

It's the same, but not quite the same!

With this phrase, Isabel Caride, 33, explains how she lives family life and her work in a supermarket in Murcia, Spain.

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My life is very ordinary. I have known Opus Dei since I was young; but then I was only interested to go out with my friends and later on with my boyfriend Paco whom I married 10 years ago. And I thank God that we have a happy marriage.

We wanted to have children but God had other plans. We eventually decided to adopt a 3-month old Columbian girl and she fills our days with happiness. We would like to adopt another child because we think that it is better that she has siblings.

I started going to a centre of Opus Dei after I got married. I like what I learn there, the cheerfulness of the people and their attentiveness. I suppose the example of my parents, who are members of Opus Dei, also influence me.

There I have discovered the message of Opus Dei: I can sanctify my work and my ordinary life by trying to pray a little more, to fight against my defects, by being a better wife and a better mother, by doing my work better each time.

I work in a supermarket, in the section of ready-to-eat meals. I

prepare and wrap the food that is prepared. From time to time, I attend to the customers; which is not frequent as I usually have lots to do inside.

As for my marriage, we are like so many other couples of my generation: paying the mortgage, which has since risen a lot; juggling to make ends meet for the month; rushing to pick up my daughter from day-care after work... Normal, like everyone else, with the difference that I have discovered that in the midst of such normal circumstances, I can be in touch with God and try to respond to Him.

Together with other parents, I am presently involved in a project to better educate our children. This is something that goes down well in Murcia as we are very family oriented.

Which explains why I seldom am able to devote time to my favourite hobby: dancing. I love to dance. It is a tradition in my family. We are eight brothers and sisters and we all love music. Years back, my father, my brother and sister-in-law formed a musical group.

As I said in the beginning, my life is very ordinary. I do what so many other people do... But with one difference: I have discovered that when you try to live facing God (something that I am learning in Opus Dei), life is filled with a profound and marvellous joy, undreamt-of horizons to love God and others open up...

As a well-known comedian puts it:
It's the same, but not quite the same!

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