

Newsletter of the Office for the Causes of Saints  
Opus Dei Prelature in Britain  
Newsletter 2022

BLESSED  
**GUADALUPE**  
ORTIZ



*Those who obtain favours through Blessed Guadalupe's intercession are asked to write about 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 writing to [ocs.uk@opusdei.org](mailto:ocs.uk@opusdei.org)*

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## Blessed Guadalupe, a good friend

One Sunday in early 1944, on the tram, **Guadalupe Ortiz** met a friend to whom she opened her heart. She recalled later: “I told Jesús Serrano de Pablo, a good, trusted friend of mine, that I wanted a spiritual director. He gave me a number to phone, the person at the other end gave me the address, and I went there to meet Fr José María Escrivá. Up to that moment I knew absolutely nothing about him, and naturally I’d never heard of Opus Dei. That meeting changed my life.”

A simple question from one friend to another in a tram. An exchange of telephone numbers and a phone call. That was the beginning of a vocation, and a life permanently transformed.

That’s often been the way. That simple scene on a tram in Madrid, Spain, during the Second World War, has something in common with the first chapter of St John’s Gospel. There, in just ten verses, we witness how the news about Jesus Christ spreads naturally among friends and acquaintances: Andrew and John, fellow-fishermen; Peter, Andrew’s brother; James, John’s brother. Then Philip, who is from the same village as them, speaks to Nathanael, inviting him to “come and see” the one of whom Moses wrote. The apostles’ encounters with Jesus, and their discovery of their own vocations, take place in the context of their ordinary **family life, friendships and work** contacts.

### The role of friendship

Friendship played an important role not only in the beginning of Guadalupe’s vocation, but also in the way she followed it throughout her life. It was inseparable from her call to be a saint and an apostle in Opus Dei.

A year after joining Opus Dei she moved to Bilbao, in the north of Spain, where, on a walk through the city, she got to know a young woman called Rosario Orbegozo. This little excursion led to a friendship. Soon Rosario, attracted by Guadalupe’s naturalness and joy, deepened her Christian life and decided to give herself to God as an Opus Dei numerary. She was the first woman to join Opus Dei in Bilbao.

Guadalupe’s capacity for friendship was not limited to professional colleagues. In fact, it seemed to have no limits. After moving to Mexico in 1950, Guadalupe met Ernestina de Champourcín, a poet, who, exiled from Franco’s Spain, lived there with her husband. He was also a poet, and had been personal secretary to Manuel Azaña, President of the Republic,

during the Spanish Civil War. Guadalupe’s father, Manuel Ortiz, had been a colonel in the National army. After the uprising against the Republic that sparked off the Spanish Civil War in July 1936, Ortiz was arrested by the Republican government, and executed in September of the same year. Despite the painful political and personal history between them, the two women became close friends and Ernestina eventually decided to join Opus Dei.

### She shared her faith

Sharing the faith, by word and example, is a necessary result of every Christian’s union with Jesus Christ and friendship with others. What begins as friendship with Jesus – “I have called you friends” – expands naturally to include more and more people. Mary Rivero describes how this was shown in Guadalupe, whom she met during a retreat in a house lent by a friend.

“There... I heard about Opus Dei for the first time, and I fully identified it with Guadalupe. For me, Opus Dei was as joyful, as optimistic, as sunny and attractive as she was.... It wasn’t that Guadalupe had special gifts of persuasion, or that she was an extraordinary speaker: she was nothing like that. It was just that she inspired confidence; and what she said with such simplicity carried weight. She gave you a sense of certainty... Almost without an effort, I found myself talking confidentially to her.”

Just as the Apostle John had written to the early Christians, “We write these things so that our joy may be complete”, so, for Guadalupe, sharing the deep Christian joy born of the conviction that God is our Father, was a central part of being a friend and an apostle.

Guadalupe is an example of how, when Christians try to live their faith to the full, it becomes impossible to distinguish between being a true friend and being an apostle; between passing on one’s joy and passing on one’s faith.

As Monsignor Fernando Ocariz, the Prelate of Opus Dei, says: “Friendship itself is apostolate; friendship itself is a dialogue, in which we give and receive light. In friendship, plans are forged as we mutually open up new horizons. In friendship, we rejoice in what is good and support one another in what is difficult; we have a good time with one another, since God wants us to be happy” (Pastoral Letter, 9 January 2018, 14).

## Favours

### Thank you, Guadalupe

I want to express my gratitude to God for the favour He has granted my brother through Blessed Guadalupe. As a result of the coronavirus crisis, my brother **lost his job** in March.

In August I “met” Guadalupe through the internet. I saw that she had been a woman of great faith who had lived through the everyday and the extraordinary **with great dedication to God and to others**.

I decided to entrust my brother’s job to her. After praying her novena, I woke up the next day thinking: “I have prayed the novena: now I just have to **wait for Guadalupe to work the miracle**.” That very day my brother texted me saying, “I’ve got a job: I’m starting tomorrow.” I couldn’t believe it!

Thank you, Guadalupe. I will spread your devotion among my acquaintances so that more people may benefit from your example and holiness. **B. O. - Spain**

### 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.**

*In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.*



### Medicine and health insurance

My mother is 86 years old. For more than twelve years, her health insurance has been reimbursing her for an expensive medicine that was prescribed to her as part of her ongoing treatment for **acute pancreatitis**.

A few days ago, as I do every month, I sent in the paperwork to claim reimbursement for her treatment. Two days later, we received a statement informing us that we were being reimbursed for the entire treatment except for this medicine. I thought it was a mistake and complained, to which they replied that they were not going to reimburse the money because of instructions from the Medical Audit.

I persisted, and they sent me a letter stating that a medical audit had been carried out on my mother’s ongoing treatment and that they had found that they had previously reimbursed this money in error.

It seemed very strange to me that they had done so for so many years. I didn’t take it lying down, but wrote again. On that occasion, I was advised to go and present my complaint to the Medical Audit in person. I prayed to Guadalupe, asking her to help me at this interview, which was fixed for the following week. But that very afternoon, a doctor from the insurance company called me to explain again why they were not going to reimburse me for the medication. Once again I explained my arguments and surprisingly, the doctor said she was going to take up my mother’s case and present it to the Board for review. Two days later, the doctor called us and said that the Board had reviewed our claim and that they were going to reimburse the money again from then on. As I hung up the phone, **I thanked Guadalupe for her intercession**. I am sure she helped us. **P. L. - Ecuador**

### Postponement of the Guadalupe Scholarship Fellowships

In May 2019, to mark Guadalupe’s beatification, Harambee set up a project to support high-level women scientists from Sub-Saharan Africa so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their countries. Due to the international emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Guadalupe Fellowships competition organized by Harambee has been postponed until the crisis subsides.