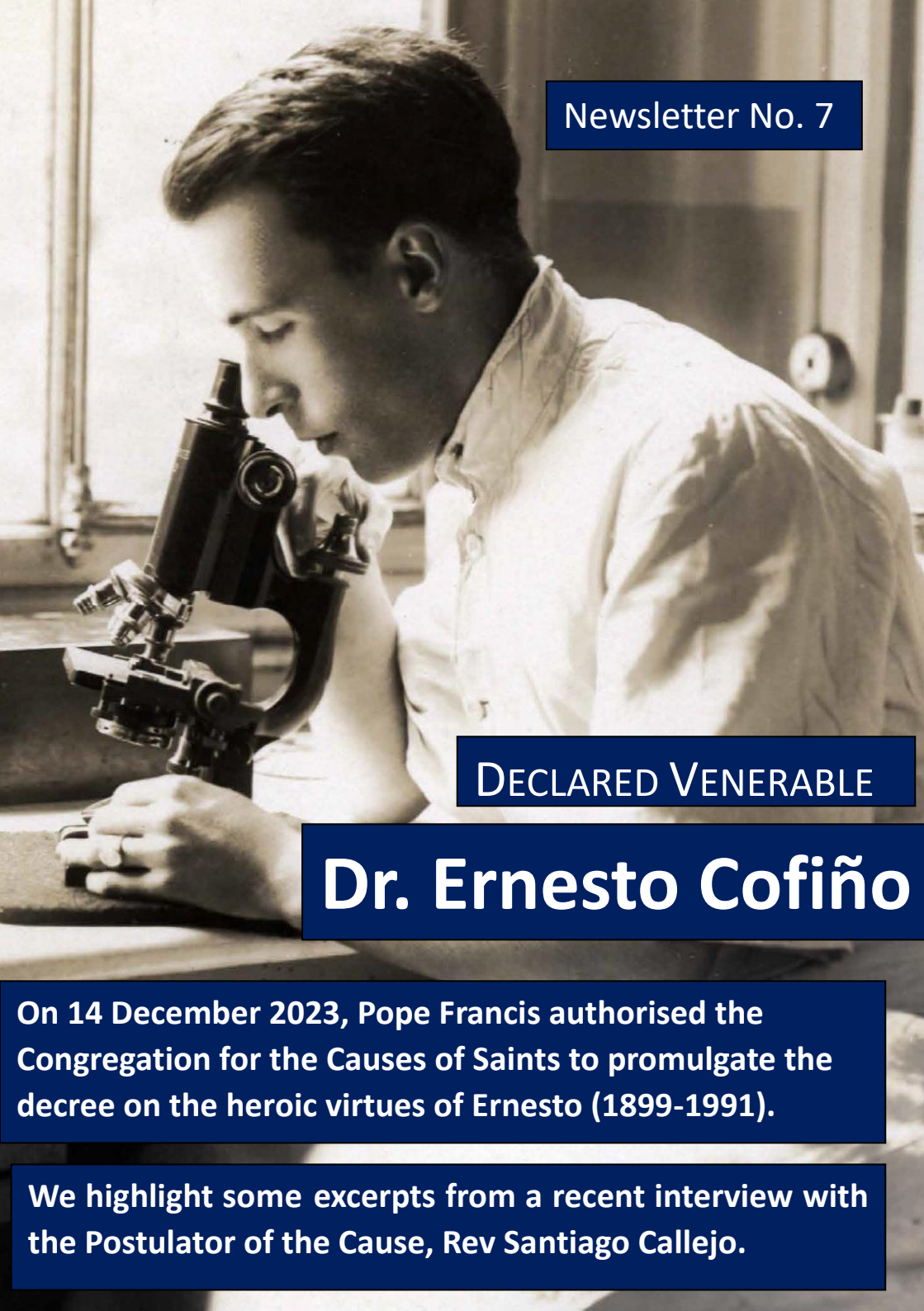




Newsletter No. 7

DECLARED VENERABLE

Dr. Ernesto Cofiño

On 14 December 2023, Pope Francis authorised the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the decree on the heroic virtues of Ernesto (1899-1991).

We highlight some excerpts from a recent interview with the Postulator of the Cause, Rev Santiago Callejo.

Interview with the Postulator of the Cause, Rev Santiago Callejo

You have studied the life of Ernesto Cofiño thoroughly. In a few words, how would you describe him?

Many people remember him as an exemplary husband and father, and for his activity in serving children, adolescents, and the most disadvantaged people in Guatemala. As a doctor, his desire was to heal people. He also wanted them to see Jesus serving them through their treatment.

Examining his life, it can be said that he followed the call to holiness, that the Lord extends to everyone, to the very end. Ernesto is known for many positive human characteristics: good humour, perseverance, elegance in the way he related to others, affability. At the same time, he had his flaws, like everyone else. For example, he evolved from a rather energetic and demanding temperament in his youth to the kind and welcoming character that could be seen at the end of his life. The way he let divine grace act and responded to God's love are striking when you look at his life.

What does it mean for the Church to declare him "venerable"?

In a nutshell, it means that the Church has thoroughly studied both his life and the impact he had on the people of God and has concluded that Ernesto was a Christian who can be proposed as an example for others. I think he

will be a familiar inspiration for the Church in Guatemala.

The declaration of his "venerability" expresses the fact that Ernesto responded to God's gifts by heroically living the Christian virtues, especially the virtue of charity. This declaration is a significant step towards his possible beatification and canonization.

A doctor, husband, father... How did he find time to cultivate a heroic Christian life?

Perhaps, if we asked him this question, he would say, "In fact, I tried to cultivate Christian life by being a doctor, husband, and father." He did not cultivate a "heroic" Christian life separate from those aspects of his life; they were integral to his identity. He lived his Christian life to the full through his various occupations.

Those who knew him well agree that he never had a free minute, yet he was always available to those who needed him. His remarkable organizational skills undoubtedly helped with this. However, the driving force behind this was his relationship with Jesus Christ. His priority each day was attending Holy Mass, praying the Rosary, and spending time in personal prayer. By putting God first, all the aspects of his life were infused with deep unity and coherence.



Favours

My mentor

I would like to share the favour I received from Dr Ernesto Cofiño. In 2003, I enrolled in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. One day I found Dr Cofiño's biography in a bookshop in the shopping centre. As a medical student, I was very interested in the life of a Guatemalan doctor who dedicated himself to sanctifying his ordinary life, so I sought his intercession for my medical studies. During long nights of studying, I asked for his intercession so that I could stay awake studying and pass my exams.

Years later, I entered the Paediatric Residency at the San Juan de Dios General Hospital, where Dr Cofiño worked as a paediatrician. I worked for several years in hospital practice, clinics and teaching.

Once again, I turned to Dr Ernesto Cofiño's intercession to guide my career towards an activity that was compatible with my family life, and that is how Our Lord led me to teaching.

I am grateful for the favours received through the intercession of Dr Ernesto Cofiño.

XD (Guatemala)

The blessing of a baby

After five years of marriage and a long period of medical follow-up searching for a cause, my wife and I had not been blessed with a child. On the recommendation of a close friend, we learned about the prayer and story of Dr. Ernesto Cofiño, to whom we immediately entrusted the situation. After a couple of months of asking him, we received the best news: we were expecting our first child.

The news has filled us with enormous blessing and joy. We are now more than half-way through the pregnancy and continue to ask for Dr Cofiño's intercession so that everything comes to a happy conclusion.

GM (Mexico)

I obtained the medical certificate

I was working in a difficult area in southern Bolivia and, for health reasons, I needed to move to a better place. To do so, I required a very important medical certificate, which I had difficulty in obtaining.

Since the process to request the transfer began in mid-November 2022, I began to pray the prayer on the card of Dr. Ernesto Cofiño to obtain the medical certificate.

I made several requests for the medical certificate, but I was unable to get them to make the relevant medical recommendations or have it signed by the medical board. The registration days were running out, so I turned to many people to support me with prayer and help me with the necessary procedures, since due to health and work issues, I was unable to travel to my place of residence to take care of the paperwork myself. At one point, I lost hope, but I cried out to the Lord even more strongly, and with one day left before registration closed, on 2 December 2022, the occupational physician gave me the medical certificate I needed, which was the most significant factor in my being accepted among the people who were to be transferred.

Thanks to God, the intercession of Dr Ernesto Cofiño and the medical certificate, I was selected for the transfer and now I am working in a rural area of Bolivia, which is difficult to access but more affordable, favouring the care of my overall health.

MD (Bolivia)

Prayer

for private devotion to the
Venerable Ernesto Cofiño

O God, our Father, source of all good, You granted your servant Ernesto abundant graces to be a doctor who faithfully serves the life that begins in You and belongs to You alone. Grant that I too may respect and foster the gift of life and generously fulfil my daily duties, out of love of Jesus Christ and my fellow men and women. Deign to glorify your servant Ernesto, and through his intercession grant me the favour I ask of You... (Make your request). Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary and 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.

Those who have obtained favours through the intercession of the Venerable Ernesto Cofiño are asked to let us know by writing to us at the address below. More information is available at www.ernestocofino.org. This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give a contribution to help its publication may send donations by cheque or postal order to the address below or by direct transfer.

Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL e-mail: ocs.uk@opusdei.org

Direct transfer for donations to "Opus Dei Charitable Trust"

Account Number: 81044834
Sort-Code: 40-05-33. Ref: COFINO