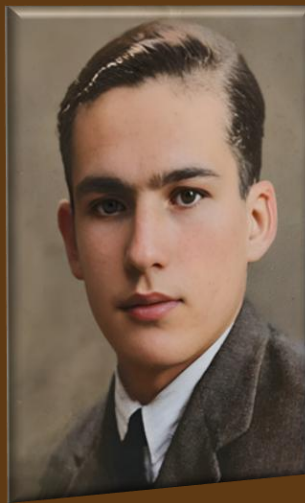


WALTER ELÍAS CHANGO RONDEAU was born in La Aguada, Montevideo, Uruguay, on 1 November 1921. He was the son of Pedro Elías Chango and Teresa Rondeau. He was baptized at the Our Lady of Peace parish in Canelones on 6 January of the following year. Walter grew up in a household that instilled in him the values of diligence and integrity. At the age of ten, he received his first communion. He would be known for his deep eucharistic spirituality throughout the rest of his short life.



On 6 March 1933, Walter began his studies at the *Colegio y Liceo Sagrada Familia*, which was run by the Brothers of the Holy Family of Belley. He focused on commerce and consistently earned high marks in his courses, though he was not exceptionally intelligent. His classmates believed that Walter studied not just for academic achievement, but for the love of knowledge and life itself. This enthusiasm for life extended to his passion for the outdoors and camping. He was also an avid football and chess player. Additionally, Walter enjoyed socializing with his peers and was known for generously giving his time to support them during difficult moments. However, he had a strong aversion to gossip and foul language, and he did not allow anyone to be spoken ill of in his presence. His friends attested to Walter's desire for what was best for them, particularly a life of holiness, which he sought to achieve with all his strength and by the grace of God.

Based on the available testimonies, it appears that Walter was aware that his vocation was not to the ministerial priesthood. He had fallen in love with a young woman from his home parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in La Aguada, and wanted to formalize their relationship. Additionally, he openly expressed his desire to have a Christian family and to settle down in a house surrounded by a beautiful garden filled with flowers.



Walter's youthful dreams and activities did not diminish his sense of ecclesial commitment. He was actively involved in his parish as a catechist and a member of several church organizations. His commitment to evangelization was reflected in his efforts to raise funds from his classmates for missionary activities. However, it was the economic hardship faced by the poor in his hometown that deeply moved him and inspired his Christian efforts. In his spare time, he made toys for their children and taught them catechism under a tree in his garden. He was often seen pulling a cart filled with fruits and vegetables, generously donated by local market vendors, to distribute among the poor. Walter was firmly convinced that he could see the face of Jesus reflected in the poor. He often said, "What I give to the poor, I give to Christ."

After graduating with highest honors in 1938, Walter secured a position as an office worker and was recognized for his hard work and dedication. However, he held the job for only a few months before falling ill with tuberculosis. His condi-

tion deteriorated quickly, and this physical decline undermined his romantic hopes; his relationship with the girl he intended to marry was never formalized.

His condition worsened as the illness affected his intestinal system. A long and painful surgery was performed to improve his situation, but it ultimately proved futile. Because of frequent vomiting, his confessor, Fr. Atilio Nicoli, even had to suspend giving him communion. Despite all of this, Walter remained serene and good-humored. On the verge of death, he tenderly consoled his mother, saying, “We are not of this world but of God’s. It is to God that we shall go.” At around 7:00 PM on 18 November 1939, Walter passed from this life, declaring, “I die happily.”

Bro. Tarcisius Ducruet, superior general of the Brothers of the Holy Family in the 1940s, eulogized him in this manner: “In the wholesome course of his short life, Walter Chango has shown, especially to young people, that holiness is not just an abstract idea. It is also a tangible reality which can be harmonized with every trifle matter that constitutes the fiber of every student’s life.”



Walter’s reputation for holiness persisted long after his death. In response to the petition of the faithful, Abp. Nicolás Cotugno Fanizzi of Montevideo approved the translation of Walter’s remains from the cemetery of La Teja to the parish church of La Aguada on 18 November 1999.

INFORMATION ON THE CAUSE

1. COMPETENT DIOCESE: **Montevideo (Uruguay)**

2. ITER:

- opening of diocesan inquiry: **25 June 2000**
- ❖ publication of rescript “nihil obstat”: **03 November 2001**
- closing of diocesan inquiry: **21 March 2004**
- ❖ decree on validity of diocesan inquiry:
- ❖ particular congress of DCS theological consultants:
- ❖ ordinary session of DCS cardinals and bishops:

3. POSTULATOR:

4. PETITIONER: **Arquidiócesis de Montevideo, Calle Treinta y Tres 1368, Casilla de Correo Central 356, 11000 Montevideo, URUGUAY**

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