



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 amid the hustle and bustle of this world. And here he sanctified himself. His was not a life of extraordinary events, yet it was extraordinary. For Isidoro had the wisdom, as each of us should, to seek perfection heroically in his everyday work, the little things that daily came his way.

This paper, which is published periodically, tries to tell a little of the story of this Servant of God and to mention some of the favors received through his intercession.

NEWS OF THE PROCESS

The Ecclesiastical Tribunal, which was appointed for Isidoro's cause, for his Beatification and Canonization, established itself in Malaga to gather information from witnesses living there.

This stage of the Process is very interesting because it examines closely a well defined period in the life of Isidoro. During these years he toiled intensely at his profession, while his country and people hostilely drew up sides for the political struggle that was soon to follow. Living alone in a modest boarding house, he devoted his free time to humble people and to the boys of the "House of the Child Jesus," an orphanage. His friends were many. And during his stay in Malaga a very important event took place—Isidoro joined the Opus Dei.

Engineers, laborers, associates and friends of Isidoro—people who had worked and lived side by side with him and had seen his heroic virtues—have testified before the Ecclesiastical Tribunal.

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

For seven years, from 1920 until 1927, he studied in Madrid at the special School for Industrial Engineers.

On August 24, 1930, he joined the Opus Dei, which was just beginning, but which later became the first Secular Institute of the Church after it received the Decretum Laudis of the Holy See.

During the years 1928 to 1936 Isidoro energetically followed his profession as an engineer with the Andalusian Railroad Company in Malaga.

When the Spanish Civil War began in 1936, and until it ended in 1939, Isidoro lived in Madrid. Here, amid all types of privations and difficulties, he quietly shone as a cheerful example of unbounded charity.

Once the war ended, Isidoro became an employee of the Spanish National Railroad.

It was in 1943, on July 15, that Isidoro died in Madrid after a long and painful illness, an illness which he used to sanctify himself more and more.

Five years later, on October 11, 1948, in Madrid the process of beatification began for the Servant of God, Isidoro L. Zorzano.

ISIDORO SANCTIFIED HIS WORK

Following the spirit of the Opus Dei, Isidoro sought sanctification in his everyday work, doing it with perseverance and order.

He was convinced that man was created "ut operaretur"—to work (Genesis 2, 15). Knowing that his path to sanctity consisted in doing with perfection, with Love of God, the little things of every moment, he was never idle. Silently, humbly he lived a life of union with God and, yet, a life overflowing with his work. Work performed orderly and without boredom or careless haste. Work continued without end, unnoticed by the fleeting glance, but which was heroic and brilliant before God's eyes. And so fruitful because it had its foundation in Love.

In his childhood Isidoro was a model of industry and determination in overcoming the barriers which sprang up at the beginning of studies. Everyday he was permeated with greater supernatural spirit—the ultimate goal of his constant work.

In Malaga he took upon his shoulders an intense and exhausting task. The fulfillment of his duties in the office and workshops of the railroads occupied his entire mornings and afternoons. In the evenings, he taught mathematics and electricity in the Technical School and later instructed private classes far into the night. According to the testimony of one of his associates at this time, he "probably worked fourteen to fifteen hours every day."

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In addition, his unselfish effort created an intense and fruitful apostolate. The Malaguena Federation of Catholic Students sprang up through his initiative. There were classes in the "House of the Child Jesus" and visits to laborers who were sick or in need. He devoted his holidays especially to the poor. And he always took advantage of his strong and noble friendship to transmit the Love that filled his entire life to his companions.

Later, in Madrid, he worked with even greater intensity. His professional work and his unobtrusive work of trying to win souls to Christ in the residences directed by the Opus Dei filled his whole day. But he still found time to continue his uninterrupted study and to help others in a manner so natural and easy that this aid went almost unobserved. In that way he lived a life of Christian brotherhood which is so much a part of the spirit of his vocation.

He supernaturalized all his work, whether it was important or not. Because he felt that God was continually beside him, Isidoro pursued every task with care and alertness. That is why he carried out precisely even the slightest details. That is why his punctuality was so exact. And that is above all why he worked with such naturalness and seemed to do easily whatever he put his hand to. For in reality this facility was the fruit of his intense supernatural life.

When he was sick he forced himself to live a normal life and to continue his work, even though he realized his strength was ebbing. And in spite of his exhaustion and the exhortations of his superiors and companions to rest more, he kept fulfilling his duties just as he had always done. There was no word spoken of his pain, no importance given to it until a few days prior to his entrance into the hospital. Even at this point, regardless of his troubles, he always found time to help others in carrying their burdens.

When his illness grew more serious and he became bedridden, Isidoro had a hard time offering his apparent inactivity in serenity and peace "with so many things that it is necessary to do!" he said. But soon he realized he could carry out his task right where he was. He turned all his pains into prayer for the Church, for the Opus Dei and for each of his brothers. Thus he begged God's blessings on those who would have to complete the work he had left undone and at the same time made their efforts a part of his constant union with God.

The work of Isidoro, done with this supernatural spirit, was always completely consecrated to Our Lord. His whole life was one of continuous service. At the end of his days he used to repeat very slowly, as if he were tasting it, his favorite ejaculation: "Serviam"—"I will serve You."

FAVORS OBTAINED THROUGH HIS INTERCESSION

Numerous favors, many of them possessing a truly extraordinary character, have been granted since the death of the Servant of God through appeals made to him.

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 used his name in sufferings and sickness, in reversals and dilemmas, have found spiritual strength and, in a large number of cases, the answer to their petitions. Confidence in the efficacy of his intercession has increased among people of all social groups, and has spread to different countries.

The following are some of the numerous favors received through the mediation of the Servant of God.

CURES

**An elderly lady was afflicted with ulcers in the veins of her leg which seriously affected the bone. Three different doctors warned her that amputation was her only hope of salvation. Her sister prayed with great faith to Isidoro that the invalid might be freed of the incurable condition. Two days later both ulcers and infection began to disappear. The danger passed quickly and the recovery was so complete that the sick person was able to be about and to live an ordinary life in spite of her advanced age.

**A person in Madrid suffered from an illness that had been declared incurable by doctors unless surgery were used. The entire problem was put in Isidoro's hands with sincere devotion and faith. Within a week a cure took place and the operation became unnecessary.

**In Rome a man underwent surgery on his knee to remedy a fracture of the "meniscus"—the result of an athletic injury. Soon complications set in and the success of the operation seemed very doubtful. The sick man gained a relic of Isidoro and began a novena to the Servant of God, praying with confidence that he might overcome the infection and walk again soon. By the end of the novena it was evident that the injury was healing correctly and to the bewilderment of his doctors, he could use the leg rather well. They had expected it would be inactive for five or six months.

**A four-month-old-baby suddenly lost its appetite. The parents could do nothing to make the child eat, even the family doctor found no solution. Hopefully the parents made a novena to the Servant of God beseeching a cure for their child. Within eight days the infant ate as any normal child would.

**A woman with lung disease was told by a specialist that a "frenicotripsia" operation was necessary and urgent. She and her husband commended her illness to Isidoro with great faith and now her health is completely satisfactory.

**While undergoing an operation for a strangulated hernia, a woman from Pontevedra, Spain, was found to have a perforation of the intestine. Doctors believed complications were unavoidable and feared the worst. A friend commended her to Isidoro; the patient recovered quickly and completely, without encountering any complications.

SPIRITUAL FAVOR

**A lady from Chicago writes: "I have a son married to a non-Catholic and he has been neglectful in going to Church or his duty. This year as I have done in previous years of his married life, I sent him a letter as a gentle reminder of the last Sunday for his Easter duty. Now I am most certain through the intercession of Isidoro Zorzano my son has returned to his faith."

HELP IN DIFFICULTIES

**A doctor writes from Mendoza, Argentine: "As I was flying across the Atlantic Ocean, far from land, a fire broke out aboard our plane. The situation was extremely dangerous. For ten or fifteen minutes I opened my heart to Our Lord, avowing my resignation to anything He might send me. And I prayed to Isidoro very hard—I might even say 'ferrociously'. Isidoro must have pleaded my cause. The plane continued its flight without use of the radio, but we arrived safely. All this time I had directed my prayers to God through Isidoro's intercession."

**I have prayed to him for the success of my

brother and myself in our examinations and we have both been granted this favour," writes a person from Toronto. "I have received many other favours through him and will not forget him in my prayers but will pray that God will grant beatification to Isidoro Zorzano, who by his very life is truly a great source of consolation in these troubled times of stress and doubt."

**From a town in Illinois an Engineer says: "I have a large family, was out of work, and mentally depressed. So I asked in prayer, favors through his intercession, and feel that these favors were granted. In a week's time I was able to get a very good job, and in addition, private engineering work started to come in. I will continue to remember Isidoro Zorzano in my prayers. It inspires me to know that he also was an Engineer."

**XX From Bellevue, Ky. writes: "I feel that through the intercession of Isidoro Zorzano to whom I prayed, a strike was averted in my husband's industry. For months and even up until the zero hour, things looked very bad and we could ill afford a lay-off. Then like a miracle the strike was called off the last minute."

ISIDORO'S PATIENTS

Spontaneously there arose in San Sebastian, Spain, the idea of sending in the names of sick people who "desired to be visited" by Isidoro's publication. Many others have followed the example and have given us their addresses, so they too may receive this paper. Thus the apostolate of suffering in Isidoro's life gained more recognition after his death, and the list of interested, suffering sick constantly increases.

The sick write . . . we reprint some paragraphs of the letters which are received daily.

" . . . I have been sick three years, spending almost all my time in bed with pains that make me suffer horribly much of the time. I should like to entrust myself to Isidoro and to obtain his picture or a relic of him . . ."

"May Our Lord grant me what I ask Him through Isidoro's intercession, but if this is not His will, may He help me at least to accept with perfect resignation, peace and consolation anything He sends me . . . Here, nailed to my bed, I don't have, and it is difficult to find, somebody who quiets me and gives me the sympathy I need so badly."

"If it is not the will of God that I be cured

**For many months, a man tells us, he prayed to Isidoro for the conversion of one of his parents to a life of true piety. His father had lived as a Catholic in name only, and now his life was slipping away from him under the assaults of sickness.

His condition became worse. Suddenly, without a word being said to him, he asked for a priest to hear his confession. With overwhelming devotion, he received Viaticum and Extreme Unction. The agony of his illness grew, but to the amazement of all, he smiled through it with peace and serenity. A short time later he died. His relatives were so touched by the remarkable change in him that they could attribute only to the intercession of Isidoro.

ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

**A widow invoked Isidoro's help for the favorable solution of an economic problem that was of paramount importance to her. Her prayers were answered within two days. Surprised at the speed with which the plea had been granted, she has written to say how grateful she is for this "outstanding favor."

**A relative of Isidoro feels that his intercession has saved her twice during times of financial strain. On both occasions she sought his help with the complete confidence he had given her while he was still alive.

We ask anyone who has obtained a favor through the intercession of Isidoro to write to us at either of the addresses listed below. Furthermore, we request you to make your letter very detailed, including names and addresses, and telling everything that happened. Of course, if you wish, no names will be used if the story is printed in this paper.

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.

This pamphlet is sent without charge to any person 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 contributions for the future publication of this paper and for the extension of the apostolate in which Isidoro worked.

Persons wishing to spread private devotion to Isidoro may also obtain pictures of the Servant of God by informing us of their address and the number of pictures desired. To cover the cost of printing, mailing, etc., please enclose \$1.00 for every hundred pictures.

THIS PAPER IS PUBLISHED WITH ECCLESIASTICAL APPROBATION

AND WHAT THEY REMEMBER OF HIM

During the Spanish Civil War it had been extremely difficult to operate the railroads. Thus a tremendous, far reaching job was placed on Isidoro's shoulders when, at the close of the war, he was appointed to Madrid as head of the office of Studies and Unification of Material for the entire National Railroad Network.

It meant maintaining close contact with the workshops, with the laborers who made these shops hum, and even entailed closely inspecting the company's locomotives to be sure they were running smoothly. Isidoro could be seen wherever the railroad had buildings or equipment, gathering information so that new plans would be developed and at the same time overseeing the repair of old or damaged machinery. But above all, Isidoro concerned himself with the personal problems of the men about him, with their economic difficulties and everyday worries. His work with machinery was enough to consume the entire day but with the added job of caring for the men themselves, how busy he must have been! Yet what is the impression Isidoro left on the memories of those who saw him at this time working so intensely, so eagerly, without sparing himself in the least?

Will it, perhaps, be the memory of a whirlwind?

When the Process of Beatification of Isidoro began, the news spread rapidly and was widely discussed by his former friends and associates. In one group there was the head of a department with which Isidoro has been connected. This man took part in the conversation, saying that he remembered few concrete facts about Isidoro and just retained an over-all image of him. To aid his memory his fellow workers told him different things that happened during the professional life

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.

of Isidoro, tying together his work in the shops with his religious life.

After a while this man himself began to recall a few specific incidents from Isidoro's life, but the greatest part of his recollections remained vague. He said, "What is deeply engraved upon my memory, in such a way that it always rises to the surface when he is mentioned, is a general impression that contains all my memories of Isidoro. (I recall) the visits he used to make to my office amidst all the noise of the shops and the vibrations of the big machines. I never knew the reason,

but Isidoro always left behind him a feeling of peace, of calm, as though the entire shop were under the effects of a sedative."

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

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