



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

Isidoro Zorzano

**Member of Opus Dei
and Industrial Engineer**

NUMBER 5

CHICAGO, APRIL, 1959

- This pamphlet is sent without charge to any person who desires to know 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.
- Names and addresses of people who may be interested in receiving this and succeeding issues will be appreciated.
- The paper is published in English, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.
- It is published with ecclesiastical approval.

Biographical Notes

Isidoro was very much a man of our time. He was born at the turn of the century in Buenos Aires and at a very early age moved with his family from Argentina to Spain.

After High School graduation, Isidoro entered the Engineering School in Madrid. He was a good student; he did his work well and earned good marks. After receiving his Engineering degree he went to work for the Andalusian Railroad Company. He loved his work as an engineer; he was praised by the executives of the company, respected by his colleagues, very much appreciated by those who worked under him. Isidoro was successful.

In 1930 Isidoro joined Opus Dei. In doing so he did not in any way stop being an engineer; on the contrary, he became a better engineer. There was a new meaning in his hours of work at the drawing board, in his slide rule calculations, in his young executive job. His life was now Opus Dei, Work of God. Isidoro was now God's Engineer.

One can hardly find any extraordinary events in his short life. The extraordinary thing about him is that he sought perfection in his everyday work and in the small details of his daily job.

We picture the Servant of God as he was: dressed as the engineer next to him, handling a slide rule, perfectly secular. And, at the same time, in him and around him, we find the light and warmth of one who is completely dedicated to God. With his colorful tie and the happiness of his dedicated life Isidoro is a challenge to any of us.

MADRID, July 15, 1943

July 1943. Isidoro is in the hospital. His sickness has followed its normal course. Each time the choking and coughing spells are more frequent. But he continues with the same interior peace, with the same serenity, even in the midst of his extreme state of fatigue. And with this peace there is a heroic humility concealing with ingenuity and joy his physical pain.

The end is approaching very rapidly. Isidoro does not sleep day or night. It is necessary to give him injections to revive the heart. Isidoro cannot recite the Rosary except mentally. He just barely breathes, even with great effort, and his strength is totally exhausted.

July 15. Isidoro does very little speaking. It is blazing hot outside in the streets of Madrid, and the awnings on the windows of the hospital cannot keep his room cool. He needs water, but when he wishes for it, all he can do is to move a finger. He cannot use his lips. He lays all morning inert on his bed, his pajamas in disarray, his body reeking with sweat. One of the members of Opus Dei is always at his side. Once in the morning does Isidoro say something. "How are you?" the nurse asks him. "Very well," he answers.

Noon. Clocks strike twelve outside in the city. The Opus Dei member who sits beside Isidoro stands up. He looks at the image of Our Lady that is on the bedside table and recites

"How beautiful is our Catholic Faith! It provides a solution for all our anxieties, and it soothes the mind, and fills the heart with hope."

The Way, 582

the angelus aloud. Isidoro can only listen... "The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary...."

A sister arrives with some food. He seems not to see it, but when she urges him to open his mouth and swallow, he opens his mouth obediently, and takes something. But the effort is too much for him. He sinks into a sleep of exhaustion.

4:30 p.m. Isidoro's visitor tiptoes from the room. He cannot stay any longer, for he has an appointment to keep and someone else should have replaced him by now. He has not arrived yet; he will surely come in a few minutes. For the first time since Isidoro has been in a hospital is he alone.

Today will end the long agony. Many times has Isidoro tasted the phrase of the Scripture: "I rejoice in what has been told me: we will go to the house of the Lord—Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus."

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.

"I am not 'miracle-minded'. I've told you that I can find more than enough miracles in the Holy Gospel to confirm my faith. But I can't help pitying those Christians—pious people, 'apostles!', many of them—who smile when they hear extraordinary ways, supernatural events spoken of. I feel the urge to tell them: yes, this is still the age of miracles: we too would work them if we had faith!"

The Way, 583

A LIFE OF FAITH

"The just man lives by faith", writes Saint Paul in the Epistle to the Romans. The life of dedication and sacrifice that Isidoro lived was a life of faith carried to its furthest consequences. To many of us everyday work becomes monotonous, daily struggle is tiring, the often repeated jobs bore us and the usual has no color. This happens only because we lack love. Monotony did not exist for Isidoro because he believed and he loved. "There is nothing to do", writes Isi-

"How humbly and simply do the Evangelists relate incidents that show up the weak and wavering faith of the Apostles!"

This is so that you and I will not lose the hope of achieving some day the strong and unshakeable faith that those first few Apostles afterwards had."

The Way, 581

doro, "but to fulfill God's will by perseverance in our prayers, our labors, our mortifications, our voluntary sacrifices, doing what we do steadily, without head-long haste, in the consciousness that God will give us always what is best for us, though it may be or seem to be contrary to our desires."

Pain, suffering, solitude... these things which are the salt of life, had only one meaning for Isidoro; the meaning that faith gave them, that he was "on the way". "I beg the Lord to give us perseverance", he wrote in a letter on April 4th, 1937. "I understand why the disciples kept asking Our Lord for faith, more faith. It is the shield with which we protect ourselves in our discouragements and failures."

Isidoro's faith was dynamic, a faith that gave light and warmth. It was something natural—supernaturally natural—to the life he led as a man of God, a servant of the Lord.

"Stir up your fire of faith." The Founder of Opus Dei has written "Christ is not a figure of the past. He is not a

memory that is lost in history." (*The Way*, 584) Isidoro stirred up his faith by reading the Gospel. When he was already seriously ill, he would have others read it to him, telling them the exact passage where he had left off the day before. A friend of his tells us that he was with Isidoro one day when Holy Communion was brought to him: "Very early in the morning the Father came to bring him Communion. A while before he arrived Isidoro said to me: 'Let's wait for Our Lord by reading the Gospels.'"

"If you have faith like a mustard seed!"... What promises are contained in this exclamation of the Master!"

The Way, 585

In Isidoro's room there was something supernatural that made a great impression on those who came to see him. "In that room, you lived Isidoro's presence of God" remarked someone after a visit to the hospital.

LETTERS

CURES

I had a favor granted me through Isidoro, to whom I have been praying for one year. My boy, 19 years old, had an epileptic seizure just a year ago. I asked Isidoro to help him so that he would not have any more. Our doctor stated that he could not tell us if there would be a

recurrence. He had brain wave tests taken to see if there was any pressure. Nothing showed up in the X-rays and he has been wonderful since. In fact he passed a very rugged test when he enlisted in one of the branches of the armed forces....

Chicago

Mrs. XX

My second request was for the recovery of my mother who has been seriously ill and I am happy to report that she has come through her illness in a very satisfactory manner and while the conditions which caused the illness may not be completely cured, if we can depend on the doctor's verdict, at least it has been arrested or checked and has recovered to a considerable extent, and we are confident that the Servant of God, Isidoro Zorzano will cure her.

Pennsylvania

E.W.

Anyone who has obtained favors through Isidoro's intercession is requested to send a notice of such to 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 omitted when the report is published in this pamphlet. Letters from our readers are always welcomed.

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 Avenue
Chicago 37, Illinois

I am convinced that the safe birth of my daughter was due to the intercession of the Servant of God, Isidoro Zorzano. ... I had complete confidence that my baby would be born safely, even though the doctor said that the baby would probably be born dead. I kept a picture of Isidoro with me. My baby girl was born healthy. The doctor said that an angel must have protected her.

M.A.R.

FAVORS

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 at the last minute.

MRS. XX

Bellevue, Ky.

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 "ferociously". 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.

DOCTOR X

Mendoza, Argentine

ISIDORO'S COLLEAGUES

While at the Jesuit retreat house, Bel-larmine Hall, in Barrington, I saw in the library, Daniel Sargent's "God's Engineer". Time only permitted to read the high points of the book. But, I jotted down the publishers address and later sent for a copy. It is an inspiration to read over many of the passages.

Being an engineer myself I became interested in the canonization of this holy man. I felt that in as much as many classes have their patron saint, the engineers should have some one to whom they can pray to for assistance in their work. Of course that means many prayers by many people

It is my intention to say every day the 'Prayer for Private Devotion' and thereby help the cause of Beatification.

Chicago

ARTHUR M. KAINDL

I made a private novena in November to Isidoro Zorzano for my husband, who is a civil engineer, that he would make a drastic change in his work so that he could make better use of his engineering

ability for the greater honor of God and for his fellow man. Within one week after completion of my novena his status was most miraculously changed.

MRS. M.O.

Chicago

I have a large family, was out of work and mentally depressed. So I asked in prayer, favors through Isidoro's intercession, and feel that they 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 was also an engineer.

XX

Illinois

DEVOTION

It was a pleasant surprise to receive the informative pamphlet on God's Engineer. I am a semi-invalid and would treasure any more information in the form of pamphlets I might receive from you in the future

D.D.

Cincinnati

Our parish priest who comes in for instruction gave us a leaflet of Isidoro Zorzano. We have been saying the prayer in his honor every day that our dear Lord will further the work of Opus Dei through him. Father suggested I write to you for a copy for each of my girls

SISTER M. GERALD VERONICA, O.S.F.

Baltimore

ERROR

I invite your attention to the back sheet of the brochure, whereat you have recognized the benefactors who made the publication possible. I respectfully suggest that you correct the spelling of the Cagney Foundation,—you will note that you spelled it "Carney", whereas it should be "Cagney".

JAMES F. KELLY

Chicago

We regret the misspelling and wish to express our thanks again to the Cagney Foundation. Thanks also to Mr. Kelly for pointing out our error.

IN MEMORIAM

On May 9, 1950 a plaque in memory of Isidoro was unveiled in the Malaga Technical School, where he taught for seven years. Bishop Herrera of Malaga, the Director and Faculty of the School, the Consul of Argentina, many engineers and people who knew Isidoro were present.

The plaque unveiled by the Director of the School reads: "The Servant of God Isidoro Zorzano, Industrial Engineer, with a spirit of Christian charity served the Malaga Technical School during the years 1929 to 1936 with his knowledge, his mind and his will.

In Memoriam 1950."

The ceremony was closed with a talk by Bishop Herrera.

FROM THE PRESS

The press has shown great interest in Isidoro's Cause. The following are some extracts from a leading article in "The Engineer", London: "The commencement, under the presidency of the Bishop of Madrid, of the process for the beatification of Isidoro Zorzano, an engineer employed by the railways, must be regarded as a unique event. If, as may be deemed almost certain, it leads to the beatification of this remarkable young man—a locomotive engineer—then engineers can claim that an unprecedented honour has been paid to one of their number

It has remained for Isidoro Zorzano, inspector of locomotives and tenders on the railways, to be the first mechanical engineer to reach the process leading to this exalted honour."

This issue has been made possible once again through the generosity of the Cagney Foundation, together with the donations received from our readers.