

The Servant of God Ernesto Cofiño

Prayer for private devotion

O God, our Father, source of all good,
You granted your son 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 fulfill
my daily duties, out of love
for Jesus Christ and my fellow men
and women. Deign to glorify your servant
Ernesto, and through his intercession
grant me the favor I ask of You.
(Here make your request). 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 judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.



Ernesto Cofiño was born on June 5, 1899, in the city of Guatemala, where he attended high school. He studied medicine at the University of Paris, graduating with honors as a surgeon in 1929. He married in 1933 and started a family that eventually would have five children.

He devoted himself wholeheartedly to his work as a doctor. Besides looking after the physical health of his patients, he tried to assist them in their personal difficulties as well.

His supernatural outlook and common sense led him to foster and defend the right to life and the love for life. He inspired and promoted organizations that work for the good of future mothers and their children, of street children, and of orphans. He worked in many of these organizations himself, and helped solve social problems in those areas. He was instrumental in financing homes for the needy and centers of social assistance and served as Director of the National Hospice Center for four years.

A pioneer in pediatric research in Guatemala, he created the Chair of Pediatrics in the Medical Faculty of the University of San Carlos, Guatemala, where he was professor for twenty-four years. The University Medal was conferred on him in recognition of his generous dedication to teaching.

In 1956, Ernesto joined Opus Dei as a supernumerary member. From then on he drew closer to God in prayer and penance. He attended Mass and received Holy Communion daily, and went to Confession weekly. His devotion to our Lady grew, and he became a great promoter of saying the Rosary daily.

His apostolic activity also intensified, and he transmitted his joy and generosity to many people. He urged them to help promote Christian social projects, with their prayer and financial support, putting many hours into those projects himself, determined to make the Church's social teaching a reality. He likewise deepened his study of doctrine and his religious formation.

He was heroic in helping organize training and educational programs for women from very poor backgrounds and other works of charitable assistance, continuing this work right up to his ninety-second year.

After a long and painful illness, which he bore serenely and without complaining, Ernesto died of cancer on October 17, 1991, in the city of Guatemala. His cause of canonization was introduced in Guatemala on July 31, 2000.

Those who obtain favors through the intercession of Ernesto Cofiño are asked to notify the Opus Dei Prelature, Viale Bruno Buozzi 75, Rome, Italy, or email info@opusdei.org.