attitude.

## HELP AT THE HOUR OF DEATH

\*\*Mrs. D. de L., mother of a business man, suffering a cancer of the stomach, kept beside her, during the last months of her life a piece of the "sudarium" of the Servant of God, to whom she frequently entrusted herself. She bore the terrible pains of her illness with a great supernatural vision. When she could not speak, she moved her lips to pray her Rosary and she died as a

Spontaneously there arose in San Sebastian, Spain, the idea of sending lists of patients who desire to receive a pamphlet containing information about Isidoro. Thus the apostolate of suffering in Isidoro's life also gained recognition after his death, and constantly the lists of interested patients increase.

saint, according to the testimony of her spiritual director. Her sons attribute to the intercession of Isidoro the grace of obtaining such an extraordinary fortitude until the hour of her death.

## ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

\*\*J.C., cashier of a Madrid concern, was in default 1,120 pesetas on the checking of his accounts. In vain, he sought the money he needed for over a week; he recommended the matter to Isidoro, reminding him that since he had succeeded in his administrative work, he would surely know how to guide him out of his present difficulties. As he ended his prayers, J.C. was convinced that his affairs would be satisfactorily settled and on going over his accounts he found an amount formerly unaccounted for that took care of exactly what was needed.

## DIFFERENT MATTERS

\*\*C.M.N. from Chicago writes "Enclose find a little mite in thanks for a favor received through Isidoro. I.E. The renting of an apartment in the proper neighborhood for a small business. Thanks to him for his intercession."

\*\*B.K. from Chicago says: "A railroad worker was having disturbing things happen in the office. They were all small but of a nature that upset her mentally and caused a nervous condition. She started the prayer to Isidoro, and has told me that it is miraculous the way these little matters no longer bother her."

\*\*"On several occasions I have called upon Isidoro to help me through small difficulties, and have always found help. Last Saturday, for example, I was very anxious to have another person do three things which were not important of themselves but could have far reaching results. The other person was not inclined to do them. At noon I talked with Isidoro about them, and by four o'clock the other person phoned me and agreed to all of them."

\*\*"I am doing everything I can to spread the devotion among railroad workers, and am meeting with a great deal of success."

Anyone who has obtained favors upon invoking Isidoro's aid is requested to send notice of such fact 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

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.

\*\*P.R. reports from Newark, Ohio: "The story I read fascinated me and I started at once to ask Isidoro to plead to Almighty God for me. I was rewarded almost by minutes of my request, and have continued praying and giving thanksgiving. I am ashamed, that it was a material request but nevertheless answered."

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.

## AN ANECDOTE

Isidoro is dying in a Madrid clinic. Each day the end of his life draws nearer and at the same time he is approaching more closely the height of personal sanctity. Everything leads one to believe that his last moments have come. Today will end the long agony, the attack of smothering suffered last night was more prolonged than usual. The condition of the patient shows, principally in his eyes, that there has been a turn for the worse in his illness.

Mid-morning fatigue is relieved and respiration becomes more normal. One of the Opus Dei members who is with Isidoro approaches him and says simply, "Listen, Isidoro, do you wish to receive Extreme Unction?" "Yes, yes, that is just what I was going to ask." They go to get the last spiritual auxiliaries; the patient is quiet and more contented than before, not as if he were about to die. With gestures, and words pronounced with difficulty, he continues to acknowledge his visitors.

The Founder of the Opus Dei, accompanied by the secretary general, is not long in coming. He comes to administer the last Sacraments. The head doctor and his wife also enter the room, making eight persons in all who witness the moving ceremony.

The Founder of Opus Dei speaks a moment with his spiritual son, whose face reflects the peace and joy of his soul. Those who are present contemplate the somber scene with the same calmness that one shows who receives Holy Communion every morning, with the same smile and same peace which is customary for him.

Thus the dying one receives the last Sacraments of the Church. It is difficult to give an account of that simple ceremony which is so often in other cases surrounded by weeping and desperation.

When the ceremony is over the interrupted conversation is resumed. Someone comments, "Friday of the seven sorrows of Our Lady! A beautiful day to die, isn't it!"

Isidoro agrees enthusiastically. Directing his words to one who is near the bed, who at that time is finishing his studies for the priesthood, he remarks jokingly, "Now you see, you have to study much. I have already been anointed."

## 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.

The joy of the dying patient is contagious. It is contagious with that efficacy of true heroism. None would say that this is the death scene of a young man with a brilliant career.

Isidoro scarcely can speak now and looks at all with wide open eyes. Then he realizes that one of those about him has on a very wet coat. He has just come into the room, and the emotion of those moments has made him forget all formality, and he has entered the patient's room without stopping to take off his coat.

Isidoro looked at him a moment as if disturbed, and interrupting the conversation of all says: "But man, your coat is soaking wet. Take it off at once. Don't you know that you can get sick?"

**THIS PAPER IS  
PUBLISHED IN  
ENGLISH, ITALIAN  
SPANISH  
AND  
PORTUGUESE**

**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.**

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