

ISIDORO ZORZANO

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Isidoro's friends

Isidoro Zorzano was fond of excursions to the mountains. **When he was studying engineering, he would take “long walks with his friends through the Madrid Sierra on Sundays.** Ángel Quesada and Emilio Sobejano would remember those walks (...). The timetable and itineraries were decided in a meeting the day before. Sobejano recalls how ‘invariably on late Saturday afternoons, we would meet with a small group of friends, in a German bar selling beer’. Quesada specifies that it was the Gambrinus bar. Over beer and some seafood they would prepare the Sunday excursion and talk a bit about everything.”¹

In 1928, **after obtaining his engineering degree, he worked in Malaga. There “Isidoro resumed old friendships:** Anselmo Alonso, an old acquaintance of the family, worked in his department. Calixto García, his colleague, now married, also lived in Malaga. Isidoro is welcomed by these and his relatives (the Mendozas), but above all by a childhood acquaintance: Salvador Vicente, son of Don Melchor, a teacher from Ortigosa.”²

The biography details the friendships that Isidoro forged during his years in Malaga. These included the Herreros from Frigiliana, co-residents in the guesthouse where he lived, workers from the Andalusian Railways workshops, colleagues from the Industrial School, members of the Malaga Excursions Society in which he would be appointed vice president for the academic year 1933-34.³ In August 1933 he made a trip to Rome to gain the jubilee year indulgence. He was accompanied by Antonio Lorenzo, a friend and member of the Excursions Society. They managed to join a group that was received by Pius XI; Isidoro thus became **“the first member of Opus Dei to see a Pope in person.** Back in Malaga, he couldn't stop narrating his impressions.”⁴

“Strictly speaking, Isidoro, although a friend of nature and of long walks in the mountains, is not an athlete. But since exercise relieves his headaches, he went to a gym every day. The owner of the place (...) remembers that Zorzano brought several engineer friends to the gym. There they tried to improve their fitness. **Isidoro would take advantage of this to raise his friends' sights to develop their Christian life as well.**”⁵

On excursions “he would try to have deep conversations. He and his fellow climber would sit on a cliff and chat. Words would flow, old and new, like water through a river. **With naturalness, filled with God's grace, he would win over the soul of his friend.**”⁶ The biography includes many testimonies that his friends have written for his beatification process. “They coincide in describing him as **friendly, warm and cheerful;** always ‘ready to serve, in whatever way he can’. He does favours and appreciates those he receives. He listens to the opinions of others (...). Several describe his equanimity using the same phrase: ‘He was always the same.’ That is, with a smile on his lips and an overflowing positive approach.”⁷

1. José Miguel Pero-Sanz, *Isidoro Zorzano*, Palabra, Madrid 2009, pp. 56-57.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 99.

3. Cfr. *Ibid.*, pp. 135-144.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 148.

5. *Ibid.*, p. 164.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 168.

7. *Ibidem.*

Employment-related Favours

I was fired overnight without just cause, and they claimed that it was a disciplinary dismissal. That left me in a difficult situation because they did not give me any official document. It prevented me from applying for unemployment insurance, for which I had been paying for years. **Some people talked to me about Isidoro Zorzano and they told me to petition him.** As I did not know who he was, I first did some research. It seemed to me odd to ask a favour from someone whom I did not know. I read about his life, I searched the Internet, I visited his tomb. I then asked him with faith to intercede for me. 1st favour: There was no lawsuit. Getting my unemployment benefits would have been fine, but in addition I accidentally **found in my desk an envelope with € 400.** I must have left it there a long time ago and forgot about it. 2nd favour: I took my company to court but before the case began they decided to settle it. They acknowledged that the dismissal was not disciplinary and they paid me more than what was due. I was now able to claim my unemployment insurance. 3rd favour: I received a call from a company that had nothing to do with my field. After two interviews, **they hired me!** I start this Monday. The work schedule is good as it gives me time to be with my children and the salary allows me to make ends meet. Everything as I had asked. At the third interview they showed me that this company dealt with matters related to the Church, and I had no doubt that this job **was obtained thanks to the intervention of Isidoro.** I look forward to everything going well. As often as I can, I visit the church of St Albert and I feel close to Isidoro's tomb. He is like a trusted friend whom I visit. Thank you again, Isidoro! **M.C.**

My husband and I prayed a novena to Isidoro to get good jobs. On the last day of the novena we went to Mass at St Albert the Great church. A month later, a friend sent me a job offer and I was hired immediately. I love my job and I am happy. A few days later, my husband, who retired but wants to work too, was offered a job with the conditions that he wanted. It should be noted that both he (55) and I (52) are not really of employment age. I had been unemployed for six years. **I consider it a favour from Isidoro! M.A.G.**

A great manager

Years ago I read Isidoro's biography and discovered that he died in the same hospital where I was born. Since then, I have frequently turned to his intercession on matters related to my family, particularly those difficult to resolve without "the help of heaven". This time, I faced the challenge of trying helping a friend obtain financial aid from the State. It was not easy, due to bureaucratic obstacles. We managed to get all the documents, presented them and **decided to entrust all this work to Isidoro,** whom we named "our ally". We trusted him from the start and asked for the human optimism needed to achieve success. After hurdling over difficulties and after months of waiting, my friend received the news that her request had been approved and that she would begin to receive financial aid from the State, including backpay for the delays in processing. We shared the delight in this very happy news. We will be going soon to the church where his remains are to thank him for this favour. **P.P.**

NEWS OF THE CAUSE

Isidoro was declared Venerable on
21 December 2016.

Those who obtain favours through the intercession of Isidoro Zorzano are asked to notify the Office for the Causes of Saints, Opus Dei Prelature, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL; e-mail: ocs.uk@opusdei.org.

The venerable Servant of God

**ISIDORO
ZORZANO**

Prayer for private devotion

Almighty God, you filled your servant Isidoro with an abundant wealth of grace as he carried out his professional duties in the midst of the world: grant that I also may learn to sanctify my ordinary work and take the light of Christ to my friends and colleagues. Deign to glorify your servant, and, through his intercession, grant me the favour I request ...*(here make your petition)*. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

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.