

the *Positio super vita, virtutibus et fama sanctitatis* of the servant of God. Father José María was born in Madrid on November 17, 1913 and died in Barcelona on December 7, 1972. He met St. Josemaría in the autumn of 1934. On July 28, 1935, he asked for admission to Opus Dei. He was ordained as a priest on June 25, 1944. He assisted the founder in the apostolic work of Opus Dei with women, and carried out his pastoral work in Spain, France, England, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium.

Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri Declared Venerable (May 4, 2017)

On Thursday, May 4, Pope Francis authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to issue decrees relating to 12 canonization causes. Included among them is the decree proclaiming the heroic virtues of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri (1916-1975), a faithful of Opus Dei.

Upon hearing the news, the Prelate of Opus Dei, Monsignor Fernando Ocáriz, said: "As Pope Francis has been insisting, the saints are the most beautiful face of the Church. These new decrees thus are a reason for deep gratitude

to God, who is the fount of all holiness. He is acting in the souls of so many women and men of our time, and he gives us these examples as light and support for our lives."

Monsignor Ocáriz stressed that "every cause of canonization helps us to discover the love of God and the joy of the Christian path. Joy is a central feature of Guadalupe's life. She radiated Christian joy in every area of her life, including her professional work as a chemist, caring for domestic tasks, teaching, and in her extensive and intense apostolic work in Spain, Mexico and Italy. Guadalupe's example reminds us that, when God calls us to holiness, even the most ordinary realities acquire a broad and beautiful horizon, and spur us to bring many people closer to the happiness of union with God."

The Prelate concluded: "I ask God that her example may help us to follow the Christian path, spreading peace and joy to those around us."

In an interview, the postulator of her cause, Father Antonio Rodríguez de Rivera, describes Guadalupe as "a woman in love with God, filled with faith and hope, who by her work and optimism assisted others in their spiritual and material needs. The joy that imbued everything she did was evident to all, even in more trying situations."



A brief biography

She was born in Madrid in 1916, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She studied chemical sciences at the Central University in her home city, and was one of only five women in her class. During the Spanish civil war, she comforted her father, who was a military officer, in the hours leading up to his execution. She forgave those responsible for her father's death from the first moment. After the war, she finished her university studies and taught physics and chemistry in the Irish School and the Liceo Francés, both in Madrid.

At the beginning of 1944, through a friend, she met the founder of Opus Dei, Saint Josemaría Escrivá, who taught her that profes-

sional work and ordinary life can be the place for encountering Christ. Later she would say: "I had the clear sensation that God was speaking to me through that priest." That same year she joined Opus Dei.

From then on, Guadalupe committed herself unconditionally to seeking holiness and encouraging people to draw closer to God. In Madrid and later in Bilbao, she dedicated herself especially to the Christian formation of young people.

From 1950 to 1956 she was in Mexico, where she helped to begin Opus Dei's apostolic work. It was an adventure that she undertook with generosity and great faith. Those who knew her, highlight that her priority was fulfilling

God's will and putting herself at the service of others. Moved by Guadalupe's encouragement, some of her friends helped initiate activities of human and Christian development, including a center for the training and advancement of farm workers in a rural area in the State of Morelos.

In 1956 she moved to Rome, where she assisted Saint Josemaría in Opus Dei's government. After two years, due to health reasons, she returned to Spain, where she took up teaching and scientific research

again. She finished a doctoral thesis in chemistry with the highest marks, and was one of the pioneers in starting the Center for Studies and Research in Domestic Sciences. Later she received a medal from the International Committee of *Rayonne et des Fibres Synthétiques*, for a research project on textile fibers. At the same time, she continued carrying out the work of Christian formation provided by Opus Dei. All her actions reflected an eagerness to grow in love for God through her work, her friendships, and her example of joy.



After a long battle with heart disease, she died in Pamplona, with a reputation for holiness, on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in 1975. She was 59 years old.

Ever since, private devotion to Guadalupe has continued to spread. According to the postulator, people who have prayed to her intercession have received a wide variety of favors: cures, favors relating to pregnancy and giving birth, finding work, achieving a better balance between work and family, resolving economic problems, reconciliations among family members, and friends and co-workers growing closer to God.

Itinerary of the Canonization Cause

The process of gathering information on the life, virtues and reputation for sanctity of Guadalupe was opened in Madrid on November 18, 2001 and was finished on March 18, 2005. The tribunal interviewed 32 witnesses in Madrid and 22 witnesses in Mexico City.

On February 17, 2006, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints authorized the decree for the validity of the process, and on August 4, 2009, the *Positio* on the life and virtues of Guadalupe was presented.

On June 7, 2016, the congress of theological consultants gave a positive response to the question on the heroic virtues of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri. On May 2, 2017, the ordinary session of cardinals and bishops made the same pronouncement.

On May 4, 2017, Pope Francis received from Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, a detailed account of the stages of the cause, ratified by the vote of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and he authorized the publication of the decree declaring the servant of God Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri venerable.

Interview with Fr. Antonio Rodríguez de Rivera, Postulator for the Cause of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri

Who was Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri?

She was a woman of outstanding human qualities, cheerful and humble. She had great professional prestige and always led a life of helping others in their spiritual and material needs. She was a person in love with God, full of faith and hope.

She was born in Madrid, Spain, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1916. She studied Chemistry in Madrid's Central University. In her class, there were only five women. She stood out for seriousness in her studies and a ready smile. After the Spanish Civil War, she graduated and began to teach Physics and Chemistry in the "*Colegio de las Irlandesas*" (Loreto Nuns High