

**APPROVED MIRACLE ATTRIBUTED TO THE  
VENERABLE SERVANT OF GOD  
GUADALUPE ORTIZ DE LANDÁZURI**

**PRESS DOSSIER**

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## **1. Press release**

### **A miracle attributed to the chemist Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri has been approved, opening the way for her beatification.**

Rome, 9 June 2018. Yesterday afternoon, Pope Francis authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to issue the decree approving a miracle attributed to Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri (1916-1975), a member of Opus Dei. The Holy Father also authorized the decrees relative to the causes of canonization of Blessed Nunzio Sulprizio, and the Venerables Concepción Cabrera, Enrique Angelelli and fellow martyrs in Argentina.

Upon hearing the news, Monsignor Fernando Ocariz, prelate of Opus Dei, commented, "The life of Guadalupe helps us see how giving oneself entirely to the Lord, responding with generosity to what God asks of us in each moment, allows us to be very happy here on earth and later in Heaven, where we will be happy forever.

"I ask the Lord that the example of Guadalupe will encourage us to be courageous so as to face the big and small things of daily life with enthusiasm and a spirit of initiative, to serve God and others with love and joy."

The miracle consists of the instantaneous cure, in 2002, of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid, who at 76 years old was suffering from a malignant skin tumor next to his right eye.

One night, a few days before an operation was to remove the tumor, Antonio sought the intercession of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri, asking with faith that the surgery could be avoided. The next morning, the tumor had completely disappeared. Subsequent medical examinations confirmed the cure.

Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid died twelve years later, in 2014, of heart disease. He was 88 years old. The skin cancer, from which he was cured through the intercession of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri, never appeared again.

In an interview, the postulator of the cause, Fr. Antonio Rodríguez de Rivera, describes Guadalupe as "a woman in love with God, full of faith and hope that, with her work and optimism, helped others in their spiritual and material needs. Her cheerfulness characterized everything she did, even in the most difficult situations."

### **A Biographical Sketch**

Guadalupe was born in Madrid, Spain, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1916. She studied chemistry in Madrid's Central University. There were only five women in her class. During the Spanish Civil War, she comforted her father, who was in the military, in the final hours before his execution. She forgave those responsible for his death from the very first moment. After the Spanish Civil War, she graduated and began to teach physics and chemistry in the "Colegio de las Irlandesas" (Loreto Nuns High School) and in the Lycee Francaise (French State High School) in Madrid.

Early in 1944 she became acquainted with the founder of Opus Dei, Saint Josemaría Escrivá, through a friend. Saint Josemaría taught her that professional work and ordinary life can be places for finding God. She would later say: "I had the very clear idea that God was speaking to me through that priest". In that same year she asked for admission in Opus Dei.

From that moment onward, Guadalupe would live this dedication unconditionally, with a refined fidelity to Jesus Christ, whom she sought in a special way in the Eucharist, striving for holiness, with a zeal to serve and to bring many people close to God. In Madrid and later in Bilbao, as a first priority, she attended to the Christian formation of young people.

From 1950 to 1956, she lived in Mexico to get Opus Dei's apostolic work started. Those who came to know her there recalled that her priority was to fulfill God's will and that she was constant in her zeal to help each person. Moved by Guadalupe's encouragement, many of her friends began to work for the common good, starting human and Christian initiatives such as training centers for peasants in rural areas in the state of Morelos.

In 1956 she took up residence in Rome, Italy. There she collaborated with Saint Josemaría in the internal government of Opus Dei. After two years she returned to Spain for health reasons where she resumed her work of teaching and research. She finished her doctoral thesis in chemistry, and was also one of the pioneers of the "Centro de Estudios e Investigación de Ciencias Domésticas" (CEICID) (Center for Studies and Research of Domestic Sciences). At the same time, she continued to carry out tasks of Christian formation in Opus Dei. In all her actions, she reflected her desire to love God with her work, her friendship, and a deep joy that transmitted peace and serenity.

As a consequence of heart disease, she died in Pamplona, already with a reputation for holiness, on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16th, 1975. She was 59 years of age.

Since then private devotion to Guadalupe has spread more and more. According to the postulator, people going to her intercession have received different types of graces: cures, favors related to pregnancy and childbirth, getting employment, resolving conflicts between work and family obligations, resolution of money problems, family reconciliations, helping friends and colleagues to get close to God, etc.

### **Itinerary of the Canonization Cause**

The process on the life, virtues and reputation for holiness of Guadalupe was opened in Madrid. It began on 18 November 2001 and finished on 18 March 2005. The tribunal questioned 32 witnesses in Madrid and 22 witnesses in Mexico City.

On 17 February 2006, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints issues the decree validating the diocesan process, and on 4 August 2009, the *Positio* on the life and virtues of Guadalupe was presented to this dicastery.

From 25 May 2007 to 16 January 2008, a process was held in Barcelona to investigate the apparently miraculous cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid, attributed to Guadalupe. These acts were subsequently submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, which declared the validity of the process on 24 October 2008.

On 7 June 2016, the theological consultants of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints gave a positive reply to the question regarding the practice of heroic virtues on the part of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri. On 2 May 2017, the ordinary session of the Cardinal and Bishop members of the Congregation also announced a positive vote.

On 4 May 2017, Pope Francis received from Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, a detailed account of the steps of the cause, and he ratified the vote of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, authorizing the publication of the decree to declare the Servant of God Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri Venerable.

On 5 October 2017, after having studied the cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid, the medical board of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints declared it scientifically inexplicable. Following this, the congress of theological consultants of the Congregation, which met on 1 March 2018, affirmed that this cure should be attributed to Guadalupe's intercession before God.

In the ordinary session of 5 June 2018, the cardinals and bishops belonging to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, in conformity with the conclusions of the medical board and special congress of theological consultants of the Congregation, confirmed the extraordinary cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid through the intercession of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri.

On 8 June 2018, Pope Francis authorized the Congregation to publish the decree on the miracle attributed to Guadalupe.

## **2. Brief biography of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri (1916-1975)**

Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri was born in Madrid, Spain, on December 12, 1916. She was the fourth child and only daughter of Manuel Ortiz de Landázuri and Eulogia Fernández-Heredia. Her parents raised her in the Christian faith. When she was a child, her older brother Francisco passed away. When Guadalupe was 10 years old, she and the family moved to Tetouan, North Africa, because of the work of her father, who was in the military. During her childhood, two defining features of her personality already stood out: courage and boldness.

In 1932 the family returned to Madrid, where she graduated from high school at the Instituto Miguel de Cervantes. In 1933 she enrolled as a chemistry student at Universidad Central. She was one of only five women in a class of 70. Later, she began her doctorate, because she wanted to dedicate herself to university teaching. Her university colleagues remembered her as a serious student, but friendly, with a sense of adventure.

During the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), her father was taken prisoner and condemned to be shot. Guadalupe, who was then 20 years old, joined her brother Eduardo and their mother, as they said their final goodbyes to her father hours before his death, helping him remain serene at that painful time. She sincerely forgave those who had decided to condemn her father. In 1937 she was able to move with her brother and mother to the other zone of Civil War Spain, where her brother Manolo also resided. They settled in Valladolid until the end of the war.

They returned to Madrid in 1939. Guadalupe began to teach in the school of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the French Lyceum. One Sunday in 1944, while she attended Mass, she felt "touched" by the grace of God. Upon returning home, she met a friend and expressed a desire to speak with a priest. The friend provided Josemaría Escrivá's telephone number. On January 25 Guadalupe went to an appointment with Father Escrivá at a location which was the first women's center of Opus Dei, in Jorge Manrique Street. Guadalupe remembered that encounter as her discovery of the call of Jesus Christ to love him above all things through professional work and ordinary life. This was the message that God wanted to bring to men and women through Opus Dei. After considering the matter in prayer, and after spending a few days on a spiritual retreat, on March 19 Guadalupe decided to answer "yes" to the Lord. Guadalupe was 27 years old. From that moment on she intensified her dealings with God. She fulfilled with love her daily tasks, and sought to spend time before the tabernacle.

Opus Dei was in its early years and, among the tasks that had to be carried out, it was important to attend to the domestic administration of student residences that were being set up in Madrid and in Bilbao. Guadalupe dedicated herself to this work for a few years. They were years of scarcity and ration cards. In addition to these external difficulties, there was also the effort to learn a job for which she had no special ability. That did not diminish her passion for chemistry and, whenever she could, she continued to study it.

During the academic year 1947-1948 she was the director of the university residence Zurbarán. She made friends easily with the university students, who appreciated her patience and affection, as well as the sense of humor with which she helped them in their academic and personal lives.

On March 5, 1950, at the invitation of Saint Josemaría, she went to Mexico to take the message of Opus Dei to that country. She was very excited about the work that would be done in that country, under the protection of the Virgin of Guadalupe. She enrolled in a doctoral program in chemical sciences, which she had begun in Spain. With those who accompanied her, she set up a university residence. She encouraged the residents to take their studies seriously, and she raised their sights to the ideal of service to the Church and to the society of which they were a part. She emphasized concern for the poor and the elderly. Among other initiatives, she created a mobile clinic with a friend who was a doctor. They went house to house in the poorest neighborhoods, providing medical tests to the people who lived there and giving them free medicines. She promoted the cultural and professional formation of the peasants who lived in mountainous and isolated areas of the country and who often did not have the most basic education.

Guadalupe had a big heart and a strong character, which she tried to temper by making an effort to deal with others in a refined and considerate manner. Her Christian optimism and her habitual smile were very attractive, and she often expressed her joy in song, even though she was not particularly good at singing. Beatriz Gaytan, a historian, says that "whenever I think of her, despite the time that has elapsed, what I hear is her laugh. Guadalupe had a permanent smile. She was welcoming, affable, straightforward." During the years she spent in Mexico she was one of the main people involved in setting up Montefalco, a former colonial hacienda which was then in ruins and which today has been converted into a conference center and retreat house, and the venue for two educational institutions: Montefalco School and the rural college El Peñón.

In 1956 she moved to Rome to work more closely with St Josemaría in the government of Opus Dei. That year she noticed the first symptoms of a heart condition and she needed to have an operation in Madrid. Despite a good recovery, her heart condition worsened and she returned to live in Spain for good. She took up again her academic work and started a research project on insulating refracting materials and the value of ash from rice husks for that use. She won the prize Juan de la Cierva for her research work and she completed and defended her doctoral thesis on July 8, 1965. At the same time she also worked as a Chemistry teacher at the Ramiro de Maeztu Institute for two years, and at the Women's School for Industrial Studies (where she became the Deputy Head) for the following ten years. From 1968 she took part in the planning and setting up of the Center of Studies and Research of Domestic Sciences, in which she was the Deputy Head and Chemistry teacher. Those who worked with her remember that she was more understanding than demanding with people, and that one could see that she sought to be with God throughout the day. She knew herself looked upon lovingly by God and Our Lady, and whenever she could she would make a brief visit to the Blessed Sacrament, to talk with Jesus one to one. She often thought of her students

when preparing her classes, which she tried to do as well as she could. She had many friends, and dedicated a lot of time and energy to them, without forgetting those who lived with her, whom she looked after with great affection.

Despite her heart condition, Guadalupe did not complain and tried not to concern herself with the tiredness from walking, climbing stairs, etc. She endeavored to listen with interest to others and wanted to pass unnoticed, seeking to focus the conversation on others. In 1975 doctors decided that the best option would be to operate, and Guadalupe left her home in Madrid to enter the Clínica Universidad de Navarra. The doctors operated on her on July 1. A few days earlier, on 26 June, the founder of Opus Dei had died in Rome. Guadalupe received the news with great pain but with the peace and joy of knowing that he was happy in the presence of God. A few days later Guadalupe would face her own death with that same serenity: although the result of the operation was satisfactory, when she was recovering, she suffered a sudden respiratory failure. She died on July 16, 1975, feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. She is buried in the cemetery of Pamplona.

### 3. Chronology of the cause of canonization

**16 July 1975:** Guadalupe dies in Pamplona, Spain, with a reputation of holiness.

**6 January 2001:** The Prelate of Opus Dei, Bishop Javier Echevarría, appoints Fr. Benito Badrinas Amat as postulator for the cause of beatification and canonization of Guadalupe.

**30 March 2001:** The Congregation for the Causes of Saints—after receiving the petition of the Archbishop of Madrid, Cardinal Antonio María Rouco Varela, and with the consent of Archbishop Fernando Sebastián of Pamplona—transfers the authority to carry out the diocesan investigative phase of the Cause from Pamplona to Madrid.

**3 November 2001:** The Congregation for the Causes of Saints grants the *nihil obstat* to start Guadalupe's canonization process.

**18 November 2001:** First session of the process on the life, virtues and reputation for sanctity of Guadalupe in the Archdiocese of Madrid, presided by Cardinal Rouco Varela.

**23 January 2002 - 11 December 2003:** In 66 sessions, the tribunal interviews 32 witnesses, en Madrid.

**6 - 28 May 2003:** In 37 sessions, el tribunal hears the testimonies of 22 witnesses in Mexico City, to verify *in situ* the extent of the reputation for sanctity of Guadalupe.

**9 May 2002 - 13 December 2004:** The members of the Historical Commission gather all the relevant documents on the Servant of God, submit them and make a report on the same.

**10 May 2002 - 3 January 2005:** The theological experts study the writings of Guadalupe and present their opinions.

**18 March 2005:** Closing session of the diocesan process, presided by the Archbishop of Madrid.

**23 April 2005:** Submission of the conclusions of the diocesan investigative phase to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, consisting of 3008 pages in seven volumes.

**12 May 2005:** The Prelate of Opus Dei appoints Fr. Antonio Rodríguez de Rivera as postulator for the Cause of Canonization before the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

**17 February 2006:** The Congregation for the Causes of Saints issues the decree validating the diocesan process on the life, virtues and reputation for sanctity of the Servant of God.

**5 May 2006:** The Congregation appoints Father Cristoforo Bove, O.F.M. Conv., as chief relator to direct the drafting of the *Positio super vita, virtutibus et fama sanctitatis* of Guadalupe.

**25 May 2007 - 16 January 2008:** a process is held in the archdiocese of Barcelona to examine the cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid, attributed to the

intercession of Guadalupe before God.

**21 January 2008:** The acts of the diocesan process on the cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid are submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

**24 October 2008:** The Congregation issues a decree verifying the validity of the investigation carried out in the archdiocese of Barcelona over the cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid.

**4 August 2009:** The postulator submits the *Positio* to the Congregation. It has four parts: History of the Cause and Sources (25 pages); Documented biography (159 pages); Critical Study on the Virtues (215 pages); and Summary of the witnesses' declarations, and the documents and writings of Guadalupe (656 pages).

**7 June 2016:** The theological consultants of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, after having examined the *Positio*, give a positive reply to the question regarding the practice of heroic virtues on the part of Guadalupe, and her reputation for sanctity and favors reported.

**2 May 2017:** The ordinary session of the Cardinal and Bishop members of the Congregation give their positive vote on the heroic virtues and reputation for sanctity of Guadalupe.

**4 May 2017:** Pope Francis authorizes the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the decree on the virtues of the Servant of God Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri.

**5 October 2017:** The experts of the medical board of the Congregation studied the documentation of the cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid and concluded that this instantaneous, complete, and permanent cure has no scientific explanation.

**2 January 2018:** The *Positio* on the assumed miraculous cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid is submitted to the Congregation.

**1 March 2018:** The theological consultants of the Congregation give a positive response to the question of the attribution of the extraordinary cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid to the intercession of Guadalupe.

**5 June 2018:** the ordinary session of cardinals and bishops belonging to the Congregation affirms that the extraordinary cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid must be attributed to Guadalupe's intercession.

**8 June 2018:** Pope Francis authorizes the Congregation to publish the decree on the miracle attributed to Guadalupe's intercession.

#### **4. The miraculous cure of Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid, attributed to Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri**

During the summer of 2002, Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid, 76 years old and widowed since 1991, discovered that he had a wound on the skin of the inner corner of his right eye. The wound was similar to a pimple, and it burned, sometimes causing pain. It did not go away and, during a number of weeks, his three children and a few friends also noticed it. Nevertheless, nothing was done to treat it at this point.

Because of additional difficulty with his sight, Antonio was scheduled for an ophthalmological consultation, with the possibility that a cataract operation would need to be done, in a health facility in Barcelona (Spain), where he was living. During the consultation, on 2 August 2002, Antonio also showed the ophthalmologist the wound that had appeared in the skin next to his eye. The doctor immediately directed him to the Clinical Hospital of Barcelona, suspecting that it might be a tumor.

On 30 October 2002, Antonio was evaluated at the hospital by the head of the department of ophthalmology, who gave a clinical diagnosis of basal cell carcinoma, in the form known as *ulcus rodens*. This is one of the most frequent malignant skin tumors, typically affecting people in their later years, and often appearing on the scalp or neck. It develops progressively and implies the deterioration of local tissues. These tumors are generally removed through an operation, normally curing the patient.

In Antonio's case, the lentil-sized tumor was causing a graver situation than usual because of its close vicinity to his eye and the possibility of affecting delicate organs nearby. The doctor informed Antonio that he would need to have surgery to remove it, and he sent him to a specialist in plastic surgery. Considering the certainty of his diagnosis and that Antonio would need to have treatment as soon as possible, the doctor determined the type of tumor that, in his judgment, Antonio was suffering from. The next day, a plastic surgeon examined Antonio and confirmed the previous diagnosis: basal cell carcinoma. Without losing time, he ordered an emergency operation to remove the tumor, explaining to the patient that it was undoubtedly a malignant tumor, but that it was possible to remove it through a surgery that needed to be done as soon as possible.

The cancer diagnosis caused Antonio a great deal of anxiety and those closest to him noticed this. While the day of the surgery approached, his worries increased, as the tumor got visibly worse, ulcerating and even starting to bleed.

In the Oratory of Holy Mary of Bonaigua (Barcelona), where Antonio often went to Mass, he found a prayer card for private devotion to the Servant of God, Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri, along with information about her life. Right away, he began to feel a personal and spiritual closeness to her, so he began to ask her, repeatedly, for his cure. His children and other relatives did the same, as Antonio gave out copies of Guadalupe's prayer card to his family members.

Before knowing the date of his operation, Antonio was discouraged and frightened – also because of other health problems he suffered – and, upon receiving news of the exact date of his surgery, his fear only increased. One night when he felt especially nervous he held Guadalupe’s prayer card in his hands and prayed to her spontaneously, with a lot of faith: “You can do it: make it so that I don’t need to be operated. It’s nothing for you.”

After invoking Guadalupe, Antonio calmed down, slept without interruptions, and the next morning he woke up calm and rested. Upon seeing himself in the mirror, he discovered that the wound had disappeared. He couldn’t believe it; he thought these things could happen to other people, but not to him. His mood changed completely and that morning he even joked when giving the news to his daughter, who was amazed. The same thing happened to his other daughter when she realized that the tumor had disappeared from one day to the next, not even leaving a mark. Antonio called his son to give him the news, and he also communicated it to other friends. In addition, he called the secretary of the plastic surgeon to cancel the date of his surgery, since there was no longer any need for it.

When the plastic surgeon examined the patient, he confirmed that the cancer had completely disappeared, due to unknown causes. His initial reaction was fright. His first question was, “Where did they operate you?” Antonio replied by describing his cure in detail and the intercession of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri. The cure, which had happened overnight, was inexplicable. In the clinical history, on this date, it reads: “The lesion disappeared after praying to the Servant of God, Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri.” In subsequent examinations the cure was confirmed.

Antonio Jesús Sedano Madrid died twelve years later, in 2014, due to heart disease. He was 88 years old. The skin cancer, of which he was cured through the intercession of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri, never came back again.

As the cure seemed to constitute an extraordinary event, according to the indications given for these cases, on 18 May 2007 the archbishop of Barcelona decreed the opening of a canonical process on the miracle and appointed a diocesan tribunal to investigate it. The process took place from 25 May 2007 to 17 January 2008. On 24 October 2008, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints sanctioned the validity of this diocesan process.

On 5 October 2017, the medical board of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints examined the case. The doctors highlighted the most relevant aspects of the healing under study: the adequate diagnostic process of the injury, confirmed by medical specialists, and especially its healing in a period of a few hours, without any treatment. The experts of the Congregation declared the occurrences not explicable from a scientific point of view.

Subsequently, the case was submitted to the examination of the theological consultants, who in the session of 1 March 2018 declared proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, the relationship between the miraculous healing of Antonio and the invocation of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri.

Finally, at the ordinary session on 5 June 2018, the cardinals and bishops belonging to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints ruled it solidly proven that the case should be considered a miracle.

On 8 June 2018, the Holy Father Pope Francis, after receiving from Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, an account of all that has just been described, declared that there is evidence of the miracle worked by God through the intercession of the venerable Servant of God, Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri.

## **5. Interview with the postulator of the Cause of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri, following the approval of the miracle that paves the way for beatification**

As this step makes it possible to beatify Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri, Fr. Antonio Rodríguez de Rivera, postulator of her cause, answered some questions. What follows are parts of the interview that the postulator granted on May 4, 2017, when the decree on the heroicity of the virtues of Guadalupe was approved.

### **1. Pope Francis has just approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri. What is it?**

It is the cure – which took place in one night – of a man who suffered basal cell carcinoma. On 28 November 2002, the man, who suffered from this skin cancer next to his right eye, invoked Guadalupe with faith and intensity before going to bed, and when he got up the next day, 29 November 2002, he discovered that he was cured. The lesion had completely disappeared, leaving no signs in its trace. The medical board of the Congregation judged that this occurrence has no scientific explanation. The theological consultants and, later, the cardinals and bishops declared that it must be attributed to the intercession before God of Guadalupe.

### **2. This miracle opens the way for her beatification. Do you know when and where it will take place?**

It is not possible at this time to talk about dates or places, because it is only from the day on which the miracle is approved that the beatification ceremony can begin to be organized. The final decision on the city and the date of the beatification corresponds to the Holy See.

### **3. Can you briefly tell us who was Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri?**

She was a woman of outstanding human qualities, cheerful and humble. She had great professional prestige and always led a life of helping others in their spiritual and material needs. She was a person in love with God, full of faith and hope.

She was born in Madrid, Spain, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1916. She studied Chemistry in Madrid's Central University. In her class, there were only five women. She stood out for seriousness in her studies and a ready smile. After the Spanish Civil War, she graduated and began to teach Physics and Chemistry in the "Colegio de las Irlandesas" (Loreto Nuns High School) and in the Lycee Francaise (French State High School) in Madrid.

Early in 1944 she became acquainted with Opus Dei. Her first encounter with Saint Josemaría affected her deeply. Later she would say: "I had the very clear idea that God was speaking to me through that priest". In that same year she asked for admission in that institution of the Church. She directed some

centers of Opus Dei in Madrid and Bilbao. In 1950 she moved to Mexico in order to start apostolic work with women there: it was a great adventurous activity, lived with generosity and enormous faith. Among other things, she started a center for human and professional development of country women in a rural part of Morelos State.

In 1956 she took up residence in Rome, Italy. There she collaborated with Saint Josemaría in the internal government of Opus Dei. After two years she returned to Spain for health reasons where she re-engaged in teaching and research. She finished her doctoral thesis with the maximum grade and was awarded the Juan de la Cierva Prize. She was a pioneer of the "Centro de Estudios e Investigacion de Ciencias Domesticas" (CEICID) (Center for Studies and Research in Domestic Sciences). Later she was awarded the medal of the "Comite Intenational de la Rayonne et des Fibres Synthetique" for a research study of hers on textile fibers.

Following a heart ailment, she died in Pamplona, already with a reputation for holiness, on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16th, 1975, just 20 days after Saint Josemaría's going to heaven. She was 59 years of age.

#### **4. Why did the Church decide to open her cause for canonization?**

Because those who knew her in Spain, in Mexico and in Italy, are convinced of her holiness, that is, of the exemplary character of her Christian conduct. Many others who after her death, have heard of her heroic life, have recourse to her intercession before God to ask favors of God. What do those people who knew her, say? Here are some quotes:

- "We considered her to be an extraordinary person who stood out because of her virtues". "She left behind an unforgettable memory of holiness"
- "It was obvious that she was a daughter of God, who wished to be faithful to His will"
- "One could see she was in love with Our Lord, being full of a profound joy, which simply on getting to know her, was passed on to you".
- "She had an overflowing joy, habitually; just by laughing she passed on a part of Heaven to you".
- " I was struck by how she gathered herself together when hearing Mass and receiving Communion every day, by how much she prayed and encouraged us to pray"
- "Her great love for the Church brought her to pray for the Holy Father every day".
- She worked "united to Our Lord, trying to love and help whoever were around her and she had an apostolic drive which not even her illness managed to diminish".
- "I desire her canonization because I consider her a saint and I believe that her life is an important example in today's world".

**5. You have studied the life of Guadalupe in depth. Personally, what impressed you the most about her?**

What has most impressed me has been Guadalupe's "forgetfulness of herself". She thought constantly of God and of other people. An example of this is what happened in Mexico in 1952. It was during a retreat for university students, in a recently constructed building, still almost without any furniture. On the second-last day, she gave a talk on the Christian virtues. She, as well as the others, was sitting on the bare floor. She felt a sharp pain from the sting from an insect (it was poisonous, even though she can't know it), but did not want to interrupt the talk until the end, so as not to worry the participants, and none of them realized what had happened. She got sick with a high fever and had to remain in bed for two weeks. At no stage did she complain. Moreover, from her bed she continued performing her various duties until another Opus Dei woman substituted for her. Those who attended her were witnesses: not once did she complain or speak about her illness, but rather took an interest in those who came to visit her and kept encouraging the apostolate.

**6. What features would you emphasize in Guadalupe's character?**

Many people who knew her underline her overflowing cheerfulness, her habitual smile. She was welcoming to everybody. She transmitted peace and confidence to countrywomen and university students, to women of any social standing. Her joy was not the result of some human effort, but rather the consequence of her knowing that she was a daughter of God, of her closeness to Christ; that is, a gift of the Holy Spirit. As a consequence she was constant and serene. This helped her a lot in her apostolate and her service to the Church and to society.

A young college woman, who met Guadalupe a year after her arrival in Mexico, has remarked: "I must admit I was very curious to meet her, because they all told me about Guadalupe's laugh and about her constant cheerfulness". Guadalupe's own brother Eduardo, describing her last moments, has written: "This was Guadalupe's great "secret": to always accept as good whatever happened to her. Around her, in those last hours of mortal anguish, all were lost in admiration: that same unforgettable smile"

**7. Would you say that Guadalupe embodies the "spirit of the Beatitudes" of which Pope Francis speaks in *Gaudete et Exsultate*?**

I think so, because her life, which was very normal and at the same time full of God, is a splendid invitation to open oneself up to others. Her example encourages leaving the comfort zone to dedicate oneself to serving others. Following the path of the Beatitudes, Guadalupe helps us to discover that only with Christ can we have a deep and permanent joy, as the Pope explains in *Gaudete et Exsultate*.

## **8. Is there popular devotion already? What things are people asking of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landazuri?**

Private devotion to Guadalupe is spreading out more and more. Many people are writing to the postulators office to report graces which God has granted them after invoking Guadalupe. In the last 10 years we have received accounts of favors received from Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, Kenya, India, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala, Porto Rico, United States and Canada.

Another notable sign of her reputation for holiness is that in Zamora, in the state of Michoacan, Mexico, a primary school has been named "Colegio Guadalupe de Ortiz de Landázuri". This initiative was promoted by some readers of her biography who were impressed by her holiness, her professionalism and her dedication to education and the formation of young people.

People going to her intercession have received different types of graces: cures, favors related to pregnancy and childbirth, getting employment, resolving conflicts between work and family obligations, resolution of money problems, family reconciliations, helping friends and colleagues to get close to God.

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### **DVD Documentary Video**

- Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri, *Vídeo*, 2005, 36 min. Available at Beta Films

Foundation (<http://www.betafilms.org>).

Watch the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gt2FewGERG8>

### ***Photographs***

- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/opus-dei/sets/72157651819107319>

### ***Online site***

- <http://guadalupeortizdelandazuri.org/>

There are 14 Newsletters on the Servant of God Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri that have been published by the Office for the Causes of Saints of the Prelature of Opus Dei in Spain.