

## he helped the poor...

### ALBERTO SERVES

He joined the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in January, 1920. He constructed a small shed in order to receive the poor people who passed by.

After the Spanish civil war, with the increase of transients who were often in search of work, he built a two-story building: called the "Recollection", in 1940.

He was chosen local President of the Society in 1958.

He used to say: *"I am sure that piety that is not accompanied by works of charity, in favour of the needy ones, is far away from pleasing God."*

It is necessary to see in every poor person Christ himself and, because of this, the day that he took on his back some poor person or stumbling drunkard, he said and felt that he had carried Christ himself on his back.

He was happy among the poor and if he had lived longer than Isabel, his wife, he would have liked to have gone to live with them. He repeated this thought several times to his friends.

Not only would he attend the poor people who came to the Refuge, but as a member of the Society, he would also spend every Sunday visiting and bringing aid to the poor and sick people of his village.

With fervour he prostrated himself before Christ's presence in the Eucharist and with the same faith he prostrated himself before Christ's presence in the poor or sick person.



## a man of deep faith...

### ALBERTO PRAYS

#### He prayed before the Eucharist.

After his conversion, he daily attended the Holy Mass which the Claretian Community celebrated at 5 a.m. How many times he waited in the street until they opened the door of the Church!

He joined the group of Nocturnal Adoration in January, 1919, the same year of his conversion.

He made 660 vigils to which he had committed himself, and also many others for devotion, staying for the first hour.

He was chosen President on January 30th, 1927. He was re-elected for the third time in 1943. When he was named President there were two turns of adoration, and within a few years another two turns were created with more than 80 Adorers.

#### He prayed before the holy crucifix at the Convent.

Every day, before Mass begun and when the Church was totally empty, he would kneel down with his arms outstretched, as if on the cross.

One day a cart loaded with grain hit his son Francisco. After having put his son to bed and having called the doctor, he ran to the Church, only a few meters away, to prostrate himself before the holy crucifix before whom he had prayed so often. His son recovered immediately, to the doctor's surprise, and with the conviction of some that it had been miraculous.

He consecrated his house and his family to Christ crucified.

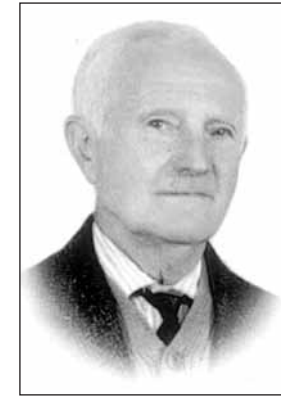
He prayed to the Virgin Mary who, one day, had visited him and obtained for him the grace of his conversion.

He greeted her three times a day with the prayer of the Angelus, and if he was with someone else, he would pray out loud so they could pray with him. Every day, surrounded by his children, he prayed the rosary.

For his golden wedding anniversary he visited the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, in France, and before the image of the Virgin in the Grotto he would pray for a long time and with great emotion, wishing to return her the visit.

#### He prayed in the field with nature.

He often walked in the fields. Everything spoke to him about God and everything invited him to love God more every day.



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DEL  
VENERABLE

## ALBERTO CAPELLÁN ZUAZO

SUMMARY OF HIS LIFE



On April 6th 1998 Pope John Paul II declared Alberto Capellán's heroic virtues. In this way the first part of the Process of Beatification has finished, which had begun on February 18th, 1980. With this, he is now Venerable.

On July 1st, 2000, his remains were moved to the Cathedral of Santo Domingo de la Calzada.

Now is when it is most necessary to pray with faith to obtain the miracle that the Church demands for his Beatification.

## a loving husband.....

### ALBERTO LOVES

Alberto Capellán Zuazo was born in Santo Domingo de la Calzada, in the Rioja district, Northern Spain, on August 7th, 1888. He married Isabel Arenas Mahave on June 30th, 1909. He celebrated his golden wedding anniversary at the same time three of his grandsons received their 1st Holy Communion on June 29th, 1959.

As a highlight of their golden wedding anniversary, they made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes with several of their children.

In Lourdes he found together his three great loves:

Love of the Eucharist, love for the poor and sick people, and devotion to our Lady.

Isabel was his first and only bride. Alberto did not spare praises for his wife, he never regretted having chosen her nor loving her.

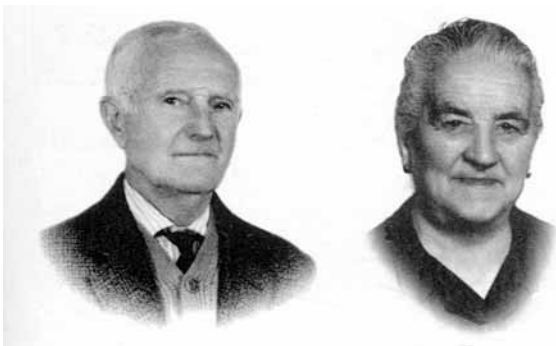
He himself confesses: *My wife is wonderful, a good mother for her children, she receives Holy Communion daily. She never does evil to anyone and she is always ready to do a favor for those who ask it of her.*

One of their children confesses:

*He was attentive and loving with her, lavishing her and filling her with his attention, keeping an eye on her movements and always prompt to please her in everything.*

Before his conversion, he loved Isabel passionately, with jealousies and with his own temperament, ready to face any competitor; after his conversion, he continued loving her with the same passion, but with greater serenity and control of his temperament.

In order to control this temperament, in addition to his virtue, the peaceful character of his wife also helped him.



## father of a large family ...

### ALBERTO EDUCATES

#### Father of eight children:

**He knew how to educate in the truth**, did not tolerate lying, even though to tell the truth in certain moments caused him problems.

**He educated in love.** Not with words but with deeds. His children saw how he would bother and sacrifice himself to serve the poor.

**He educated in austerity.** He did not tolerate luxury, nor superfluous expenses, seeing so many people whom he considered his brothers, suffering hardship.

**He educated in comprehension.** He educated with rigidity during the first moments of his conversion, but with greater comprehension and patience as he grew in self-control.

**He educated in faith. Trusting in God the Father** more than in material goods.

**He had faith and friendship with Christ in the Eucharist and on the Cross.** He gave a beautiful crucifix to his married children that they placed in their houses.

**He had devotion to Mary**, to whom he prayed the rosary daily and greeted three times a day with the Angelus prayer.

**He educated in the virtue of overcoming oneself.** He wanted his children to study, if they were capable and desired it, something that was not frequent among farmers at that time.

He did not wish that they had more, but that they be more.



## honest and exemplary farmer...

### ALBERTO WORKS

He was a farmer with old tools, but with present-day and lasting virtues.

The plough, the thresher, the cart-load, the mules with which he worked, nowadays they are not used and many people will not remember to have seen them, but the virtues which he lived are needed by the farmer who works nowadays with tractors, combine-harvesters, and irrigation systems.



His given word had the strength of the law, even though it was not written nor could be demanded before a notary.

He went to the extreme to fulfill the contracts he had with his labourers and servants, to whom he used to give pieces of land and let them share-crop.

In moments of food shortage, although it was an opportune time to take part in "the black market", he neither participated nor allowed his children to take part.

After his conversion he honoured Sunday as the day of rest, even when there was urgent work to be done.

He would also sacrifice his hours of sleep, in order to attend Mass every day, without detriment to his daily work.

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