

DORA DEL HOYO

SERVANT OF GOD

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THE SIMPLICITY OF HOLINESS

The year 2020 saw a serious health, financial and social crisis, which affected our families. We live in uncertain times. And, in these circumstances, the greatness of ordinary people emerges, who – in their personal relationships and through their profession – are able to build. This is the case of the Servant of God Dora del Hoyo.

As Pope Francis says in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, in these times “**we need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead**” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 8).

The value of the work of people who go unnoticed is a further sign of the simplicity of holiness. This was the case of Dora in Madrid in 1944, when she began to work in the newly-opened **Moncloa Student Residence**. At first, Dora took on the job with the idea that it would be a temporary position. However, as soon as she arrived, the panorama she encountered made her realise the difficulties faced by those who worked there. But she also saw their strengths: **generosity, resilience, a desire to learn and improve**.

Dora was tempted, like everyone else, to go her own way and not get involved. But thanks to her good heart, after a few weeks, she decided to stay. What started out as a temporary job in an uncomfortable place turned into a stable and rewarding job. She trusted that others were capable of learning, and in a few months she changed everything. She performed what we now call an act of sisterhood and teamwork. Soon after meeting Saint Josemaría, the founder of Opus Dei, she discovered a **spiritual dimension to her work** that led her to take a real interest in people, and to dedicate herself to them with patience.

The Pope goes on: “God continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family. The recent pandemic enabled us to recognize and appreciate once more all those around us who, in the midst of fear, responded by putting their lives on the line. We began to realize **that our lives are interwoven with, and sustained by, ordinary people valiantly shaping the decisive events of our shared history**: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, shopkeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caretakers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests and religious... They understood that no one is saved alone” (*Fratelli tutti*, 54).



BIOGRAPHY

Dora del Hoyo was born in Boca de Huérgano (Spain) on 11 January 1914, the fifth of six children of a farming couple with a strong Christian faith. At the age of 26 she moved to Madrid to work as a domestic worker. In 1944 she was hired at the Moncloa Student Residence, where she came to know the spirit of Opus Dei and its founder, Saint Josemaría Escrivá. On 14 March 1946 she applied for admission to Opus Dei to seek holiness through her work and to spread the universal call to holiness. Shortly afterwards she left for Rome, becoming a great support for the founder of Opus Dei. She died on 10 January 2004. Her mortal remains rest in the prelatic church of Our Lady of Peace (viale Bruno Buozzi 75, Rome), where the remains of Saint Josemaría Escrivá and Blessed Alvaro del Portillo are also venerated.

NEWS OF THE CAUSE

Documentation on Dora's reputation for sanctity is being collected for the Roman phase of the Cause.

FAVOURS

A wrong diagnosis?

On May 31st my husband was diagnosed with three liver lesions, one of which could be cholangiocarcinoma [a type of liver tumour], and perhaps a metastasis. We asked our relatives, friends and acquaintances to accompany us in prayer in this encounter with the Cross. We placed ourselves under the intercession of Dora del Hoyo, who has always taken care of our home and as an example of living a self-sacrificing family life.

The diagnosis became less serious as the months went by, and we – all of us, friends, family and acquaintances – continued to pray for this intention. To date, he continues to have regular medical check-ups, but there are no cancerous tumours.

Some may attribute this to a wrong diagnosis, but the spiritual experience we have had during these months is perhaps proof that supernatural life exists and that our destiny is Heaven. We are moved and very grateful for the affection we have received and for the prayers of so many people.... Thank you Dora! Until next time, goodbye!

L. F. P. - Spain



PRAYER

O Lord, you called your servant Dora to work at the tasks that the Blessed Virgin Mary carried out in her home at Nazareth. Help me find you in the ordinary events of daily life, and to fill my surroundings with the same family warmth that Dora brought to hers with her cheerful and selfless work, following the teachings of Saint Josemaría. Glorify your servant Dora, and grant me the favour that I ask (*here make your petition*). Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Those who have obtained favours through the intercession of the Servant of God Dora del Hoyo are asked to let us know by writing to us at the address shown on this page. More information is available at www.doradelhoyo.org

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