



**INFORMATIVE PAPER concerning  
the life and reputation for sanctity  
of the Servant of God**

# Isidoro Zorzano

**Member of Opus Dei  
and Industrial Engineer**

**NUMBER 4**

**CHICAGO, NOVEMBER, 1957**

## **NEWS of the Process**

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 Leopoldo Eijo Garay, Bishop of Madrid presided over the solemn function. In attendance were Msgr. Escrivá de Balaguer, President-General of Opus Dei, numerous members of this Secular Institute, the relatives of Isidoro, engineers from the General Railroads Offices and the National Railroads, professors from the School of Industrial Engineering, many fellow students, and employees and personnel who worked under the direction of this Servant of God.

## **GOD'S ENGINEER**

Isidoro Zorzano was very much a man of the 20th century. He was an industrial engineer who spent most of his professional years at the drawing boards of a railroad company. One can hardly find any extraordinary events in his short life—he was born in 1902 and died in 1943—but the extraordinary thing about him was that he heroically sought perfection in his everyday work and in the small details of every moment. This is how he sought sanctification.

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 shows that sanctity is accessible to every man, and that all can find it naturally in the work they are doing and in the social environment in which they find themselves.

Isidoro too, lived in the world of hustle and bustle and was faced with all the problems of our modern civilization. Yet he had the wisdom to find Christ in the little things of every day.

In 1905, when Isidoro was only 3, he moved with his family from Buenos Aires to Spain. After Grammar and High School he went to study in Madrid where he received his degree in Engineering.

In 1930, on August 24th he joined Opus Dei, which was just beginning and which later became the first Secular Institute of the Church.

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 and until it ended in 1939, he lived in Madrid. Here, amid all types of privations and difficulties, he quietly shone as a cheerful example of unbounded charity.

At the end of the war he was appointed as head of the office of Studies and Unification of Material for the entire railroad network.

It was on July 15, 1943, that Isidoro died after a long and painful illness. He used this illness as he had used his life—to sanctify himself more and more.

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

*(Daniel Sargent has written a magnificent biography of Isidoro. It is called "God's Engineer"—published by SCEPTER PRESS. \$2.50)*

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.

# The Peace of Isidoro

Peace is noticeably lacking in the relations men have with each other today.

For many, peace is something completely alien to their behavior and to their attitudes toward life. More and more each day, it seems as though the very complication of human relations is banishing forever a virtue, which, when expressed in the external activity of man may be called serenity, and which interiorly is intimately united to peace of soul. This is the peace that the angels offered to men of good will on the first Christmas.

That was nearly two thousand years ago, but today that very same peace is offered to men of good will. These are men whose intentions, words and deeds are but manifestations of an inner tranquillity. In order to acquire these intentions, man must have clear and definite, but at the same time, noble attitudes based on the constant realization that man has to live in peace. And in holding them, he must also affirm his own freedom while recognizing the freedom of others. Translated into deeds, peace must seek precise goals and proclaim their attainment with words free of bitterness. This peace is found only in the hearts of the good sons of God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matt. 5,9) Among such men there can be no rancors, double natures or twisted intentions. This peace is the fruit of divine filiation; it results from the infusion of

supernatural life. This peace guides man along the path of life; it gives him a calm heart while he is striving for his final objective, which lies outside the limits of earthly existence, where those same angels who offered peace to men of good will give "glory to God in the highest".

This was the peace with which Isidoro faced both life and death. This was another of the virtues that he exalted to a high degree. The peace of Isidoro, sustained in fortitude and temperance, warmed in faith, hope and love, leaped to the surface in his serenity of spirit. It can give an answer to those who, in the midst of the present disorder of things, cannot find peace. They look for it blindly in the streets, in their homes and in their work. He gave testimony—his answer—by giving himself to God in Opus Dei.

His daily life, permeated with this serene peace, was in every moment the joyful affirmation of one who has chosen the best and knows that his dedication to God will lead him to God.

Throughout his long, hard and painful illness this same peace remained. Toward the end of 1942 he heroically experienced some of the worst symptoms of his final illness. However, this did not prevent him from making a trip to Alcalá de Henares with some of the members of Opus Dei. He never again saw the outdoors which he loved so much. Soon afterwards came the seemingly interminable days in the hospital, when

'You write and I quote: "My joy and my peace. I can never have real happiness if I have no peace. And what is peace? Peace is something intimately associated with war. Peace is the result of victory. Peace demands of me a constant struggle. Without that struggle, I'll never be able to have peace".'

Msgr. Joseph M. Escriva  
The Way, 308.

his limitless peace and serenity was uniting him more closely to the Lord and preparing him for his holy death six months later.

At Christmas he went to Midnight Mass in the Opus Dei residence in Madrid, and he realized for the first time that he was unable to kneel. He tired easily, and in his face one could read the great pain he bore.

His great burden, however, never shattered his peace—this virtue which is never old and worn, but one that is offered to all. It is the virtue that speaks so eloquently to men of the twentieth century, men who are victors over speed, champions of the cold war and who now, in the midst of an uninterrupted flow of inventions, are about to send their first satellites into space.

The gift of the Holy Spirit, this vir-

## 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 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.

tue of peace as lived so heroically by Isidoro, is not something that must be banished in these days of war and death. Isidoro was very much a man of the twentieth century, an engineer, but still a son of God. He was a saint in his secular profession and with his life gave testimony to the urgent necessity of that peace which, on a cold night twenty centuries ago, accompanied its King—a small, meek, humble King—the King of Peace.

## 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 that 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.

This paper is published with ecclesiastical approbation.

It is published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

## FAVORS OBTAINED THROUGH HIS INTERCESSION

\*\* D.B. from Chicago writes: "Mother came through the operation safely and is doing nicely. The night before the operation I left the relic (of Isidoro) in the hospital and recited the prayer that she would get well. The prayers have been answered. . . ."

\*\* M.X. writes from Texas: "I started a novena of petition to him (Isidoro) to please collect those bills for me, for he himself was in business while in this world and would be very skillful in handling the matter for me. I did not quite finish my novena when 2 of the debtors paid. One especially who had given me a great deal of trouble. . . . It was a surprise to all of us. The other 2 paid at the end of my novena. . . ."

\*\* J.A. from New York: "Passed two examinations considered beyond passing . . . and met someone I could help at a party when I prayed that this party would be a success. . . . Isidoro is helping. . . ."

\*\* G.D. from Chicago writes: "after reading the pamphlet concerning Isidoro Zorzano, I got down on my knees in my bedroom and asked him to ask God for a special favor for me. I no sooner got off my knees and went into the dining room, when the phone rang and it was J. I had not heard from him for a long time and his call was the favor I asked . . ."

\*\* A.C. writes from Brookline: "We have a young child, age 3 months who has been hospitalized since birth due to a brain injury which has resulted in almost complete absence of muscular

activity. . . . We were told through friends of the life and works of Isidoro. We brought the leaflet to the hospital and recited the prayer. We were stunned to see our child move his head with relative ease. . . . Today the baby moved his head so much more and for the first time smiled very willingly . . ."

\*\* I.G. writes from Madrid: "My brother was sick. His sickness was diagnosed as a lung lesion and was confirmed with the vomiting of blood. I began to make a novena, asking that my brother be cured through the intercession of Isidoro, and promised that if he were cured that I should have the favor publicized. A few days later my brother was X-rayed and it was found that the lesion had disappeared. . . ."

\*\* M.P.G. writes from Granada, Spain: "I was very sick and nothing would relieve my suffering. The doctor was unable to diagnose my illness. I prayed faithfully to the Servant of God, Isidoro Zorzano, and something miraculous happened. The fear of the operation I was

going to have disappeared and everything was resolved happily. . . ."

\*\* M.C.V. writes from Colombia: "There was a lady in this city who had not been to Confession for over 2 years and none could convince her to go. After invoking Isidoro she immediately went to confession."

\*\* E.C. from Rome: "I was expecting a large sum of money, but was told that there was no hope of receiving it. I have a great devotion to Isidoro and at once implored him to help me. I prayed the prayer every day. Today I have received the money and want to fulfill the promise of having the favor published."

\*\* C.M. from Turin, Italy: Fulfilling the promise I made to the Servant of God, Isidoro Zorzano, I want to declare the grace obtained through his intercession. I had been agitated and nervous and always tired. I was losing my peace and confidence. I prayed with fervor and insistence to Isidoro and obtained great relief in a short time. . . ."

*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.*

*Via Pompeo Magno 9*

*Rome, Italy*

*or*

*Friends of Isidoro*

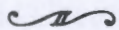
*5544 Woodlawn Ave.*

*Chicago 37, Illinois, USA.*

# Isidoro's Challenge

There are challenges that we do not demand. There is that of the highway-man who points a pistol at us and says, "Your money or your life." We may give him the one, and he may also take the other. He may get what he wants. Isidoro's challenge is different. There is no pistol in it. He is all friendliness. His summons has no words even, yet it penetrates deep into us, to where we are most free, and to where we make decisions joyously. It says, without saying it, "Why not serve?"

(God's Engineer by  
Daniel Sargent. Scepter Press)



This issue of Isidoro's Bulletin has been made possible through the generosity of:

The Carney Foundation

Thomas McQueen  
Construction Co.

Kenny Construction Co.

## ISIDORO AND THE PRESS

".... This cheerful young man of our own times, so simple outwardly and with such a great heart beneath, is held up to us now as a model of sanctity.... It is not surprising that the process of Beatification should have made rapid progress, and that very shortly we may see raised to the altars this man of our times who might have been our friend."

(The Standard, Dublin)

".... an engineer who made God a vital part of his everyday life, one of the first members of Opus Dei, whose courage through the painful illness which led to his death inspired others. The book (God's Engineer) published by Scepter Press here, was written by Daniel Sargent, a former Harvard University professor and a convert to Catholicism."

(Chicago Daily News)

".... Because he was permeated with the spirit of Opus Dei, his life was not a monotonous succession of days, but was a constant progress that gathered momentum as it advanced toward sanctity...."

(The Register, Denver)

".... A man will become perfect if he merely does his everyday work as best he can—and does it for God, makes his work the work of God. Isidoro Zorzano was a man like that...."

(The Catholic Boy)

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.