“In order to teach it is enough to know something. But to educate one must be something. True education consists in giving oneself as a living model, an authentic lesson.”  —Alberto Hurtado, SJ
Born in Viña del Mar, Chile, in 1907, Alberto Hurtado's early life was a constant struggle with poverty after his father died. The family lived with an aunt in Santiago, where Hurtado attended Jesuit schools, including the Colegio San Ignacio (he is third from left in the second row up) on scholarship.

Hurtado's obligatory stint in the military (he's at lower left with fellow members of the Yungay Regiment in this 1920 photo) interrupted his law studies at the Universidad Católica in Santiago. Military service completed, he finished law school in 1923.

Priest, organizer, writer, preacher, and saint

An estimated 6,000 Chileans journeyed to Rome this October for a ceremony at St. Peter's that elevated Alberto Hurtado, SJ, to sainthood. Chilean cardinal Francisco Javier Errázuriz, the Jesuits' superior general Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, and Chilean Jesuit provincial Guillermo Baranda Ferrán led a vigil at Saint Ignatius Church prior to the canonization. Among the Jesuits who joined them were former students of Hurtado, who died on August 18, 1952. He was beatified in 1994 by Pope John Paul II and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 23.

We share on these pages photos from the life of this extraordinary man, the newest Jesuit saint.
Hurtado (left) works in the orchard of the Jesuit novitiate in Chillán, Chile, which he entered right after finishing law school. He had been inspired by Jesuit Fr. Fernando Vives, his spiritual director from his school days, to become a Jesuit but postponed entrance in order to support his mother and brother, which he did while studying law.

Hurtado (second from left) was ordained in '33 in Louvain, Belgium. His studies abroad started in Spain in '27, continued in Ireland, and ended in Belgium. He returned to Chile in '36 with a doctorate in education.

Hurtado at a rally for El Hogar de Cristo, the Home of Christ. "To give a roof to the homeless beggar, food for his stomach, education and, if possible, work that would help him escape his terrible misery," was the idea behind El Hogar, still today a major Chilean social service.
"Every poor man, every vagrant, every beggar is Christ carrying his cross," wrote Hurtado, here by the door of a grocery store for Santiago's poor. He fought the secularization of the economically and politically polarized Chile through his writing and preaching.

"Tireless" is an adjective that takes on new meaning when applied to Hurtado, one day working at this boys' school, and the next on behalf of the Association of Chilean Trade Union Action, the labor movement he started.

"Contento, Señor, contento"—"Happy, my Lord, I'm happy," was Hurtado's lifelong prayer. His life cut short by pancreatic cancer, his August 20, 1952, funeral drew thousands of Santiago's residents.