

seeking him in our work and serving the people around us, and we strive to look at them and love them as he would. Thus, in a thousand different ways, we make present in the world the light and warmth that he has put in our hearts. All of this is our small contribution as children, which our Father God makes use of to work wonders in souls.

The Synod on young people, the faith, and vocational discernment will begin soon. Let us continue praying and ask for the light and impulse needed so that Jesus' message may continue to reach many young men and women, and they may decide to follow him generously on the different paths that exist in the Church. The proximity of this event in the Church to the anniversary of the Work can help us to see our own personal vocation with renewed eagerness, with a young and enamored heart. Our Founder never lost his youthful heart. He underwent many setbacks and sufferings, but his love for our Lord kept him always young. And he revealed to us the secret of his youthfulness: "When I pray at the foot of the altar *to God who gives joy to my youth* (Ps 43:4), I feel young and I know that I will never consider myself old. If I keep true to my God, Love will constantly vivify me. My youth will be renewed like that of the eagle (see Ps 103:5)" (*Friends of God*, no. 31). If we remain united to our Lord, we will always be young, and he will continue to carry out his Work, ever

ancient and ever new, in all the various places, times and cultures.

For a human life, ninety years is a lot; but for the Work it is certainly very few. We are still at the beginning. May this serve as a reminder for us of the gift we have received and of the beautiful mission Christ has placed in our hands.

Don't stop accompanying me with your prayer. Above all, let us accompany the Holy Father at this time, so that we may all go together to Jesus through Mary.

Your Father blesses you with all his affection,

Rome, October 1, 2018

## Letter on the Occasion of the Announcement of the Beatification of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri (October 26, 2018)

My dear children: may Jesus watch over my daughters and sons for me!

I have the great joy of sharing with you that today I received confirmation that our Holy Father Pope Francis has decreed that the beatification ceremony of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri will take

place in Madrid, on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

Although other details regarding the celebration will be finalized later on, this news fills us with gratitude to God and to the Holy Father. I invite you all to join in my prayer to Guadalupe for the Pope's intentions, especially for the work of the synod Fathers gathered together in Rome these days to talk about young people, the faith, and vocational discernment.

This event in the Church will help underline how a life of service to God and others, including the most needy, can be filled with joy and meaning, as we see through Guadalupe's life. She knew how to find God in the daily efforts of her scientific research and teaching; in the various tasks of formation and government that Saint Josemaría entrusted to her; and in her illness, which she bore with a strong Christian spirit.

Those who knew her highlight her joy and good humor, rooted in the awareness of knowing herself to be a child of God, together with

a determination and spirit of initiative that formed her universal heart. Her example is a reflection of how "the Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence" (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 1).

I consider it providential that the beatification will take place on the anniversary of Guadalupe's First Holy Communion. This coincidence reminds us how "putting Jesus at the center of our life means deepening in our contemplative prayer in the middle of the world, and helping others to travel along paths of contemplation" (*Pastoral Letter*, February 14, 2017).

Guadalupe will be the first lay person in Opus Dei to be raised to the altars. It is as if a seal of approval has been set on the path that our Lord helped Saint Josemaría to see 90 years ago, on October 2, 1928.

With all my affection, I bless you, your Father

Fernando