

# Isidoro Zorzano



## *Visiting prisons and embassies*

During the Spanish Civil War, Saint Josemaría and some of his spiritual sons were in Madrid. In those days to be a priest, to go to Mass... was enough to be killed. Saint Josemaría was admitted, under another name and feigned insanity, to a psychiatric hospital. Several of the first members of the Work were imprisoned or took refuge in embassies.

As for Isidoro Zorzano, **his details and a photograph had been sent from Malaga to arrest him.** This forced him to spend two months without leaving his home. A few weeks of hunger, a different hairstyle and new tinted glasses changed his appearance. The Argentinian Embassy provided him with a certificate giving his birthplace as Buenos Aires and a bracelet with the national flag. It was a flimsy piece of documentation: he was not recognised as an Argentinian citizen because he had not completed military service in his native country. But it was good for getting around... **if one was willing to take risks. And the Servant of God was.**

The Founder asked him to provide human and spiritual support to his brothers in the Work who were scattered or imprisoned. He gladly agreed, **with a spirit of sacrifice, constancy and heroic charity.**

This is how Juan Jiménez Vargas remembers it:

*"During the Spanish civil war [...] he acted as the Father's messenger to pass on his instructions to all of us who were scattered. And he did this from the beginning by visiting us in prisons, embassies and other places where we were hiding. And he did so even at the risk of his life, because at the beginning I don't think he had his Argentinian papers sorted out; later he managed to do so, thus gaining greater freedom. Even so, I do not forget the humiliating treatment he had to endure even from the staff at the embassies. But he handled everything very well and was always very cheerful and helpful in every way".*

In that situation of tension and uncertainty, he visited the families of Opus Dei members. In this way he served as a link between them. He also obtained altar breads and wine so that Saint Josemaría could celebrate Mass clandestinely in the legation. Isidoro visited Manuel Sainz de los Terreros, who was in San Antón prison - half prisoner, half administrator - almost every day, and brought him the Blessed Sacrament so he could receive Holy Communion.

## *Favours*

# *Parallel lives*

I work in human resources in a multi-national company. One day in February 2016, the phone rang:

*-Hello, good afternoon; this is Raul. Can I speak to Juan?*

I had never met Raul before. In brief, that long telephone conversation indicated that he wanted to move from Malaga to Madrid. The compelling argument he gave me was that he had two teenage children and the town where he lived was not the ideal environment to raise them. And, in that, I agreed with him.

*-Let me ask and we'll let you know.*

As soon as I hung up the phone, I went to the manager who replied emphatically that the transfer was impossible.

About a month later Raul called me again. I didn't tell him what I had been told, nor did I say yes or no. But in this second conversation something did come out. Raul was asking for Easter holidays and was spending them in his village, a two-hour drive from Madrid. We were able to meet for lunch in Madrid on 22 March. It was a long lunch and an atmosphere of mutual trust developed. He told me about his professional career. He was an agricultural engineer, had been an area head; he had been in Argentina advising on the organisation of agricultural insurance; and was currently in Malaga as agricultural risk analyst for Andalusia.

Almost at the end of the meal I asked him if he was a believer. And when he answered in the affirmative, I told him about Isidoro:

*He is an engineer, like you; he was born in Argentina and you have been working in Argentina. At one point in his life he had to move from Malaga to Madrid, like you. As you can see, parallel lives. He is now in the process of canonisation. So on Monday I will send you a booklet with his biography and a prayer card so that you can pray to him asking him for the favour of your transfer.*

On 1 July of that year, he joined our offices in Madrid. Some time later, we visited Isidoro's tomb in the parish of St Albert the Great. There he spent some time praying to him and thanking him.

**J. L. M. Spain**

This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give 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](mailto:ocs.uk@opusdei.org). Direct transfer for donations to "Opus Dei Charitable Trust" Account Number: 81044834 Sort-Code: 40-05-33. Ref: Isidoro

# *News of the Cause*

Isidoro was declared Venerable in December 2016.

## *A new publication*

Enrique Muñiz, "Isidoro 100%", 2022 is available at <https://opusdei.org/en-uk/article/free-e-book-on-engineer-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 bring 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 to the Father.*

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.

Anyone who has obtained favours through the intercession of the Servant of God, Isidoro Zorzano, is asked to let us know by writing to the address below. More information is available at [www.isidorozorzano.org](http://www.isidorozorzano.org)