

From the time of his conversion he was faithful to his devotions, to the **Angelus**, to his nocturnal visits to the **Blessed Sacrament** and to the recitation of the **daily rosary.**" Based on the entries in Alberto's notebooks, from the time of his conversion he has spent 660 vigils of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints issued a Decree *Super Virtutibus* in 1998, given Alberto the title of Venerable.



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Heavenly Help for Those Who Suffer
from

Angina

Seek the intercession of
Venerable Alberto Capellan Zuazo



(1888—1965)

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This father of eight children was born in Santo Domingo de la Calzada, Spain. As a young boy he liked to serve Holy Mass and claimed to be a poor student, but as a teenager he claimed to excel in one endeavor, and that was dancing with a group of folk dances. He was a normal teenager, with many friends, and with them he often played little pranks.

At the age of 21, Alberto won out over many rivals and married his childhood sweetheart, Isabel. For a time he was subject to bad moods and was often verbally abusive to his wife. Although his income from farming was satisfactory, he wrote, "I lacked something to be happy. What? Simply, God was with me, but I was not with Him. My heart looked at the earth, but little to the sky. That was the secret."

Almost all we know of Alberto comes from two school notebooks which he started writing in 1943. In them we learn that a change in his soul occurred when a neighbor gave him a copy of the Catechism, which fascinated him. As a result, Alberto became a changed man. He began to attend Holy Mass daily before going into his fields to work, and he gradually developed two great interests: night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a love for the poor. Alberto was so devoted to his hour of adoration that he was elected president of the Nocturnal Adoration Society in his area, and then he was reelected president for 11 consecutive terms.

For the homeless, Alberto offered his barn as a shelter, and he eventually constructed a building that he called the *Rocogimiento*, meaning the "Collection" of the Gathering." He provided beds, blankets and all else that was needed. In the *Recogimiento* the poor felt secure and welcomed, and they were assisted by Alberto in countless ways. In addition, he opened his house to shepherd boys during the winter, and at night he taught them the basics of reading, writing, and the first notions of arithmetic. He is known to have been called often to the homes of the poor and to have gone without complaint or hesitation. Testimonials of his aid to the poor and homeless are numerous.

When Alberto reached retirement age, he began to experience angina and chest pains, which he said was the beginning of his Purgatory. Eventually, he experienced a heart attack. He died quickly on February 24, 1965 at the age of 77.

One of Alberto's sons, Gerardo, a missionary priest in Burundi, gave a glowing testimony of his father's life, which includes these words: "In those days, we were given the impression that God was severe, but my father knew that God was merciful, understanding and a friend, and this greatly impressed us...."