


# Guadalupe Ortiz



Forthcoming  
beatification of  
Guadalupe:  
18 May 2019

# G Biography

## “God loves a cheerful giver”

Guadalupe was born in Madrid, Spain, on 12 December 1916. She studied chemistry at university, being one of only five women in her year. During the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) her father, who was in the army, was condemned to death by the other side, She comforted him in the hours before his execution, and forgave those responsible. She completed her university degree later and embarked on a career in teaching.

**A**t the beginning of 1944, through a friend, she met the founder of Opus Dei, Fr Josemaría Escrivá, who taught her that professional work and ordinary life can be meeting-points with Christ. Later she said, “I had the impression that God was speaking to me through that priest.” She joined Opus Dei that very year.

From then on Guadalupe committed herself unreservedly to seeking holiness and trying to bring many people to God. In Madrid, and then in Bilbao, she dedicated herself to giving Christian formation to young people.

From 1950 to 1956 she lived in Mexico, where she started Opus Dei’s apostolate with women. People who knew her emphasize her desire to do God’s will and serve others. With Guadalupe’s encouragement many of her friends set up projects to provide training and formation on the human and Christian levels, such as a training centre for farm-workers in a rural part of Morelos State.

In 1956 she moved to Rome, where she worked with St Josemaría in the governance of Opus Dei. Shortly afterwards she moved back to Spain for health reasons, and resumed her chemistry teaching and research. She gained top marks for her PhD thesis. She died of heart disease at 59, in 1975.

On 8 June 2018, Pope Francis authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints

to publish the Decree on the miracle attributed to Guadalupe’s intercession – the disappearance of a malignant skin tumour. This opened the door to her beatification, which was fixed for 18 May 2019, in Madrid.

On 5 October 2018, Guadalupe’s mortal remains were moved from the cemetery in Pamplona to the Oratory of Caballero de Gracia in Madrid. Before the reburial, Auxiliary Bishop Martínez Camino concelebrated Mass with several priests. In his homily, he said that the arrival of Guadalupe’s mortal remains in Madrid moved him to gratitude for the life of Guadalupe herself, and for Opus Dei, “because as well as the enormous, daily, silent apostolate that they carry out with so many people in this diocese, they are unceasingly presenting extraordinary fruits of holiness so necessary for evangelization, because without holiness there is no evangelization.”



**Guadalupe asked for admission to Opus Dei on 19 March 1944**

## CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF SAINTS

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### DECREE ON THE VIRTUES

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#### OF THE SERVANT OF GOD GUADALUPE ORTIZ DE LANDAZURI

**G**od loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). The Servant of God Guadalupe Ortiz de Landazuri surrendered herself completely and joyfully to God and to the service of his Church, and intensely experienced divine love.

Guadalupe was born in Madrid, Spain, on 12 December 1916. She was the youngest of the four children of Manuel and Eulogia Ortiz. Her father was an army officer and as such was repeatedly posted to different places. From 1927 to 1932 he, Eulogia and Guadalupe lived in North Africa; Guadalupe went to the school run by the religious of the Company of Mary in Tétouan, Morocco. From her childhood onwards, the Servant of God was endowed with a strong, courageous character.

In 1933 she completed her secondary schooling in Madrid and enrolled at Madrid University to study Chemistry. In July 1936, shortly after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, her father was arrested and summarily sentenced to death. Guadalupe, her mother and her brother, were able to speak to her father before he was shot, consoling him and helping him to accept death in a Christian spirit. The Servant of God forgave those who had caused her father’s death.

After the Spanish Civil War ended, she continued her studies with great application and diligence. In 1941 she began studying for a doctorate in Chemistry, while teaching at a secondary school. On 25 January 1944 she first met St Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei, who became her spiritual director. From that point on, Guadalupe dedicated herself intensely to

prayer and, after a spiritual retreat lasting several days, she asked to be admitted to Opus Dei on 19 March that same year, living in apostolic celibacy. She understood clearly that God was calling her to serve Holy Church through work done for love and through apostolate in the circumstances of ordinary life.

St Josemaría put her in charge of some evangelization projects in Madrid and Bilbao. In October 1947 Guadalupe returned to the university to pursue her doctoral studies. At the end of 1949 she was asked whether she would be willing to move to Mexico to begin Opus Dei’s apostolate there.

Guadalupe prepared for this new undertaking with faith and enthusiasm. On 5 March 1950 she and two other women of Opus Dei moved to Mexico City. In April that year they opened a hall of residence for women university students, some of whom still remember the care that the Servant of God dedicated to their Christian formation. With them, she taught catechism classes to children from deprived areas. She also cared for the sick at a mobile clinic she set up with the help of a friend of hers who was a doctor.

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**From the first moment she forgave those who executed her father during the Spanish Civil War**

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In agreement with the Bishop of Tacambaro, she devoted her best efforts to improving the living conditions of the young countrywomen of the area, enabling them to learn manual skills, reading and writing. Despite the precarious means of transport available, she would travel to different locations to visit these young women's families. She faced dangers and difficulties with admirable fortitude, and showed affection and great patience in providing the young women with basic human and Christian formation. Soon these apostolic activities spread to other townships in Mexico. In 1952, Guadalupe helped with the beginnings of the apostolate being done at an old farming estate called Montefalco. At the cost of great sacrifices, and with the help of many people, the dilapidated estate was transformed into a retreat centre, plus a farm-school and a centre for job skills training and basic literacy.

In 1956 the Servant of God was called to Rome to help St Josemaria in the governance of the apostolate of the women of Opus Dei. But a few months later Guadalupe fell ill with a serious heart problem, and in July 1957 underwent major surgery. From 1958 onwards she lived in Madrid, Spain, where she taught at a school and afterwards at an industrial training school for women. In 1965 she gained her doctorate in Chemistry and was unanimously awarded a prize for her doctoral thesis. Despite her poor health she continued to dedicate herself with care and enthusiasm to the apostolate with young women. She was also in charge of a catering training centre and other projects.

In the early 1970s her heart condition worsened, and on 1 July 1975 she had a high-risk heart

operation. During the recovery period she suffered a sudden relapse and on 16 July, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, she devoutly surrendered her soul to God.

Guadalupe's outstanding characteristics were her contagious cheerfulness, her fortitude in the face of adversity, her Christian optimism in difficult circumstances, and her self-giving to others. Her theological faith shone out in her love for the Blessed Eucharist and her joyous acceptance of God's Will. She cultivated the virtue of hope, constantly refining and purifying it with the passage of time. She practised charity for God and her neighbour to a heroic degree. She put great piety into devotional exercises and would often spend time in prayer before the Tabernacle. Impelled by divine grace, she achieved a harmoniously unified life and offered all the various tasks of her daily life to God. She prayed with love and affection to the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially under the advocacy "Our Lady of Guadalupe".

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**She was outstanding for her  
fortitude and Christian  
optimism in facing problems,  
and for her love for the Eucharist**

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Guadalupe had a lively concern for the needs of others. She treated university students, farm-girls, schoolgirls and her friends with the same sensitivity and friendliness.

She was always ready to be useful to others and to obey. She was endowed with many human and professional gifts, but never boasted of them; on the contrary, she was quick to serve others and chose the humblest tasks for herself. She lived with great sobriety and cheerfully accepted the privations she often encountered on beginning the apostolate in a new place. She carried out the tasks entrusted to her with tenacity and perfection, and used her free time on worthwhile occupations, being approachable and always ready to make herself available. When she fell ill, she did all she could to persevere in fulfilling her duties.

The diocesan process concerning her life, virtues and reputation for holiness was carried out in the Curia of the Archdiocese of Madrid. It opened on 18 November 2001 and was concluded on 18 March 2005. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints issued a decree of its validity on 17 February 2006. Once the *Positio* had been completed, the next stage, according to the established procedure, was to examine whether the Servant of God had practised

the virtues heroically. On 7 June 2016 the special Congress of theological consultants took place, and answered this question in the affirmative. The Cardinals and Bishops, in an ordinary session held on 2 May 2017, presided by myself, Cardinal Angelo Amato, recognised that Guadalupe had exercised the theological, cardinal and related virtues to a heroic degree.

The undersigned Cardinal Prefect presented to the Supreme Pontiff Pope Francis a detailed account of all the phases listed above. The Holy Father, receiving and ratifying the evaluation of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, with today's date, has solemnly declared that: *Proofs exist of the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, towards both God and neighbour, and also of the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude, with their annexed virtues, in heroic degree, of the Servant of God Maria Guadalupe Ortiz de Landazuri, laywoman of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei, according to the requirements of the case\**.

Given at Rome, on the 4th day of the month of May in the year of Our Lord 2017.

ANGELO Card. AMATO, S.D.B., Prefect  
Mons. MARCELLO BARTOLUCCI, Secretary

\*This is a translation of the official Latin text

## The joy of being a



Some aspects of Guadalupe's reputation for holiness, as told by people who knew her personally.

**F**r Antonio Rodriguez de Rivera is the postulator for the cause of Guadalupe's canonization. He highlights the fact that Guadalupe is "an approachable example, because her life was so very normal. She was a devout, committed woman, who always sought strength in the Tabernacle, and forgot about herself to think about others."

According to him, what stands out in the testimonies gathered throughout her beatification process is her happiness, the result of her relationship with God. She could be called the ever-smiling woman.

Many people who met her have borne testimony to the profoundly supernatural roots of her happiness.

# G Testimonies

## daughter of God



**“Guadalupe had a big heart and a determined character”**

Beatriz Gaytan, a historian, recalls, “Guadalupe had a big heart and a determined character.” Her Christian optimism and her habitual smile attracted people, and her joy was often expressed by singing, although she didn’t sing particularly well. “Whenever I think of her, even after all these years, I can hear her laughter. Guadalupe was welcoming, friendly, and simple,” Gaytan says.

Victor Manuel Fernandez, a lecturer at the Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, speaks of her talent for research and her pioneering attitude in choosing to study chemistry. “She was very clear-minded, and she chose to study a subject that was highly unusual for women in those days.”

People who met her also recall that she was more understanding with people than demanding on

them, and that you could see that she was seeking God throughout the day. She knew that she was always under the gaze of Our Lord and Our Lady, and she made quick visits to the Tabernacle to talk one-to-one with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, while at the same time she thought about her students, putting all her knowledge and care into her class preparation.

Guadalupe spent time and effort on her many friends, and never neglected the people who lived with her, but cared for them affectionately. Claudia Robles, a Mexican lawyer, never met her, but said that Guadalupe’s stay in Mexico from 1950 to 1956, developing Opus Dei’s apostolates, was enormously fruitful. “When she lived in Mexico she displayed the virtues that were a constant in her life until the day she died. Her faith, her certainty in the face of seemingly impossible challenges, was impressive. I think that she learnt from St Josemaría how to dream big, with her feet on the ground.”

“Having gained a degree in chemistry she had a very promising future before her,” continued Robles. “But with great faith in God, and in the fact that Opus Dei was wanted by Our Lord, Guadalupe went off to an unknown country in a distant continent, where she didn’t know anyone, and with no money.”



Ernestina Champourcin was a Spanish poet who went into exile in Mexico with her husband, a leading Republican, after the Spanish Civil War. Her husband fell gravely ill, and she tried to find someone to give him spiritual assistance, since he had turned his back on the Church during his life and she did not want him to die like that. Guadalupe put her in touch with a priest who ministered to her husband. Ernestina made firm friends with Guadalupe, and after some time asked to join Opus Dei. She later returned to Spain and died at the age of 92.

At the end of her life Guadalupe suffered from a serious heart condition, but never complained about the pain involved, and tried not to show how tired it made her to walk, climb stairs, etc., so as not to worry the people looking after her. She made the effort to take a real interest in what people were saying, and always tried to centre conversations around other people, so as to go unnoticed herself.

From the day Guadalupe died, many people began praying for favours and miracles

through her intercession. Accounts of favours have been received from many countries – Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, Kenya, India, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, the United States, and Canada. Many people who invoked Guadalupe’s help for needs of different kinds write about the graces received on the website [www.guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org](http://www.guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org)

A few years after her death, on 4 January 1980, Bishop Abraham Martinez of Tacambaro, Mexico, wrote in the newspaper *Diario de Yucatan*, “I can still remember Guadalupe Ortiz, a woman of great distinction and elegance and wide culture, and, unusually for those times, a chemist by profession, travelling around the villages, often on horseback, talking with the beloved people of my native land. How well they understood and assimilated what she told them!”

On 18 November 2001 Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco presided at the inaugural session of Guadalupe’s process of canonization. He said, “We are presented with a Christian life of great attraction and great depth.”



# G Testimonies

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**She was always ready to  
serve others, and chose the  
humblest jobs for herself**  
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## Guadalupe's reputation for holiness spreads throughout the world



From the time of her death, private devotion to Guadalupe has spread further and further. The postulator of her cause says, "People who appeal to her intercession receive all kinds of graces: cures, favours connected with pregnancy and childbirth, employment, work-family balance, money problems, family quarrels, conversions, etc." Some favours are given below.

### A job at 62

**S**he granted me the favour of knowing what paid work I could take as my profession. I was undecided about what job to do at the age of 62, having five grown-up children. "I need a job. My husband has left me. I urgently need to work," I told her. "I beg you for an answer that I can understand." And Guadalupe answered me. G. G.

**At 62 and with five children my husband left us, and Guadalupe found me a job so I could carry on**

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## Thanks to Guadalupe's intercession my sister made a complete recovery from a serious cerebral haemorrhage

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### A rapid, high-quality response

**M**any thanks to Guadalupe Ortiz! The day after she was declared Venerable, I prayed her prayer-card asking her to intercede for me before God, to find a job. That same day I was offered a long-term job with a very good timetable and the weekends free. It was a great surprise to me, and I think it is the best thing that happened to me this year with regard to work, which had not been going well. I am grateful to God and to his speedy intercessor Guadalupe for this immense favour. L. H. V.

### She recovered from a stroke

**M**y sister Dolores, 80, suffered a stroke last 10 March. She was taken straight to the HDU of a hospital in Alicante. The doctors located a clot and because it would be difficult to access it, they decided to treat it with anticoagulants. This resulted in a serious cerebral haemorrhage. At that point I appealed to Guadalupe Ortiz's intercession, and did so continuously for as long as the crisis lasted.

My sister is making a very good recovery: talking, moving around, eating normally. I want to tell people about what I see as a favour from God through Guadalupe's special intercession. J.R.

### More than a work placement

**I** am studying industrial engineering, and am almost at the end of the course. Last September I started looking for work placements in firms. I read a book about Guadalupe and began asking her to find me a placement. I was offered one in January, and I was very grateful to Guadalupe for this favour. But the best was yet to come. Just before I signed the contract I was called for an interview by an international pharmaceutical company. They offered me a work placement too. I again entrusted the whole matter to Guadalupe, and five days after the interview I received a call saying I had been selected. Guadalupe, not content with getting me a placement, ensured that it was connected with what I love: chemistry. R. R. T

# Prayer

**for the intercession of**

**The Venerable Servant of God**

**Guadalupe Ortiz**

*O God, 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, so that many more may come to know you and love you. Deign to glorify your Servant Guadalupe and, through her intercession, grant me the favour I ask of you.. (here make your petition). Amen.*

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

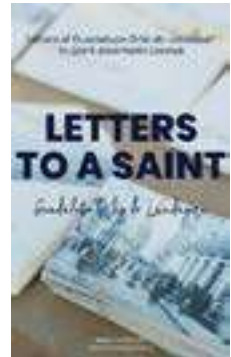
## Publications



**GUADALUPE ORTIZ**  
**Work, Friendship and**  
**good humour**  
Mercedes Eguibar  
*Scepter (UK) Ltd.*



**GUADALUPE:**  
**The Freedom of Loving**  
Cristina Abad Cadenas  
*Scepter Publishers Inc.*



**LETTERS TO A SAINT**  
**Letters from Guadalupe**  
**Ortiz to St Josemaría**  
**Escrivá**  
María Del Rincón and  
María Teresa Escobar  
*Opus Dei Information*  
*Office.*

**[www.guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org](http://www.guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org)**

We ask those who obtain favours through the intercession of Venerable Guadalupe to send them to the Office for the Causes of Saints of the Prelature of Opus Dei through the website [www.guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org](http://www.guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org) or by email to [ocs.uk@opusdei.org](mailto:ocs.uk@opusdei.org).

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