

DORA DELHOYO

SERVANT OF GOD

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A WOMAN WHO SANCTIFIED HER TIME

The servant of God Dora del Hoyo (1914-2004) was a woman of her time. Not only because she, like everyone else of the period, lived in it, but also because she was aware that these were the times she had been given for her sanctification. Those who knew her emphasise her *sense of contemporaneity* – she lived in the present moment.



Dora (left) at Piazza Navona (Rome)

Dora applied this characteristic first and foremost to her professional work, because according to the spirit of Opus Dei – the institution to which she belonged – it is there that each one can become holy by **trying to do that work well, with love of God and for others**. From 1946, she lived in Rome, where she devoted herself professionally to the care and attention of the multitude of people who passed through Opus Dei's headquarters and the Roman College of the Holy Cross, which was attached during the years she lived there. She worked selflessly and actively, helping to give the buildings a real family atmosphere in spite of the constant flow of visitors from all walks of life and all parts of the world. Life was never a humdrum set of chores – it was always an adventure.

In spite of financial constraints, she promoted the use of industrial machinery at her place of work, in order to increase efficiency, and diligently concerned herself with its maintenance. In the mid-1960s, she visited a trade fair for the hotel and catering industry in Rome and, as a result, recommended the purchase of two machines: one for dry cleaning and the other for steam ironing.¹ Their purchase required quite an investment in difficult times, but it meant long-term savings and guaranteed a more efficient and safer way of working. Dora did not work alone: she was : **a patient teacher, who managed time and conversation very well in order to assist learning**. "She was not only a competent professional; she was a very good teacher,"² wrote her biographer, Javier Medina.

Ezia Mucciarelli, who lived and worked with her, remembers Dora renewing her recipe book by reading books and magazines, especially *La Cucina Italiana* (Italian Cuisine), with **an interest in learning new things**.³ She encouraged others to cook challenging and elaborate dishes, always striving to improve their service to others. Her sense of contemporaneity included keeping up-to-date with the fashion of the day and she was always elegant, smart, taking care of her appearance. She did not skimp when it came to presenting herself to others, even if it took some time and effort, especially in the later years of her life. She **also took care of her inner appearance**: not only in her relationship with God, but also in her personal and intellectual formation. She visited museums, read and nurtured various interests, for she knew that this was also her meeting place with God, whom she sought to get to know and love more and more each day.

¹ Testimony of Blanca Fontán.

² Dora del Hoyo, *a Lighted Lamp*, Scepter, 2014.

³ Testimony of Ezia Mucciarelli.

PRAYER

O Lord, you called your servant Dora to work at the tasks that the Blessed Virgin Mary carried out in her home in Nazareth. Help me to find you in the ordinary events of daily life, and to fill my surroundings with the same family warmth that Dora brought to hers with her cheerful and selfless work, following the teachings of Saint Josemaría. I now ask that you may glorify your servant Dora, and graciously grant me, through her intercession, the favour that I ask (*here make your petition*). Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that it is not intended in any way to prevent the judgment of ecclesiastical authority, and that this prayer is not intended in any way for public worship.

NEWS OF THE CAUSE

Two processes, one in Madrid and the other in Santiago de Chile, are being conducted to document Dora's reputation for holiness and favours granted through her intercession.

FAVOURS

A NEW DAUGHTER ARRIVED

Our first daughter was born in 2013. Then there were several pregnancies that did not come to term. At the end of 2018, still very much wanting to increase our family, we nevertheless decided not to seek any alternative methods for pregnancy and accepted the possibility that our family would not increase. Discussing this with a friend, she introduced me to Dora and suggested that I ask for the favour through her intercession. At the beginning of 2019, I became pregnant with our daughter Carolina.

FG. (Brazil)



Dora with one of the industrial machines

SHE RENDERS ME MANY SERVICES

As the temperatures dropped quite a bit while we were spending a few summer days in a small town, an elderly person needed a lift to another town to buy a jacket. I am not a very good driver and did not know the area, so I was afraid of getting lost. We didn't have much time either. I thought of asking Dora for help, trusting that she had been a very helpful woman. "Look, Dora, I'm very clumsy in these matters, but this person is old and really needs assistance." Within a few minutes I was approached by someone who offered to accompany us. It turned out that she knew the way, the town, where to park, even the right shops, because that was where she took her own mother shopping. We found a great jacket in the first shop she took us to. Dora could not have offered us a more timely, sympathetic and generous help than that person. Not only did she want to take us out for a snack, but when she returned, she said goodbye and thanked us.

CM. (Spain)

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