
A woman with dark hair, wearing a white blouse and a patterned skirt, sits on stone steps leading up to a large, dark bell. The bell is suspended by a cord and hangs from a wooden frame. The background shows a landscape with hills under a blue sky with clouds. The scene is set in a stone building with a large opening.

A role model
for work,
friendship,
and joy

NOVENA

Guadalupe Ortiz



Author: Francisco Faus

We ask those who obtain favours through the intercession of the **venerable servant of God Guadalupe Ortiz**, to please send them to the Office for the Cause of Saints of the Prelature of Opus Dei through the website www.guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org or by writing to ocs@opusdei.org.

More information on Guadalupe and Opus Dei:
www.guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org
& www.opusdei.org

With ecclesiastical approval
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Guadalupe Ortiz

Venerable Servant of God

PRAYER FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

O God, you wish all men and women to be saved and to come to know the truth. Grant me through the intercession of your servant Guadalupe that, like her, I may learn to carry out my ordinary work with love, and spread faith and joy to everyone around me, bringing them to know and love you. Deign to glorify your servant, Guadalupe, and grant me through her intercession the favor I ask for. (Ask for the favor here.) Amen.

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

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In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgement of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.

Life of Guadalupe

Guadalupe Ortiz was born in Madrid, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12 December 1916. She studied Chemistry in her home city at the Universidad Central. She was one of only five women in a class of 70. During the Spanish civil war, she accompanied her father, who was in the military, in the hours leading up to his execution. She sincerely forgave those who had decided to condemn her father. After the violent conflict, she finished her university degree and taught Physics and Chemistry in the school of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the French Lyceum in Madrid.

At the beginning of 1944, a friend of Guadalupe's introduced her to the founder of Opus Dei, Saint Josemaría Escrivá, who taught her that she could encounter Christ in her professional work and ordinary life. Later she would recall, "It was clear to me that God was talking to me through this priest." That same year she joined Opus Dei.

From that moment on Guadalupe dedicated herself to seeking sanctity and trying to bring many people closer to God. In Madrid and later Bilbao, she principally dedicated herself to the Christian formation of youth.

From 1950 to 1956, she was in Mexico where she began the apostolic work of Opus Dei. She lived this adventure with great generosity and faith. Those who worked with her emphasize how her priority in life was fulfilling the will of God and putting herself at the service of others.

With her friends, Guadalupe started many activities that promoted the human person, such as a center for human and professional training for women in a rural zone of the state of Morelos.

In 1956 she returned to Rome, where she collaborated with Saint Josemaría in the government of Opus Dei. After 2 years, for health reasons, she moved to Spain and took up teaching and scientific research again. She completed her doctoral thesis in Chemistry and received the highest qualification. She was one of the founders of the *Center of Studies and Research of Domestic Sciences* (CEICID). Later on she would receive the medal from the International Committee of Rayon and Synthetic Fibers for a research project on textile fibres. At the same time, she continued her commitment to giving Christian formation. All her actions, her work, her friendships, and her example of joy, show her desire to love God.

She died in Pamplona of a heart condition on July 16th, 1975, feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, with a reputation for holiness. She was 59 years old.

Since then, private devotion to Guadalupe has spread extensively. Those who have gone to her intercession have received a great variety of favours: cures, favours related to pregnancy and giving birth, obtaining work, balancing work and family life, resolution of financial difficulties, family reconciliations, conversion of friends and colleagues, etc.

Message from the author

The testimonies of Guadalupe's life are published in the following works:

Mercedes Eguíbar Galarza, *Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri. Trabajo, amistad y buen humor*, 4^a edición, ed. Palabra, Madrid 2002 [ME].

Interview with the Postulator of Guadalupe's Cause, Antonio Rodríguez de Rivera:

<https://opusdei.org/en/article/interview->

[postulator-guadalupe-ortiz-de-landazuri-miracle/](https://opusdei.org/en/article/interview-postulator-guadalupe-ortiz-de-landazuri-miracle/)

Other considerations can be found, among others, in the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, by Pope Francis, and a variety of works by Saint Josemaría: *The Way*, *Furrow*, *The Forge*, and *Friends of God*.



Loving God with all your strength

1st day

The example of Guadalupe

- I think the common thread of her life and actions was her profound love for God [...]. How she would inspire us when she gave us talks or other means of formation. She knew how to get to our hearts so as to bring them to God through divine filiation. [ME, p. 129]
- She lived a constant presence of God through her deeds. [ME, p. 164]
- Upon finishing a spiritual retreat, she wrote to Saint Josemaría “I encounter God in almost everything... this certainty of God in my life, next to me, encourages me and makes things that were once hard for me easy.” [ME, p. 183]
- On one occasion, Guadalupe was hurt when she saw someone lacking love for Jesus in the Eucharist. This same day, she wrote a personal resolution in her diary: “Adore God, praise him, tell him affectionate things to make up for lack of love. Deepen my interior silence until I reach where there is only God.” [ME, p. 87]
- She had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin, especially Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her great affection for Our Lady was well known. [ME, pp. 244-245]



Prayer

Lord, I ask you through the intercession of Guadalupe the grace to know how to love you as she loved you. With her help, I hope to be able to say, as she did “I encounter God in almost everything!”

Help me to understand each day more that - as Pope Francis says - “God, by his sheer grace, draws us to himself and makes us one with him. He sends his Spirit into our hearts to make us his children, transforming us and enabling us to respond to his love by our lives.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 112)

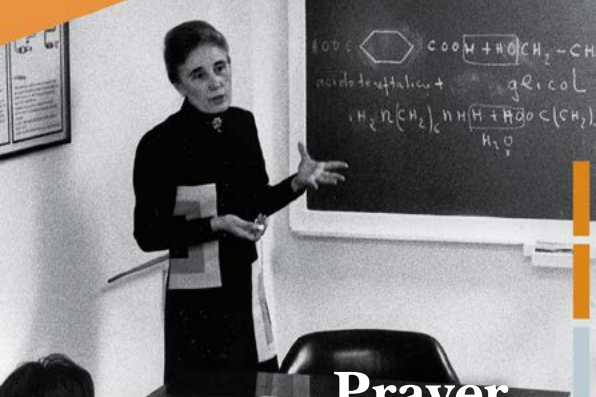
Help me to live my daily duties with the vision of faith, with the sincere desire that each moment and circumstance in my life be an occasion to love you and to serve, lighting up everything with the light of faith and love.

Help me so that, like Guadalupe, I know how to have “due measure in everything... except in Love.” (*The Way*, n. 427)

Turning work into prayer

The example of Guadalupe

- She worked very hard and had an extraordinary capacity for concentration; she focused on what she had in hand and knew how to take advantage of short periods of time that perhaps other people overlook. [ME, p. 229]. She taught us to work conscientiously, thinking of the glory of God. [ME, p. 162]
- It seemed like what she was doing at any particular moment was the only thing she had to attend to. [ME, p. 111]
- She was enthusiastic about her career and, obviously, she loved research. She was also excited about dedicating herself to university teaching. [ME, p. 33]
- It was not unusual that in her classes, she would let herself be led by her Christian outlook, by which she gave us an integral human formation. I remember how, stepping back from a blackboard full of chemistry formulas [...], she made us see that all this could not have proceeded from a purely mechanical evolution and concluded: “See how God does things!” [ME, p. 224]



Prayer

Guadalupe knew how to make her professional work and fulfillment of ordinary duties a way to holiness. A great holiness, achieved through putting love in little things, in the little details of every day.

Help me, my God, to do my work passionately like she did – imitating the hidden life of Jesus Christ –, to take care of the intensity, order, and details, offering it up and finishing it out of love for you.

Help me to deepen in the teaching of Saint Josemaría, that Guadalupe lived with such enthusiasm: “It is in the simplicity of your ordinary work, in the monotonous details of each day, that you have to find the secret, which is hidden from so many, of something great and new: Love.” (*Furrow*, n. 489)

Loving Jesus in the Eucharist

The example of Guadalupe

- Her manner in the oratory was very attractive; she made God's presence noticeable. She fixed her look on the Tabernacle and nothing distracted her. Just by looking at her one could learn to pray. [ME, p. 164]
- I was struck by how she gathered herself together when attending Mass and receiving Communion every day, by how much she prayed and encouraged us to pray. [Interview, n. 2]
- On one occasion, there was a theft in the center of Opus Dei where Guadalupe lived, when there was no one in the house. The thief did not enter the oratory. Upon receiving this news, Guadalupe said: "If I had been here I would not have permitted him to approach the altar even if it would have meant losing my life in front of the Blessed Sacrament." [ME, pp. 55-56]
- On the day before her death, she was very moved when receiving the Viaticum. [ME, p. 275]



Prayer

The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist was like a magnet that constantly attracted Guadalupe, with desires to correspond to the “madness of Love which is the blessed Eucharist.” (*The Way*, n. 432)

Grant me, Lord, the faith she had in the words of Jesus: *I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.* (Jn 6:51.56)

Make it so that the Tabernacle be for me “a magnetic pole,” that makes me “ready to wait patiently to hear his voice and, as it were, to sense the beating of his heart.” (Saint John Paul II, *Mane nobiscum Domine*, n. 18)

Lord, grant me the grace to be amazed, every day more so, considering with Saint Thomas Aquinas, that “in this Sacrament is contained the entire mystery of our salvation.” (*Summa Theologiae*, pars III, q. 83, a. 4c)

Serving others with joy

4th day

The example of Guadalupe

- When she was named director of a center of Opus Dei in Bilbao, she wrote to Saint Josemaría: “What joy I have in telling you that now I am the head and tomorrow I may be in the last place; always happy, because I serve the Lord. I want, with His help, always to carry the Work on my shoulders.” [ME, p. 77]
- The life of Guadalupe is a splendid invitation to open oneself up to others. Her example encourages leaving one’s comfort zone to dedicate oneself to serving others. Guadalupe helps us to discover that only with Christ can we have a deep and permanent joy. [Interview, n. 7]
- She was full of initiatives and activities to help others, humanly and spiritually. [Interview, n. 4]
- Once in Mexico, tired due to work, “she walked up the stairs slowly, supporting herself on the railing and saying in a low voice: “I can’t anymore, I can’t anymore...” At that moment she must have realized I was present and began to walk quickly up the stairs. Laughing, she said to me “I scared you, didn’t I? Don’t believe what I said!” and smiling, as always, as if nothing had happened, she attended to me. [ME, p. 187]



Prayer

Lord, I ask you, through Guadalupe, that you infuse in my soul your spirit of service that led you to giving your life for us on the cross. That I know how to say, as the Blessed Virgin did: *Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word. (Lk 1:38)*

You, Jesus, summarized your redemptive mission saying: *The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mt 20:28)*. Increase my desires to make my life a generous and joyful service for the others.

I ask you to help me overcome selfishness, that shrinks the heart and closes me up in a bitter and petty loneliness. Convince me of this truth: “The more generous you are for God, the happier you will be.” (*Furrow*, n. 18)

Help me to understand – as Pope Francis says – “Every human being is the object of God’s infinite tenderness” and that “if I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 274)

Humility: Forgetting Oneself

The example of Guadalupe

- “What has most impressed me has been Guadalupe’s ‘forgetfulness of herself’. She thought constantly of God and of other people.” [Interview, n. 4]

- “She had such a great concern for those who started coming to the means of Christian formation, that we really felt loved by her. One felt good there. We realized that her concern for each one of us was so great, that in listening to us and trying to help us, she never thought of herself.” [ME, p. 129]

- In Rome, in 1956, “for a few days she wore a handkerchief tied around her neck, very stylish and gracious.” One of the women who lived there entered her room by chance: “Guadalupe looked at me with surprise. She had gauze in her hand. I asked her what she was doing and she answered: “I am just treating a small pimple in my neck”. I approached her and was really shocked. She had an enormous anthrax infection, like a volcano, with five or six blisters. It must have been very painful and still hurting in that moment.” It was something only those who treated her condition knew about. She wanted to “pass unnoticed without being a worry to anyone.” [ME, p. 198]

- After having participated in a get-together in Madrid with Saint Josemaría, she commented: “His strong faith tugged mine like on so many other occasions... How clearly I saw that I am no more than an instrument, a jug made of poor clay, broken but held together with clamps.” [ME, p. 191]



Prayer

Grant me, my God, the grace of loving you and loving others out of love for you, forgetting about myself, so that I might be like Guadalupe who “never thought of herself.”

I know that this forgetfulness, out of love, is one of the most clear manifestations of the virtue of humility, and that this virtue is a condition and foundation of all the other virtues. *Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves,* Jesus says to us. (Mt 11:29)

For this reason, free me, Lord, of my obsession with myself and my things. Free me from the possessive adjective: my time, my pleasure, my likes, my right, my reason... Grant me the grace, like Guadalupe, to know only how to say ‘you’.

I wish to practice, with your help, the formula that Saint Josemaría gave and that Guadalupe lived with such joy: “Use this prescription for your life: ‘I don’t remember that I exist. I don’t think of my own affairs, because there is no time left.’ - Work and service!” (*The Forge*, n. 853)

Without fear of pain or of death

6th day

The example of Guadalupe

- Before the last operation on her heart, just before dying, she said: “I am going to Pamplona for my operation: I am going to put myself in the hands of science because it is just, but I don’t think I will return. I am not afraid of pain or of death. If anything, I am afraid I am not ready yet. [ME, p. 254]

- She knew all the dangers of such surgery and, without the slightest hesitation, she accepted it thinking in this way she could be most useful to the Work; or, “If I don’t come through and God wants me to lose my life” – she said – “going to heaven is even better.” [ME, p. 254]

- She was convinced that she would not survive the operation and she was very excited to think that God would take her away. She told me: “I am in the hands of God; if he wants me to recover, it will give me a lot of joy to continue living in the service of the Work... but for me it would be a great joy to see God, to be with Him.” [ME, p. 257]

- A few days before dying, Dr. Eduardo Ortiz, Guadalupe’s brother, said: “Today she made another act of acceptance of God’s will: ‘I accept death, life, whatever it may be. I am joyful if I go to you soon, but I accept everything... staying here to serve... as you wish.’” [ME, p. 264]



Prayer

Through the intercession of Guadalupe, I ask you, Lord, to increase my faith. I recite in the Creed: “I believe in life everlasting.” Guadalupe’s faith in this truth explains the joyful serenity with which she faced death.

I ask that, with your grace, I may see death as it is for a Christian, a simple “change of home”; “a good friend who helps you on your way” (*The Way*, nos. 744 and 735). This is how Guadalupe learned to see it: “Do not ever forget” – said Saint Josemaría – “that after death you will be welcomed by Love itself.” (*Friends of God*, n. 221)

I know that for this, Lord, I need to be more faithful, love you more, live in union with you, offer you my sufferings, big and small, with the hope of which Saint Paul spoke: *Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*” (Rm 5:5)

I ask you as well that this hope may move me to imitate the abandonment in your will that Guadalupe showed, without fear of life or fear of death, ready to work with joy for as long as God gave her life.

Cultivating Friendship

7th day

The example of Guadalupe

- When I met Guadalupe, I was very impressed by a warmth and welcoming spirit that inspired a lot of confidence and led to deep friendships... Each one of us could say, quite accurately, that Guadalupe was her friend. [ME, pp. 128-129]
- I remember well when, just after I arrived in Mexico, Guadalupe became very sick with a mix of infection and malaria. She had an extremely high temperature and they gave me the task of caring for her. I was with her practically day and night. I can attest that she never even alluded to her sickness. She was lost in thought... and, when she did stop thinking, it was to ask me if one or another of her friends had come by to visit her, and who had looked after them, since she could not do so herself. [ME, p. 167]
- The nurse who looked after her in her last hours of life wrote: “And then, even though she had great difficulty speaking, she turned to me and said: ‘Do what you need to do, and don’t worry at all. Be at peace, because you have done all that you can. I will remember you [in heaven].’” [ME, p. 277]



Prayer

Jesus, you who offered us your friendship – *You are my friends if you do what I command you (Jn 15:14)* – help me so that I can identify myself with you more each day, and so that my friendships become a reflection of your love.

Help me, Lord, to imitate the greatness of heart of Guadalupe, and increase my capacity for friendship so that I dedicate myself with sincere affection and unlimited generosity to my friends, and so that I help them humanly and spiritually without counting the cost.

Lord, I wish to love everyone, without distinction, as Guadalupe did. For this, I ask you for a big heart capable of welcoming everyone with joy, of listening with affection, of understanding others, of encouraging and communicating your joy and peace.

In all my friendships, grant that the true charity of which Saint John spoke always be present: *Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth (1 Jn 3:18)*; that mine be friendships shown in deeds, in sacrifice, in whatever makes the Christian path on earth pleasant and joyful for others.

Prayer to Guadalupe: page 4.

Lighting up the world with the light of Christ

8th day

The example of Guadalupe

- Whenever I spoke with Guadalupe, I would have the impression of being in a dark room that, with her words, lit up. Her way of saying things reached my heart. [ME, p. 141]

- For a while, Guadalupe was the director of a university residence in Madrid. Her biographer recounts: “What makes her happiest is seeing the girls get closer to our Lord and acquire a deeper faith. Her face changes when someone – whom she knows is experiencing special difficulties – approaches the sacrament of Penance; or when someone talks to her about her desires of doing more for God and for the Church.” [ME, p. 88]

- I see her now, alive, full of strength and joy. She was habitually smiling or outright laughing. She was super active in the apostolate. The number of girls and women she talked to in a day was crazy. She would come out of talks vibrant and ready. [ME, p. 144]. At one point she was giving 12 circles a week for the Christian formation of a variety of women, young and old. [ME, p. 120]

- In a letter to Saint Josemaría, Guadalupe told him: “Father, you know me, if I have one dominant passion it is the apostolate. I think my passion for it increases every



Prayer

Lord, I ask you for the grace to know how to imitate the passion and ardent desire that Guadalupe had for bringing others closer to God, which was her “dominant passion.” That I may be able to transmit the light and warmth of Christ to all the souls I encounter in my path.

I ask that in my soul, there resound that call Jesus directed to us when he looked at the multitudes with compassion, *Because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’* (Mt 9:36-38)

Make me understand, like Guadalupe, these words of Saint Josemaría: “You have got to be a ‘man of God’, a man of interior life, a man of prayer and sacrifice. Your apostolate must be the overflow of your life ‘within’.” (*The Way*, n. 961)

Give me strength, Lord, to overcome the excuses that hold me back from living this essential trait of the Christian vocation: the call to the apostolate. May I take seriously what Christ expects of us Christians: *You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven* (Mt 5:14-16).

The example of Guadalupe

- There is a trait that really caught my attention: her constant smile. Guadalupe laughed a lot and was always smiling. I never saw her with a serious face or worried. [ME, p. 236]
- In Mexico, the residents composed a song, a “Mexican tune” that included the following verse: “The laugh of Guadalupe is more contagious than a bad illness. She is attentive to all and everyone wants to call her every day.” [ME, p. 123]
- I can still hear her crystal clear voice and open laugh: “Hello, how are you?” That is how I see her coming down the steps of the residence. [ME, p. 142]
- Despite the time that has gone by, whenever I think of her, I hear her laugh. Guadalupe was a permanent smile: welcoming, kind, simple. She was the kind of person who, as soon as you meet them, gives the impression that you have known them all your life. She immediately inspired confidence and trust. [ME, p. 142]
- The person who accompanied her on her last night says that on her deathbed, she “made an effort to keep smiling. Hers was a very special peace.” [ME, p. 277]



Prayer

Jesus, in his farewell, on the evening of the Last Supper, promised the apostles: *I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you (Jn 16:22)*. Saint Paul encouraged the Philippians: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!... The Lord is near (Philippians 4:4-5)*.

Sacred Scripture affirms: *rejoicing in the Lord is your strength (Ne 8:10)*. And Saint Augustine exclaims “You, Lord, are joy. And the happy life is rejoicing because of you, in you, and for you. This is the happy life and there is no other.” (*Confessions 10: 22,32*)

Lord, I see clearly that you want us to be joyful, because joy is the fruit of love, which is the essence of life and Christian holiness.

I ask you, through the intercession of Guadalupe, to help me to combat obstacles – especially pride and selfishness – that tarnish my joy and that of others. With your grace, I wish to imitate Guadalupe, who lived in a wonderful way this exhortation of Saint Josemaría: “Don’t forget that sometimes



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