

The Servant of God **DORA DEL HOYO**

A PROFESSIONAL HOMEMAKER



Another step forward for Dora's process of canonisation

On 24 October 2016 the then Prelate of Opus Dei, Bishop Javier Echevarría, presided over the closing ceremony of the first phase in the process of canonisation of the Servant of God Dora del Hoyo, in Rome.

From 2012 Dora's life, virtues and reputation for holiness had been studied by a tribunal of the Opus Dei prelature. They questioned many witnesses, people who had known her personally or through her biography or other testimonies. The resulting documentation was handed over to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Holy See to be studied over the coming years. This is the start of what is called the "Vatican phase" of Dora's cause of canonisation.

During the ceremony on 24 October, Bishop Echevarría described some of Dora's character traits. He emphasized her "professional attitude, her respect for and attentiveness to everyone" and her "serenity in dealing with the different

problems that came up". Dora's virtues, he said, "were enlivened by her faith, hope, and love for God."

Since her death in 2004 the Office for her Cause has had reports of over 1,500 favours received from God through the intercession of the Servant of God Dora del Hoyo. Many of them are extraordinary, though for various reasons none of them has all the features required by canon law to be recognized as "scientifically inexplicable". Those with devotion to Dora are encouraged to continue praying to God for miracles through her intercession, so that she can be beatified soon.



BIOGRAPHY

1914



Dora is born on 11 January in a village near Leon in the north of Spain.

1940



She moves to Madrid, with her sister Isabel, in search of a new life.

1944



She starts working in the catering department of Moncloa hall of residence for university students. Here she meets the founder of Opus Dei.

1945



She moves to Bilbao to work in Abando hall of residence.

1946



On 14 March she joins Opus Dei. On 27 December she moves to Rome at St Josemaria's request.

1947-1974



She lives and works at Opus Dei's central headquarters, being built in stages over these years.

1974-2004



She helps train young people in the catering department of the Roman College of the Holy Cross.

Dora dies on January 10 and is buried in the Crypt of Our Lady of Peace, Prelatic Church of Opus Dei, Rome.

2004



Dora del Hoyo (2nd on the left) with her family in Boca de Hurgano, the village in Leon where she was born.

DORA'S CHILDHOOD

Dora del Hoyo was born on 11 January 1914 and baptized five days later. She was the youngest of six children born to Demetrio and Carmen del Hoyo.

At the time Boca de Hurgano had just over 200 inhabitants. It had fields of cereal crops, vegetables and fruit, as well as cattle-fodder.

Her father was a field-worker. Dora described him as a serious type, laconic, honest, deeply Christian, a person of integrity and notable common sense. Her mother was a livelier and more approachable person. They had very little money.

Their home life was loving and affectionate. Dora remembered the fun they used to have in the winter evenings, with her father knitting stockings on four needles and her mother and sisters weaving. Sometimes they would coax their mother into letting them have ham, wine or chestnuts.

Their mother taught them to love the work of the home, and many country skills. Dora learned the best way to butcher a cow to get the best cuts, and how to make the local delicacies of smoked sausage and black pudding. She also helped in the fields and learned to grow pumpkins to be used to make the dessert known as "angels' hair". In later life, when she was living in Rome, she taught dozens of women from around the world how to make this.

Although the winters were extremely cold, their parents never let them miss school. Dora started school when she was 5 or 6. She learned to read, write, and do arithmetic, but schooling was not compulsory in Spain in those days, and she did not go on to secondary school. She later recalled celebrating “Tree day”, when the children planted pine-nuts. Each child had their own and watered them until they germinated. Another of her hobbies was keeping rabbits.

Dora used to relate how their mother taught them to pray, and to think of others. Ever since they were small she told them they should pray hard for people who were suffering, people at war, and orphans. She encouraged them to go to confession regularly, and they all went to Sunday Mass together. In the family atmosphere at home they received the Catholic Faith and practised it naturally, learning to be honest, hard-working and cheerful.



Dora in Rome in 1970

WHAT PEOPLE SAY



■ “When I think of Dora I remember how, when she was working, what concerned her was how God saw her. ‘God, are you happy?’ I think that’s what she used to say to herself. And so I ask the same question. It helps you keep going, even when you’re tired and humanly speaking you feel like giving up. That’s the miracle Dora works in my life every day.” **Angela Picciariello, Italy.**



■ “I never met Dora, but I know about the fruitfulness of her life. She sowed abundantly with her daily work, by training many other people. And I am very grateful to her for that.” **Carlo Di Marco, Italy.**



■ “I worked with Dora for over thirty years. She loved people humanly and supernaturally. She gave them her time, trained and taught them professionally, sharing all her experience with them. Sometimes she corrected people, usually when they had been careless or skimped their work. But she never stayed angry for long, and people never felt hurt by her. I never saw her taking offence at anyone, or bearing a grudge.” **Maria Carmen Cominges, Spain.**



■ “I pray through Dora’s intercession. Of all the Church’s holy women, she’s my favourite. I turn to her because I feel we have lots in common. For example, we have the same job. In the stories I’ve heard about Dora, there’s nothing at all extraordinary, but that is just what’s so extraordinary: she did ordinary things in an extraordinary way.” **Meghan Streiff, USA.**



■ “What Dora did was become a saint by working, working well, and above all by thinking of others. Her work was a very direct service to others, and Dora became a saint by caring for her work, being very professional... and always totally focused on other people. She did a lot of good.” **Ana Buigues, Spain.**

FAVOURS



Ignacio's lupus disappeared

I shamelessly ask Dora for all kinds of things. I told her to help me be a better housewife, in tidiness, and in the way I treat my children and my husband. Her help came straight away. She helps me get up on time, keep my desk tidy, very basic things. No matter what little chore I'm doing, she makes it great by infecting me with the love she put into it.

In July 2015 my son Ignacio was taken into hospital, in the High Dependency Unit, for a fortnight and the doctors couldn't diagnose what was wrong. The very first day I took a relic of Dora to the hospital. I told everyone to pray for him through Dora's intercession alone, so that when he got better there would be no mistake about who cured him. The doctors thought it might be leukaemia, then measles, then meningitis. Finally they came up with a diagnosis of lupus – not so serious, but highly unpleasant and a lifelong complaint. I kept on praying to Dora: I wanted him to be healthy. Six months later the symptoms died down. They did some more tests, and found there were no traces of the disease. The doctor told us to wait another month, and again the tests showed all clear. Ignacio's lupus disappeared, and since March he's been totally healthy.

I talk to lots of people about Dora, in the supermarket, the hairdressers, at work, friends, etc., and I give them her prayer-card and promise to join them in asking Dora for a miracle. I recommend devotion to Dora to everyone I meet.

M.H.T. (Chile)

Those who have obtained favours through the intercession of the Servant of God Dora del Hoyo are asked to let us know by writing to us at the address shown on this page. This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give alms to help its publication may send donations by bank transfer or by cheque to the address below.

*Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL. Email: ocs.uk@opusdei.org
Direct transfer for donations to: Account Number: 81044834 | Sort-Code: 40-05-33 | Reference: DORA*

God is calling you to serve Him in and from the ordinary, material and secular activities of human life. He waits for us every day, in the laboratory, in the operating theatre, in the army barracks, in the university chair, in the factory, in the workshop, in the fields, in the home and in all the immense panorama of work.

St Josemaría Escrivá, *Conversations*, 114.



PRAYER FOR DORA'S INTERCESSION

O Lord, you called your servant Dora to work at the tasks that the Blessed Virgin Mary carried out in her home at Nazareth. Help me find you in the ordinary events of daily life, and to fill my surroundings with the same family warmth that Dora brought to hers with her cheerful and selfless work, following the teachings of St Josemaría. Glorify your servant Dora, and grant me the favour that I ask (*here make your petition*). Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

MORE ABOUT DORA

- **Dora del Hoyo: A Lighted Lamp**, by Javier Medina, published by Scepter Ltd, 2015.
- **Dora del Hoyo Documentary**, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N91imF52STI>
- **Website:** www.doradelhoyo.org
- **Youtube:** www.youtube.com/DoraDelHoyo