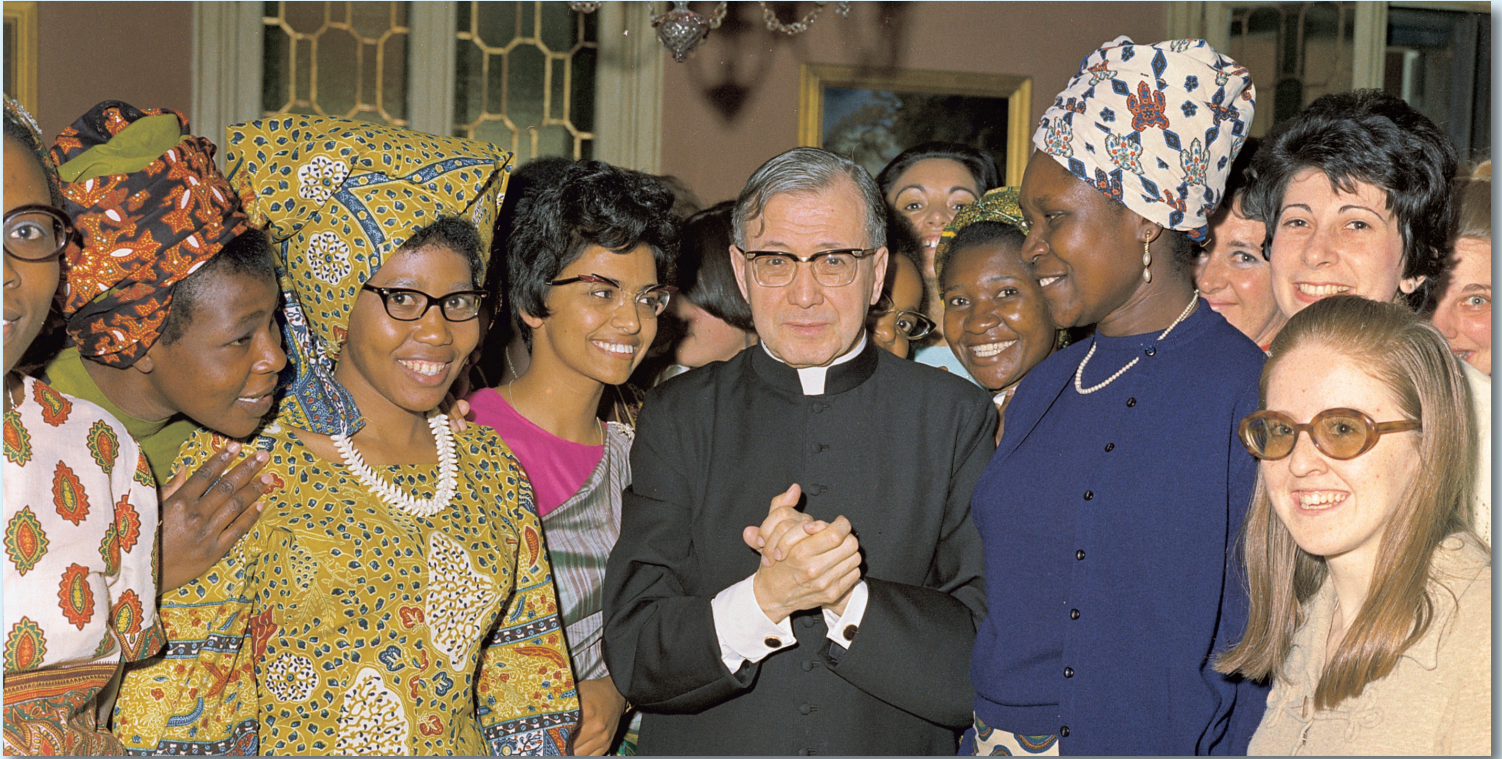


# Saint Josemaría Today #6



“I dream — and the dream has come true — of multitudes of God’s children, sanctifying themselves as ordinary citizens, sharing the ambitions and endeavors of their colleagues and friends.”

- Saint Josemaría Escrivá

## **Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri: 1<sup>st</sup> layperson of Opus Dei to be raised to the altars**

*Saint Josemaría liked to remind us, using words from the prophet Isaiah: Non est abbreviata manus Domini (Is 59:1): “‘The arm of the Lord has not been shortened.’ God is no less powerful today than he was in other times” (Christ is Passing By, 130). The same Lord wants to keep showing Himself to us in different ways, including through the saints. Each saint is a work of God, a way of making Himself present in our world, and “the most attractive face of the Church” (Pope Francis, Gaudete et exultate, 9).*

*Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri is the first layperson of Opus Dei to be set forth as a model of holiness by the Church. This was already the case with the founder, Saint Josemaría, and his first successor, Blessed Alvaro. Thus we are especially reminded of the call that God makes to all of us to be holy, as Saint Josemaría preached since 1928 and which was one of the main teachings of the Second Vatican Council (see Lumen Gentium, ch. 5).*

- Msgr. Fernando Ocariz, Prelate of Opus Dei, Homily, Mass of Thanksgiving for the Beatification of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri, May 19, 2019



## GUADALUPE MEETS SAINT JOSEMARIA

On January 25, 1944 Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri met Saint Josemaria, the founder of Opus Dei, for the first time. Following that encounter, Guadalupe began to visit on a regular basis the first women's center of Opus Dei, a small house on Jorge Manrique Street in Madrid. There she started to discover a pathway for growing closer to God in and through what she was already doing: teaching chemistry at a secondary school.

During this period, Guadalupe learned how to deepen her life of prayer, growing in a personal relationship with God. She also began to spend some minutes every day reading a spiritual book and the New Testament, and started including other moments of prayer in a natural way in her daily routine.

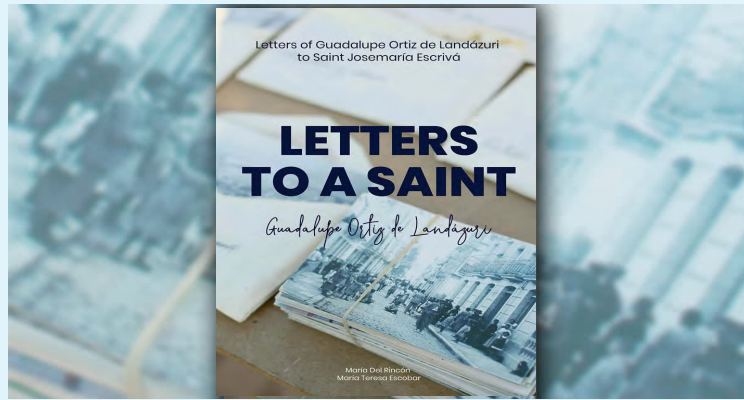
Between March 12 to 17, Guadalupe attended a spiritual retreat held at the same house on Jorge Manrique, and she was able to have another conversation with Saint Josemaria at this time. Not really knowing how to begin, she simply stated, "I really like Saint John of the Cross." According to Guadalupe, the young priest grasped where she was going with this and helped her to express herself better. He offered some ideas on how she could improve her spiritual life, and also brought up the topic of their earlier conversation: vocation.

During the days on retreat, the light of God's call that she had first sensed on January 25 was confirmed in her heart. On March 15, Guadalupe wrote in her diary: "I spoke with the Father [Saint Josemaria] and decided to join the Work." The next entry is on March 19: "Feast of Saint Joseph. I wrote the Father asking to be admitted to the Work."

Madrid, Saint Joseph's Day, 1944

"Father, I ask you for the greatest favor you can grant me: to be admitted to the Work, now that God in his great goodness wants me to work in it with all my strength, which I promise to do with God's help and that of our Lady, as well as of Saint Joseph, who from this day on I see as my special protector in Heaven."

Maria Guadalupe Ortíz de Landazuri



## LETTERS WRITTEN BY GUADALUPE TO SAINT JOSEMARÍA

"Letters to a Saint" offers an English translation of letters written by Guadalupe to Saint Josemaría. The founder of Opus Dei kept these letters among his personal correspondence, and they are now found in the General Archive of the Prelature.

When Guadalupe Ortiz, a chemistry teacher, first met Saint Josemaría in 1944, she discovered that God was offering her a path to holiness in the middle of the world, through her professional work. A few months after that encounter, she wrote him a letter beginning, like all her letters to him from then on, "Father," in which she asked to join Opus Dei. That was the first of 350 letters that she wrote to him, beginning on March 19, 1944, and ending on June 22, 1975, four days before Saint Josemaría died in Rome.

The selections have been grouped into five chapters according to five central aspects of Guadalupe's life, which can also offer light for people living in the 21st Century.

Maria del Rincon and Maria Teresa Escobar, journalists and authors of the book, work in the Communications Office of Opus Dei in Rome. "Some months ago we started to study in depth all the documentation relating to Guadalupe, so that we could get close to her and communicate her message in the best possible way," explains Maria Teresa. "When we read the letters we discovered her naturalness and simplicity. We decided that the best way to show her to the public at large was to let them discover her as we ourselves had, by directly reading her letters."

The book "Letters to a Saint" can be downloaded for free on Google Play, Apple Books platforms and on the Opus Dei website: <https://opusdei.org/en-ph/article/letters-to-a-saint/>

## OTHER CANONIZATION CAUSES OF THE FAITHFUL OF OPUS DEI

Saint Josemaría Escrivá, spread the call to holiness in daily life and was called the “saint of the ordinary” by John Paul II. “We have to be contemplative souls in the middle of the world, who strive to turn our work into prayer,” he often said. “Married people, single people, workers, intellectuals, farmers... right where they are can and should be good children of God.”



**Blessed Alvaro del Portillo**

Since his death in 1994, thousands of people have testified in writing to the memory of Bishop Alvaro del Portillo: his kindness, the warmth of his smile, his humility, his supernatural courage, and the peace of mind his words inspired in them.



**Venerable Montse Grases**

While still quite young, Montse (Spain, 1941-1959) received God's call to serve him in ordinary life. During the sickness that led to her death, she gave exemplary witness to all who knew her of the peace that comes from being close to God.



**Venerable Isidoro Zorzano**

Isidoro Zorzano was born in Buenos Aires on September 13, 1902. His parents were Spanish, and the family moved back to Spain from Argentina when he was still quite young.



**Dora del Hoyo**

Dora del Hoyo was the first numerary assistant in Opus Dei. St. Josemaría found in this spiritual daughter of his a faithful and dedicated woman with great human gifts, who always says yes to God.



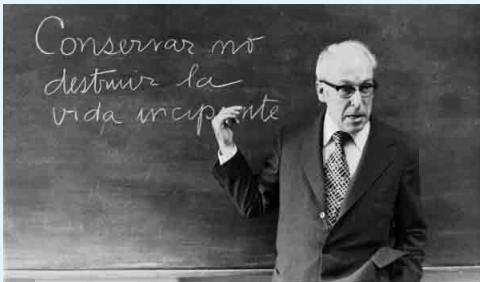
**José Luis Múzquiz**

Fr. Joseph (José Luis Múzquiz de Miguel) was born in 1912 in Bajadoz, Spain. He helped St. Josemaría spread Opus Dei to many countries, especially the United States.



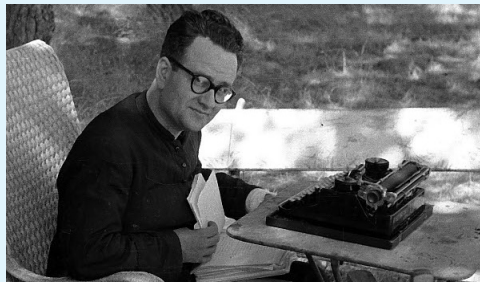
**Toni Zweifel**

Toni Zweifel was born on February 15, 1938 in Verona, Italy. His mother Antonia was Italian and his father, Giusto Zweifel, was a Swiss textile manufacturer. He was baptized on February 26.



**Ernesto Cofiño**

Dr. Ernesto Cofiño was born in Guatemala City on June 5, 1899. He was a strong defender of human life, right from conception, and inspired organizations that work for the good of future mother, street children and orphans.



**Jose Maria Hernandez Garnica**

José Maria Hernandez Garnica was born in Madrid on November 17, 1913. He obtained doctorates in Engineering, Natural Science and Theology. On July 28, 1935 he joined Opus Dei. He died in Barcelona on December 7, 1972.



**Tomás and Paquita Alvira**

Faithful to the spirit of Opus Dei, the couple passed on to their children and to many other people their example of Christian life and marriage, of a “bright and cheerful home,” as St. Josemaría used to say.

**Laura and Eduardo Ortiz de Landazuri**

Eduardo, a doctor and university teacher, put all his knowledge and skill at the service of God and the sick. Laura, who studied pharmacy, built up with her husband's help a large and cheerful Christian family.



**Encarnita Ortega**

In 1941 she attended a retreat preached by St. Josemaría Escrivá in Alaquas (Valencia) and received from God the grace of a vocation to Opus Dei.

## “EITHER WE LEARN TO FIND OUR LORD IN ORDINARY, EVERYDAY LIFE, OR ELSE WE SHALL NEVER FIND HIM!”

“I often said to the university students and workers who were with me in the thirties that they had to know how to “materialize” their spiritual life. I wanted to keep them from the temptation, so common then and now, of living a kind of double life. On one side, an interior life, a life of relation with God; and on the other, a separate and distinct professional, social and family life, full of small earthly realities.

“No! We cannot lead a double life if we want to be Christians. There is just one life, made of flesh and spirit. And it is this life which has to become, in both soul and body, holy and filled with God. We discover the invisible God in the most visible and material things.

“There is no other way. Either we learn to find our Lord in ordinary, everyday life, or else we shall never find Him. That is why I can tell you that our age needs to give back to matter and to the most trivial occurrences and situations their noble and original meaning. It needs to restore them to the service of the Kingdom of God, to spiritualize them, turning them into a means and an occasion for a continuous meeting with Jesus Christ.”

– St. Josemaria, Homily, “Passionately Loving the World”

## STORIES OF ST. JOSEMARIA’S INTERCESSION

After his death on June 26, 1975 Josemaría Escrivá’s reputation for holiness spread, and many scientifically-inexplicable cures, as well as hundreds of thousands of spiritual and material favors, have been attributed to his intercession.

### Family unity

I want to bear witness to the help I have received from God through Saint Josemaria’s intercession. I had to move to another town because of my job. The move was a painful one and had a bad effect on our family unity. I prayed to God to give me light to keep my family together. The road has been a hard one, but with God’s help I have traveled it. I pray to Saint Josemaria to continue interceding for me before God, to achieve my goal. Thank you, too, because we have fewer moments of friction and more peace and family harmony.



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## Unemployed

I was unemployed. My father gave me a prayer-card of St Josemaria, saying this was a saint who specialized in problems like mine. To my surprise, the very next week I got an interview with a company and I am now working for them. I am really grateful to St Josemaria.

## Searching for a permanent job

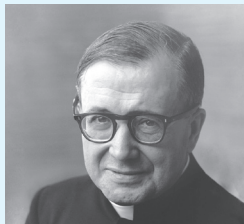
After searching for a permanent job for 10 months, a friend recommended that I pray the Novena for Work to seek the intercessions of St. Josemaria and Our Blessed Mother. Within 2 weeks I was recommended to a good job which I did not even apply for. Thank you St. Josemaria and Mother Mary for your prayers and intercessions. Always have faith in the love of God.

## TELL US YOUR STORY

If you have experienced big or small favors in your life, especially through the intercession of St. Josemaria, **please send us an email or a letter** to tell us your story. By sharing your story with us you can also reach the hearts of others and bring them closer to God.

*“It is not easy to speak about personal things, an even less so in front of so many people. You have shared the greatest treasure which you have: your stories, your lives and how Jesus became a part of them.”*

- Pope Francis, Address to Young People in Paraguay



### PRAYER

*O God, through the Blessed Virgin Mary, you granted countless graces to your priest Saint Josemaría, choosing him as a most faithful instrument to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the ordinary duties of a Christian. Grant that I may also learn to turn all the circumstances and events of my life into opportunities to love you and to serve the Church, the Pope and all souls, with joy and simplicity, lighting up the paths of the earth with faith and love. Through the intercession of Saint Josemaría grant me the favor I request... (here make your request). Amen.*

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.*

## Donations and Contributions

Those who wish to support the Office for the Causes of Saints of the Prelature of Opus Dei may send their donations to the Philippine Foundation for C.E.D., Inc. Rm 202 Alexander House, Amorsolo St. Legazpi Village, Makati City. Cash donations may be deposited to the Philippine Foundation for C.E.D., Inc, BPI account # 0321-0202-08 at the BPI Legaspi Columns Branch, Makati City or at any BPI branch.