

# **Christian Witness in Nigeria**

In preparation for the beatification of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landazuri, we recently organised a seminar for our friends and co-operators. The theme was ‘Christian Witness in Society: Is it Possible?’ The idea was to reflect on and discuss the life of this ordinary woman, and how she lived both the Christian and human virtues in an extraordinary way.

17/04/2019

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Louisa and Julia hosted our get together with about twenty ladies in attendance. Thanks to the materials made available on the Opus Dei website, we watched several video clips about the Venerable, and then listened to a presentation from Louisa about her life, heroic moments and struggles.

During the interactive session that followed, discussions centred on how to relate Guadalupe's example with ordinary life of women who juggle responsibilities in the home and also

in the workplace. For example, how one could remain cheerful after spending an average of five hours commuting to and from home and the workplace every day in Lagos.

Bimbo related how excuses are easy to come about and end up becoming an obstacle to achieving one's goals in life. She commented how women, just like Guadalupe, should bear witness to Christ in work, family and social life. However, for this to happen, a deep Christian formation is needed. Together with the regular reception of the sacraments and the practice of prayer and sacrifice.

Chinelo talked about the dignity of work, and the need to sanctify every activity, every day and everywhere. This decision may not always be easy but it is rewarding both in the eyes of God and honest people.

Everyone agreed that the Christian formation they received at

Wavecrest Study Centre has helped them. They recognise when they are not giving good example and when they are. Peggy narrated how while driving one day in gridlock traffic, she wanted to get upset with a biker, then realised she held her Rosary in her hand, and so restrained herself.

Friendship with God, ordinary day-to-day life, and the effort to evangelise are all harmoniously fused into a strong and simple lifestyle like Guadalupe's. This lifestyle is an essential condition for us trying to sanctify ourselves in the midst of the ordinary situations of work, family and social relationships.

Everyone went away determined to begin anew with the help of Venerable Guadalupe Ortiz de Landazuri.

Beenzu Hachandi

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