

BLESSED

GUADALUPE ORTIZ



Guadalupe's Mexican Years

2,418 days. That was the period Blessed Guadalupe Ortiz spent in Mexico: six years, seven months and twelve days.

What led a young Spanish woman to leave behind everything she knew, to embark on the adventure of bringing the message of holiness in the middle of the world to a new continent? Great faith, great courage, and a firm certainty about the mission she had received.

Perhaps that same determination had led her, years earlier, to enrol at the age of 16 at the Central University of Madrid to study Chemical Sciences, in an environment where 86% of students studying scientific degrees were men. Spanish university lecture halls had opened their doors to women only 23 years earlier. Now, Guadalupe set her own pace: that of a woman passionate about knowledge, driven by a firm conviction in the importance of women's presence in science.

Guadalupe arrived in Mexico in March 1950, at the age of 34, at a time when crossing the Atlantic was unusual for a young, unmarried woman. Soon after her arrival, she enrolled at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) to pursue doctoral studies in Chemical Sciences. UNAM, now the country's largest public university with more than 300,000 students, then had around 35,000 and was a vibrant and diverse centre of thought.

Science classrooms continued to be predominantly male spaces, and women's participation in research was still in its early stages. It would be three more years before the constitutional reform granting Mexican women the right to vote was enacted in 1953 – a milestone marking the beginning of more active participation in the country's public and professional life.

In this context, it is not surprising how Guadalupe faced daily life like so many of us, making the most of every hour of the day and balancing the demands of personal, professional and academic life. In her case, she also had responsibilities for formation and apostolic initiative in presenting the message of Opus Dei in her new country. Guadalupe was convinced that she lived her vocation with the same intensity both in the university lecture theatre and while accompanying a group of young mothers in their Christian formation. As she herself wrote to Saint Josemaría on 12 December 1955 from Mexico: "I want to do it as well as possible, but sometimes I put my foot in it; never mind."

Her call to follow God in Opus Dei enabled her to see every dimension of her life as an opportunity to love and serve those around her, putting her talents into action and allowing the love that was the fruit of her relationship with God to be the unifying element. The 2,418 days she spent in Mexico cannot be measured solely by the hours devoted to each activity: every moment offered to God became an occasion to bring souls closer to Him, serving with joy and with the hope of transforming the world.



Guadalupe in Montefalco

Favours

The baby fell asleep

I have been wanting to send this favour for quite some time. I have fervently entrusted myself to Blessed Guadalupe regarding the nights with our newborn baby, just a few months old. On the advice of a woman for whom it had worked, my husband and I, in desperation, began to ask Guadalupe for her intercession so that the baby would sleep at night. It was a before and after. Soon after we began praying to her – sometimes without her prayer card, exhausted, simply improvising a short prayer and each of us saying an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be – we noticed drastic changes. We recommended this to some friends who were in the same situation, and they had the same experience. They prayed together before going to sleep.

C.L.M. (2025)

I obtained the post

I am a doctor and recently applied for a specialist training place. It was a very competitive process: there were only four places in the speciality I wanted, and I was ranked 640th. I prayed to Guadalupe with great trust, asking her to help me obtain that much-desired place. What happened was remarkable: the first place was taken by the person ranked 320th, the second by the one ranked 351st, and the third by the one ranked 460th. I knew that the person ranked 565th was also seeking the same speciality, but unexpectedly changed their mind and chose another option. Thanks to that, when I was called, the final place was still available and I was able to take it. I am convinced that Guadalupe's intercession made this immense gift possible.

GA (2025)

Prayer

O God, grant me through the intercession of Blessed 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 grant the canonisation of Guadalupe and, through her intercession, grant me the favour I ask of you... (*here make your petition*). Amen.
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

Those who obtain favours through Blessed Guadalupe's intercession are asked to write about them to the Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints, P.O. Box 19884-00100 Nairobi, Kenya E-mail: info.ke@opusdei.org.

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