

Biography of Guadalupe Ortiz

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Guadalupe Ortiz de Landazuri was born in Madrid, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th 1916.

In 1932 she finished school and started to study chemistry. She received outstanding grades, despite

the interruption in July 1936 with the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War.

She obtained her degree in 1941 and began to teach to help support her family. In 1944 she met St. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei. He helped her discover that professional work and ordinary life are where she could find Christ. A little while later she asked to be admitted to Opus Dei.

From then on Guadalupe unconditionally gave herself to seeking intimacy with God and to assisting various apostolic activities. She was involved in the domestic administration of two university residences, in Madrid and in Bilbao, and organized classes of professional training for the young employees. Later she took charge of a university residence for women in Madrid.

In 1951, seeing her generosity, fortitude and cheerfulness, the

Founder invited her to start the apostolic work of Opus Dei with women in Mexico. On March 5th she left for her new country. There she directed a university residence for women, encouraging the girls to deepen their human and Christian education and to put their professional knowledge at the service of others. At the same time she strove to pass on her Christian faith to professional women and mothers of families

In 1956 Guadalupe moved to Rome and a year later returned to Spain. She was beginning to have a heart problem and had to undergo an operation. After recovering, she went on to obtain her doctorate with the highest qualification. She won the Juan de la Cierva Prize for research work and taught science in a state technical college. At the same time she also worked in tasks of formation and government within Opus Dei.

Right to the end of her days she strove to bring everyone she was in contact with closer to God, by her friendship and cheerfulness. She died in Pamplona on July 16th 1975 with a reputation for holiness.

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