

BEATIFICATION

47 MARIST BROTHERS
MARTYRED

PERDONAMOS COM JESUS PERDONO



Year XXII - n° 37- March 2008

Editor-in-Chief:
Brother AMEstaún

Publications Commission:
Brothers Emili Turú, AMEstaún,
Onorino Rota and Luiz Da Rosa

Translators Coordination:
Brother Carlos Martín Hinojar

Translators
Spanish:
Brother Carlos Martín Hinojar

French:
Brother Louis Rousson
Brother Fabricio Galiana
Brother Josep Roura

English:
Brother Douglas Welsh
Brother George Fontana
Brother Des Crowe
Matteo Bruni

Portuguese:
Brother Aloisio Kuhn
Fr. Eduardo Campagnani

Photography:
AMEstaún, L'Osservatore Romano,
Archives of the General House

Register and Statistics:
Gabriela Scanavino

Formatting and Photolithography:
TIPOCROM, s.r.l.
Via A. Meucci 28, 00012 Guidonia,
Roma (Italia)

**Production and Administrative
Center:**
Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2.
C.P. 10250 - 00144 ROMA
Tel. (39) 06 54 51 71
Fax (39) 06 54 517 217
E-mail: publica@fms.it
Web: www.champagnat.org

Publisher:
Istituto dei Fratelli Maristi.
Casa generalizia - Roma.

Printing:
C.S.C. GRAFICA, s.r.l.
Via A. Meucci 28, 00012 Guidonia,
Roma (Italia)

index

*Chosen to be witnesses to the faith
and defenders of private schools*



Br. AMEstaún

page 2

**Welcome given to those who came
to the Beatification**



Spanish Episcopal Conference
and Postulator Generals

Those who came from Spain

*Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls
October 26, 2007*

page 7

Reception and expressions of gratitude

Brother Superior General and his Council
Church authorities, political authorities
and Brother Postulators



*General House, Rome
October 26, 2007*

page 13

Marist celebration in Mary's own home

The prayer service held for
the Beatification visitors and the relatives
of the martyr Brothers



*Sanctuary of the Madonna del Divino Amore. Rome
October 27, 2007*

page 19

**The Beatification ceremony for
the 47 Marist Brothers**

Beatification Mass

*St. Peter's Square, Vatican City
October 28, 2007*



page 35

Angelus with the Pope

The Pope's greeting to those present
Saint Peter's Square, Vatican City
October 28, 2007



page 51

A family gathering

Marist Brothers, at home,
under the protection of their Good Mother
General House, Rome
October 28, 2007



page 55

Thanksgiving for the Beatifications

Beatifications are a grace given
to the Church universal.
Saint Peter's Basilica. Vatican City
October 29, 2007



page 67

Visiting the Generalate

page 79

Exposition

Walking with our martyr Brothers

page 83

Young people meet the martyrs

page 93

Preparatory stages

page 98

Statistics

page 103

Chosen to be witnesses of faith and defend free education



Meaning and transcendence sense of the celebration

The beatification of the first Marist Brothers was a great celebration of faith and family for the Institute. But it was above all an important event for the Church. This event has carried beyond the circumscriptions of the single churches of the dioceses and those of the Marist Institute as

a whole. Our Blessed Brothers belong to a group of 498 Spanish Christian martyrs. In placing this group of martyrs, including our Brothers, within their historical framework of time and place, we identify them as victims of the sweeping religious persecution the Universal Church went through during the XX century. The XX century was the one with the largest number of martyrs in the history of the Church. This

statement places our Blessed martyr Brothers, and the Marist Institute they belong to, in the perspective of the universal life of the Church, which they are fully part of. The religious persecution of the '30s did have some specific characteristics in Spain, but it was not an isolated case, nor a merely Spanish event. Our martyr Brothers were not simply the victims of war in a country, or of local revolutions, they were killed during a "long night of martyrdom" that the believers in Jesus Christ went through. Their death is inscribed within a larger persecution against Christians of all denominations carried out during the XX century all around the world, and especially in Europe.

Having stated this, the Church, and particularly the Church of Spain, is safe from the political schemes of one side or the other that wish to blemish the significance of this event. The universal breadth with which the Church looks at what happens to all its members and communities allows her to place the events in a historical perspective stretching well be-





yond the limits that certain misrepresentations wish to force upon her. The statement of the religious, men and women of Spain, is extremely significant in this respect: "As religious of Spain, men and women, we refuse to read this event of martyrdom with an ideological mindset. We believe its sense is rather paschal, standing as a summons to discover the path hidden in furrows sown with death".

Another theological and pastoral perspective of the event deeply underlined the sense of Christian forgiveness. Certain civil society groups felt annoyed and offended because the Church recognised the Brothers as martyrs, ignoring other people who died defending their political or unionist ideas, which, in many cases, coincide with the Christian values of justice and freedom.

In a broader sense, of course, one may call a martyr anyone who is subject to unjust persecution or death. However, in the entire Christian tradition, the name martyr is attributed exclusively to people who bore

witness to their faith and lay down their lives for it. It is up to the Church, only to the Church, to verify if a death is martyrdom or not and to record the person in the book of the Blessed and Saints. On





the contrary, it is up to the civil society to recognise the victims of injustice and intolerance, who died defending their political or unionist ideas. Forgiveness is the only remedy to overcome disputes and claims, and to continue and live and share constructively the

chapters of history that our martyr Brothers took part in. This was the choice of the Marist Institute. On the front of the high altar of the Chapel of the General House, one can read this sentence written in capital letters: "We forgive, for Jesus has forgiven".

SOME REACTIONS

- How very happy

my father and mother would have been if they could have heard what you are now reporting about our martyrs, and if they could have attended the Beatification ceremony... I have not the least doubt that in heaven they will be joining us in the celebration.

- We want to go to Rome, and, whatever it takes, we will be there, at every one of the celebrations which will take place to honor the newly beatified... As far as we are concerned, the fact that we have a martyr in our family is an honor, and we desire to pay him our respect.
- The news about the Beatifications is a cause of great joy for me. The only thing I regret is that my father, cousin to the martyr, is not able to attend the Beatification.
- This display and this photo of the Brother were kept in my parents' bedroom, and we, yes we used to pray there every day.

Beside the tombs of Peter and Paul

The Brothers were extremely glad to celebrate this beatification beside the tombs of the Christian martyrs of the Eternal City and close to the catacombs. The celebration in Rome, however, did not mean a drift from the life of the dioceses and parishes; rather, Rome was the most appropriate gathering place, close to the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul, in order to breathe, with the entire universal Church, the air of authentic witness borne by the martyrs of the whole of Spain. The ceremony and the celebration were both grand, since grand is the page of the history of the Church they reflect. Furthermore, the achievement of this event was a sign of unity

Br. Mariano Santamaría

for the Church on pilgrimage in Spain. From an organisational point of view, it was the first time that causes so numerous and so diverse (23), prepared and completed by the different postulants according to their proper timelines, benefited from a service offered by the Office for the Causes of Saints established by the Spanish Bishops' Conference, and were celebrated in a single ceremony; never before were so many servants of God beatified in one ceremony; up to now it is certainly the one with the highest number in history. The beatifications were also a great event for their pastoral implications. Practically all the Spanish dioceses were involved in the celebration, due to the places of birth or martyrdom, or to the locations where the new Blesseds carried out their apostolate. The new Blessed Marist Brothers of Spain were born in twelve of Spain's current dioceses. But above all it was the reputation of sanctity and the celebration in

their honour that was perceived as the real news for the whole world. All the Marist communities celebrated the event with joy and elation, and many were surprised to discover the simple path of our Brothers, who were worthy of being raised to the honour of the altar.

The different settings of the beatification

The acts of the Marist celebration in Rome took place in three different settings. The first place to bring together the Marist pilgrims was the Shrine of the Madonna del Divino Amore, where the Brothers and the relatives of our martyrs gathered beside our Mother to celebrate our Blessed Brothers. In the Shrine, Brother Superior General and his Council extended their welcome and their greetings to the Marist pilgrims coming from different parts of the world, and the celebration of the sanctity of the new Blesseds took place. The relatives and dear ones of the martyrs were welcomed with special care by the entire Marist Insti-



tute, joyful for the common heritage of the life and sanctity of the new Blesseds.

The second setting was the Vatican, in two different moments: the first with the proclamation of the names of the martyrs during the Solemn Mass celebrated on St Peter's Square, and their recording on the Book of the Blesseds, and the second, inside the Basilica, for the Thanksgiving for all the Beatifications. The Marists joined in, full of joy for the happiness of the universal Church.

The General House was the third place of celebration and gathering. There a special welcome was prepared for the numerous visitors, authorities and close relatives of the martyrs, and for a group of 300 Brothers who had come to Rome to celebrate the event. The House opened wide its doors to offer to everyone the most moving things it keeps and to welcome the visitors in the places that maintain the link between the communities of the General House and the life of the Institute as a whole: Champagnat Hall, the Assembly Hall of the General Council, the Chapter Hall, the relics of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the statue of our Mother Mary, the holiness of the Institute stressed by the Exhibition on the martyr Brothers and the devotion of all the Brothers. The Great Chapel, decorated with unobtrusiveness and elegance, with aesthetic taste and powerfully symbolic, calls to interiorise one's life and way in front of a large cross and a great paschal candle, surrounded by the names of all the Blessed Brothers.

FMS Message 37 would like to collect some memories of the Beatification, and the messages that were read, to trace the highlights of the events scheduled to celebrate the raising to the altars of the first Blessed Marist Brothers.

A HOLY PERSON, SIGN OF GOD'S PRESENCE



Br. Onorino Rota

On the feast day of an Apostle, the Church invites us to sing: « From the forgotten Galilee town, rise up to glory immortal. »

As I glance at the biographies of the Spanish Brothers recently beatified, thinking of their village origins right up to the moment of martyrdom, I find myself standing before ordinary people, authentic Little Brothers of Mary. In the majority of cases, writing the biographies of these men would present serious difficulties for a journalist. Day in and day out, in quiet fashion, they poured out

their lives in making Jesus Christ known and loved. With a background like that, come the moment of trial, they did not hesitate to give their very selves.

The Italian press is much involved these days with a statue of Padre Pio destined for Rignano Garganico and planned to be sixty-meter in height so as to be seen from great distances. In preparing a display in their honor, I preferred to use other criteria. I preferred to stop and reflect upon the moral stature of Laurentino, to busy myself in putting a basket of sweets near Brother Anselmo's portrait, to set aside a display dedicated to the mothers of the martyrs, since they were the ones who had to suffer the loss of their children. I also found delight in singing the "Te acuerdas, Madre," written by Brother Santiago, or to sit silently before the chapel's forty seven candles which were shining upon the names of these "giants" of the faith. I found my satisfaction in painting a set of numbers between 19 and 62. Doing so made me proud to be a member of a family whose members, in life's full vigor, were able to give up their lives for the same person whom I too try to love. It was for such a reason that I also desired to write my name upon the canvas where forty seven hands were outlined, each hand bearing the name of one of the martyrs.

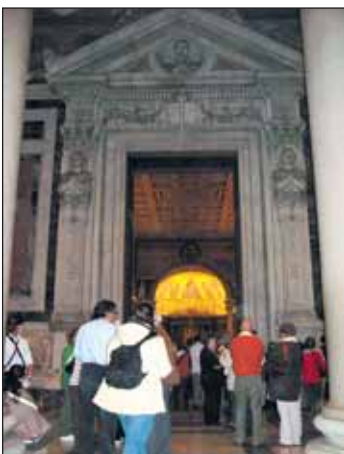
I think that the faces of the martyrs really did merit to be set out upon the facade of the Generalate, because any building comes alive solely when in the building is a person ready to surrender live itself in order to give life to the edifice.

Brothers beatified! You have been raised to the summit, even to heavenly glory. At the same time, however, because of your simplicity of life, I experience you as one of my companions along the pathway of life. As far as I am concerned, you will be the most beautiful of statues. I hope to be able to admire it, not merely on the light-filled days of my life, but also during those days when I feel hesitant about following in the ways laid out for me by God who ever goes before me and is my constant companion.

Thank you for your life and thank you for your death!



Welcome to pilgrims



Spanish Episcopal Conference
and Postulator Generals



RECEPTION IN THE BASILICA OF ST PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALLS

Welcome to pilgrims

The Postulators for the causes of the martyrs, together with the Spanish Episcopal Conference, organised a welcome to the Spanish pilgrims who came to Rome for the celebrations associated with the beatification on Saturday afternoon October 27. More than 7,000 people came to the basilica of St Paul outside the walls to take part in it. In the presence of the Spanish ambassador to the Holy See, Francisco Vazquez, the bishop of Bilbao, president of the Episcopal Conference presided; in welcoming the cardinal of Seville, Carlos Amigo, acknowledged all those who had striven together to attain this outcome.

The most memorable moment was the reading of a letter of Bartolome Blanc, a layman of Cordoue, martyred at the age of 21, written to his aunts and cousins: "I know every one of my assassins; the day will come when you too will know them, but you must follow my example in the way you treat them. My last wish is forgiveness, forgiveness, forgiveness. I beg you with Christian hope to forego vengeance, to do good to those who have tried to do evil to me."





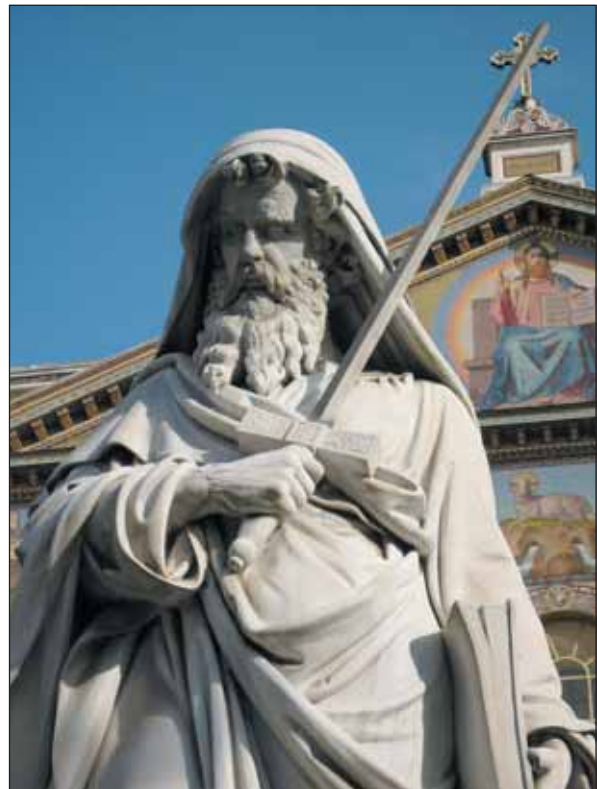
THE 498 MARTYRS POSE A QUESTION TO TODAY'S CATHOLICS CONCERNING THEIR FAITH

Address of Monsignor Ricardo Blazquez, bishop of Bilbao, president of the Spanish Episcopal Conference.

The Church of Rome preserves the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul as shrines to their fidelity to Jesus Christ and as a recognition of the apostolic authority of the Roman See. We are assembled where Paul was decapitated on the way to Ostia, the climax of his faith and love for Jesus Christ who first called him as disciple and apostle on the road to Damascus. I greet you pilgrims who have come from far and near to take part in the joyful feast of the beatification of the 498 martyrs of our dioceses: bishops, religious men and women of the congregations they belonged to who have celebrated their martyrs, brothers and sisters from every corner of the Church in Spain. I offer my affectionate and respectful greetings to his Excellency the Ambassador of Spain to the Holy See. In the name of the Spanish Episcopal conference I thank the archpriest Cardinal Andrea Cordereo Lanza de Montezemolo for the hospitality he has offered to us in this iconic Roman basilica.

My dear pilgrims, we hold fast to the memory of our martyrs as a treasure, these ones who have gone ahead of us bearing the torch of faith and holiness. They are a precious gift of God that we receive with gratitude; we are impelled by the strength of the Lord to proclaim that same faith and live it with fidelity, encouraged by their sublime witness, in the concrete situations of our own times. The martyrdom of these brothers unites us with the Lord and makes us all more worthy.

The martyrs were taken, faced by the alternative, neither sought nor provoked by them, of renouncing their Christian faith and so saving themselves, or remaining faithful to the Lord and in so doing lose their lives; they chose, in the most admirable way: to give their lives in the present and receive life forever, remembering the words of the Lord, "Whoever loses his life for me and for my



Gospel will be saved " (Mk 8:35). "There is no greater love for a man to have than to lay down his life for his friends" (Jn 15:13). The martyrs received from Jesus the gift of his love, and in living and dying for Him they have been filled with the same love. How eloquent the Gospel becomes when it touches on the martyrs!

In becoming martyrs fidelity to God becomes distilled into acts that express the totality of the person. As very many of the martyrs of the Church in the early centuries died while affirming Jesus as Lord ("Iesus Kyrie") in the same way the martyrs to be beatified tomorrow died, affirming with their voices and their hearts, "Long live Christ the King! Some of them were recognised



as Christians by their rosary and at their final moment they knew that it was a decisive sign. Some died because they participated in the Eucharist, others by reason of the fact that they were priests, monks or religious. Those who were able joined in martyrdom others with whom they had shared their faith, their religious profession and their apostolic works. The martyrs have signed with their blood a message that we wish to receive in the most profound way during these extraordinary days. Their death as martyrs glorifies the power of God which gave human fragility its proper wit-

THE BLOOD OF THE SPANISH MARTYRS MUST BECOME THE SEED OF NEW CHRISTIAN

Address of Cardinal Amigo in welcoming the pilgrims to Rome.

Address of Cardinal Carlos Amigo Vallejo, archbishop of Seville. In the course of his words on the beati, he said, among other things:

"We have come to Rome to visit the tombs of the martyrs and to hear the marvels that God the Father performed through the witness of his sons, for the martyrs, with the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaimed by the price of their lives that nothing can stand in the way of the love of Christ." The mystery of the cross is made clear by the martyrs. They and their witness are cause for our joy. The Lord has been magnanimous to us in offering us the life and the example of these martyrs. He concluded his address by saying, "Jesus Christ yesterday with these 498 martyrs. Jesus Christ today, calling us to be his witnesses in the world. Jesus Christ always. He is the holiest of our martyrs, the faithful Witness."



ness. This is what empowered them and gave them their strength (cf Phil 4:13; 2 Cor 12:9-10, Col 1:29). How important was the faith in God that governed their lives and sealed the deaths of these faithful ones! In our time we are called to show that for personal life, family life, and the life of society it is not a matter of indifference to believe in God or not to believe. Everything is changed by the light and the strength that comes with faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. The martyrs ask us today to be faithful to our faith. The martyred brothers move us to be faithful, to have confidence in

God who never fails anyone or abandons them even in persecution. With the authority that their death for the Lord confers on them they hold up to us an evangelical exhortation: If they died while forgiving, we must also follow the same way of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. Their attitude in the face of death is a powerful invitation to respectful coexistence in pluralism.

Dear pilgrims, I wish that during these days you are all blessed by the Lord; that the presence of the successor of Peter, Pope Benedict XVI, strengthens us in the unity of faith and love.



A GREAT FLAME HAS BEEN LIT



Br. Giovanni Maria Bigotto
Postulador

What filled my heart during the days of the beatification was the happiness of the pilgrims, their enthusiasm, the emotion that showed in tears and the **streams** that slowly filled the space of St. Peter's Square. Yes, this sharing of the happiness of the pilgrims was the purest source of my own happiness. Among them was Bro. Francisco Peruchena, 91 years old, one of the 107 incar-

cerated Brothers who told me: "I did not have the grace of martyrdom, but God accompanied me on the road to fidelity". Happiness also, on seeing the happiness in the eyes of Bro. Gabriele Andreucci, the great architect of these beatifications. We lit the fire of happiness for each other.

In Saint Peter's Square, I was concerned. I needed a renewed effort to live the moments of intimacy with our 47 newly beatified. In them the Church recognized Marist sanctity, the evangelical style of those following in the steps of Marcellin Champagnat, our way of life. There came to me a feeling of gentle pride. It reached its height at the reading, in front of about 50.000 pilgrims, of the famous letter of Brother Laurentino: "Now! "

And now I find it difficult to say, Blessed Bernardo, Blessed Laurentino... I will continue simply calling them: Bernardo, Laurentino, Virgilio: they are my brothers whose fidelity reached the end through love. I will give them the halo in official circumstances.

I still have one concern: How to ensure that the great flame lit by the beatification continues to illuminate and warm our family and each one of us?

Reception and expression of gratitude

October 26 2007



Br. Luis García Sobrado
Vicar General



Reception of the authorities and general councils of the Marist Family. Thanks to all those who made the beatification of our Marist martyrs possible.

reception and expression of gratitude

Br. Luis García Sobrado



On October 26 2007, in the late afternoon, Brother Superior General Sean Sammon, together with the community of the General Council, opened the celebrations of the beatification with an evening prayer after dinner at the general house.

The purpose of this prayer and of this reception was to find an opportunity suitable to express the gratitude of the Superior General and his Council, and of the superiors of the Marist provinces of Europe, first, to the civil and religious authorities in Spain for their splendid work in preparing and seeing through the beatification of our forty seven brothers martyrs, and second, to the two Brothers Postulators in Rome, Brothers Gabriel Andreucci and Giovanni Bigotto, and to the vice-postulator of Spain, Brother Mariano Santamaria. These three brothers gave many hours to the work of coordination, historical research and documentation of the causes. This was a quiet but very demanding work that was necessary to recognise on this occasion.

The religious authorities were represented by Monsignor Gil Hellin, archbishop of Burgos, and the civil authorities by Monsieur Francisco Vazquez, Ambassador of Spain to the Holy See.

The brother's provincials of the Marist provinces at present in Spain were represented, on behalf of the whole of Marist Spain, by Brothers





Manuel Torques, Primitivo Mendoza, Samuel Holguin and Xavier Barceló.

Also taking part in this prayer and meeting were the general councils of the four Marist branches who showed by their presence their joy in affirming the holiness of Marist life.

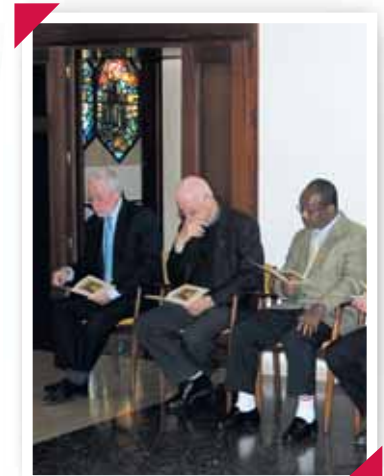
Gathered around the upper flight of the main stairs leading to the office of the superior general and the council room, the names of the newly proclaimed beati were proclaimed together with the *Magnificat* and finishing with the *Salve Regina*. The centre piece invited contemplation: a composition made from dry roots from which sprang precious flowers and a handful of fully ripened ears of wheat: in four languages the title was written: "God draws forth good from bad."

Afterwards all those invited enjoyed a meal in the dining room of Villa EUR where the guests

enjoyed listening to the stories of Brother Francisco Peru Chena. With great vitality despite his 91 years, and in rich detail, he recalled the brothers who were his companions in prison and who spent their last moments in the manner in which they had lived their whole lives: in community, and full of a generous spirit of service and goodness.



Album





THE HOUSE WAS A PARTY



Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas

The time of the beatifications was an authentic time of grace. The martyrdom of our Brothers, made me feel the visible presence of God, and the internationality of the Institute. To sing and to be with 1000 people gathered from the 5 continents in the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Divino Amore, or to be present in Saint Peter's Square crammed with almost 50.000 faith-

ful, feeling invisible but really united with all of those who we were packed into that sunny Roman morning, was a great experience of faith and of community.

On the other hand, and especially for those who live in the General House, I believe that we must recognize that those were days of authentic and sacred "madness". The house was simply a party: the banners with the images of the Brother martyrs in the facade of the house, the flags waving at the entrance of the first floor, the corridor of the General Superiors with the exhibition of the life and the work of the Brother martyrs, the Champagnat room with the relics of Marcellin, the chapel with the symbols of the lamps, the seeds and the cross... and of course, all of us: lay people and Brothers.

The whole community of the House prepared to be hosts, which brought our union and our community affection even closer, working with a single heart and a single spirit. This was made very clear while we were organizing the souvenir bags with wheat seeds or transporting the palms for the celebration in the sanctuary of the Madonna del Divino Amore, when we had to finish mounting the exhibition or become guides for the groups as they arrived, I believe that I could feel the spirit of the Hermitage: everything vibrating for one cause. The image of everyone working shoulder to shoulder in the same enterprise will be etched in our memory forever.

Marist celebration in Mary's own home

October 27, 2007



Br. Emili Turú,
Council liaison
for the Beatification
of our
Spanish martyrs



The prayer service held for the Beatification visitors and the relatives of the martyr Brothers. Sanctuary of the Madonna del Divino Amore. Rome, October 27, 2007.

marist celebration in Mary's own home

Br. Emili Turú



In January 2006, when the Superior General asked me to coordinate the Commission entrusted with preparing the Marist celebrations for the coming Beatification of our 47 Spanish martyr Brothers, I was well aware of treading on delicate land, given the social and political sensitivity of Spain, but at the same time I realised the privilege I was given, to help underline the life and witness of our Brothers for the entire Institute.





Now that the celebrations for the Beatification are over, I am fully convinced that it was a time of grace for those who took part in it. I am sure that the members of the Marist family whom I met did not simply come in visit to Rome, they came on a pilgrimage in its most profound sense: a spiritual journey leading them closer to the source of their faith, the person of Christ (How could our brothers lay down their lives if not for the cause of Jesus and his Gospel) and questioning them concerning the sense of their lives

(What makes the ordinary life of our martyr Brothers so extraordinary?).

I believe that it was also a special time for family conviviality, an extraordinary opportunity to gather together with the family and relatives of our martyrs, an opportunity to give thanks to God all together for their lives in a profound sense of forgiveness and reconciliation. The faces of the relatives, moved by the event, their sincere words of thanks, their simple faith... all this was the best gift of those days. And furthermore, the confirmation that all the efforts made preparing for so many people were certainly worthwhile.



MARIST DAYS

The Commission began its work in February 2006, and since the beginning it believed that due to the high number of people who were to be beatified, it was absolutely necessary to organise celebrations that could privilege the warmth of a personal encounter, against the idea of having what could have presumably been a grand ceremony with scores of people, and therefore rather impersonal.

The idea of creating a "Marist celebration" came forth only slowly, and it finally became concrete thanks to the collaboration of some Brothers of the community of the General Administration, who accurately prepared and implemented the celebration.

marist celebration in Mary's own home

Br. Emili Turú

The place chosen for the event was the Shrine of the "Madonna del Divino Amore", worshipped by the faithful of the diocese of Rome since 1740. The new shrine, which is a wonderful work of art, had the necessary space for our gathering and at the same time connected us to the millennium-old tradition of the Church of Rome. The celebration therefore acquired its "Marist" mark, since it was carried out in the "House of Mary", in order to underline that our martyr Brothers did not belong exclusively to us, and that they already belonged to the universal Church.



THE GRACE OF MEETING

It was Brother Luis García Sobrado, the Vicar General, who wished a warm welcome to everyone, underlining the most significant groups among the audience. The *Salve Regina*, sung in Latin, united the Assembly in a feeling of communion, not only with the Marist tradition, but also with the popular devotion of our cities and villages.

The sign of peace, immediately afterwards, was a simple and brotherly gesture that expressed communion among the thousands of people gathered together, representing the different countries of the world where the Marists are present, with a significant presence of relatives and families of our martyrs.

SEEDS OF LIFE

The celebration was meant to be a call to delve deeper into the heart of our Brothers, as true "seeds of life", in order to discover the impetus of their lives, what produced in them that faith and hope. Four signs were carried in procession to the altar, representing the fire and passion of their hearts:

- The Easter candle ("You are the light of the world");
- The Word of God ("Blessed are those who listen to the Word of God and put it into practice")
- The kernel of wheat ("unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it





produces many seeds”);

– The loaf of bread (“I am the living Bread”).

The proclamation of the Gospel of the “Beatitudes” outlined the profile of the Saints: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the pure in heart, blessed are the peacemakers... Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”!

“The gift of life” was the title chosen by the Br. Superior General as the epigraph of the words he addressed to the Assembly, which we can find in another section of this document.

WALK AT OUR SIDE

One of the most significant moments of the celebration, after the words of Br. Sean, was when 47 people slowly walked along the three aisles of the shrine, bearing great palms in their hands, as the sign and symbol of the life of each of our 47 martyr Brothers. One of the Brothers

who took part in this procession, moved by the event, told me at the end “Who do I represent here, today?”.

While they walked the Assembly sang the litanies of the names of our 47 martyrs, a beautiful song composed by Fr. Toni Torrelles. “Walk at our side” we ceaselessly echoed and repeated.

OUR FATHER HEARS US

When all the palms had been distributed in the large choir of the shrine, the closest relatives of our martyr Brothers were invited to join the choir around the altar, and to preside over the last part of the celebration. Tears of emotion and loving memory, still alive in some of those who were present, the memory of a Marist Brother who had visited his family and said tender words to everyone...



marist celebration in Mary's own home

Br. Emili Turú



*Indeed, without bending
they lay down their lives,
Fearless, brave,
Singing their joy,
Ever faithful to God.*

This was the refrain that the Assembly repeated after each of the prayers of intercession, in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian, extending

our celebration to the needs of the world and of the entire Church. At the end, the whole Assembly, in one voice, said the following prayer:

*Lord our God, Father,
you cause the sun to rise over
the good and the evil
and send rain on the righteous
and unrighteous,
grant us a human heart,
a spirit to teach us tolerance,
a profound sense of brotherhood
embracing every human being,
those of our same mind
and those who are not;
those who pray like we do
and those who hold on their lips
prayers different from our own
or no prayer at all.*



*Full of respect, may we be capable
of bearing witness
to the love that you offer us
through your Son Jesus;
May we proclaim you as the Lord of history.
Father, make us your children,
brothers for each other, united to you
and to every man and every woman
who live with us the same human adventure.
Grant the courage and the smile of your Spirit
to all those whom you call to bear witness
to you to the point of martyrdom,
whether they are Christians or not!*

THANK YOU, MOTHER

All the celebrations held at the shrine of the Divino Amore always end by asking for the blessing of Our Lady, whom the Romans lovingly call "la Madonnina". Our "Marist" celebration ended like this, singing:

*"Our Good Mother,
in you I see
the woman full of God.
Dear Mother,
by faith you live
humble and hidden.
Look upon your children
who walk in search of light.
Look upon our anguish
and our sorrow.
Grant us your faith
and welcome us".*

We spent two hours together before saying good-bye to each other and we still felt the time went by too quickly.

In the house of Mary we found again some old acquaintances of ours, and prayed together, we recalled with love and tenderness the cherished memory of our Brothers... We felt clearly called to follow in their steps: faithfulness in spite of all tests to the mission we received, love for Jesus and Mary, forgiveness and reconciliation.





The gift of life

HOMILY

Br. Seán Sammon
Superior General



On the 20th of September 1936, a young man by the name of Julio Garcia Galarza was arrested and imprisoned in Barcelona. He was 27 years of age at the time and from the Burgos region of Spain. Taken into custody with him that same day were two other men: Santiago María Sáiz, age 23 and Félix León Ayúcar, age 24. As frightening as arrest and imprisonment might have been for these three, all were probably unaware of the fact that in just over two weeks time they would be dead.

Twenty-seven has its charm; so also does 23 and 24. At those ages the bulk of life most often still lies ahead. And so, with time to burn, we dance from one interest to another, struggle to find our place in this world, and wonder about the role of faith in the midst of all that is unfolding. Not so these men. As young people of their age, they carried with them all the joys and burdens of being in one's twenties. But because they were also men of integrity, they had greatness thrust upon them. Not passively but because of their free acceptance of the consequences of their beliefs and actions. Jesus Christ meant more to them than life itself.





However, let us never romanticize martyrdom for the price it exacts is one's life, and who among us seeks to die. Lord Chancellor of England Sir

and Saint Thomas More, for example, imprisoned in the Tower of London because of his refusal to sign the Oath of Royal Supremacy as Henry VIII demanded, sought every legal means of resolving his dilemma. When he had exhausted his options, however, More stood ready to surrender his life for what he believed. When faced with the choice between betraying their beliefs and life, martyrs count the latter of lesser value.

Let us also remember that the men whose lives and sacrifice we mark this weekend were ordinary men, not much different than you or I. Santos, for example, was the son of farmers, while Jesús came from a family of millers. And while Santos entered the juniorate at age 12, Jesús was what in those days would have been known as a late vocation. He entered the novitiate at Les Avellanes at 27.

The youngest among our martyrs was Carlos Rafael, age 19. He was known for his optimism and candor. The oldest of the group, Epifanio, who from the beginning sensed the fate that awaited all who went aboard the ship *Cabo San Agustin* on October 7th, 1936, was 62 years of age. Known as an excellent teacher, he had served as Superior of several communities and Director of many schools. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Provincial Council.

Yes, they were ordinary men, but they lived extraordinary lives. And, they were able to do so because they were also men in love with God. Like our founder, Marcellin Champagnat, they had come to understand that Jesus was at the center of any life lived well, and that a passion for him and his *Good News* was the chief characteristic of the way of life they had

chosen for their own.

Like Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whom many judge to have died a martyr's death during World War II, these brothers of ours were men for whom God was real and always near. Brother Diogen, Superior General at the time reminds us that "When God asked them for their lives, in all self-knowledge and humility they acquiesced."

On reading the account of the last hours in the life of our youngest martyr, Carlos Rafael, I could not help but think of Bonhoeffer and his final days. On Sunday, April 8th, 1945, as he was ending a worship service in the prison where he was being held, the door to the room opened and two civilians entered. They said, "Prisoner Bonhoeffer, come with us." For all present, these words had only one meaning—the gallows. They bid him farewell, but before leaving Bonhoeffer took one of them





The whole world has gathered in the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Divino

Amore: countries, languages, different ages... but it seems that today all that is not important. The great Marist Family is gathered here to celebrate the gift of the life of 47 Brothers martyrs. The words, the sounds, the shock and the happiness of being here make us feel close to these witnesses of love. With the sign of peace we open our hearts to the tenderness that God has towards us and we listen to the history of these Brothers who testify to us all their great fidelity to God. The words, the symbols, the songs make us feel close to these Brothers and there is no sadness but only happiness. The Superior General recounts for us the "normal" and extraordinary life of these men remembering that their strength was in their proximity to Christ. I look at the faces of the children who are here and I ask God that they can truly understand that life is a gift that should not be wasted. The seed of life that today has been planted in our heart is an invitation to hope: we do not have to be afraid, Mary holds us in her arms.

Francesco and Roberta Loreti



aside and said, "This is the end, but for me it is the beginning of life." He was hanged the next day.

Carlos Rafael, the Benjamin among our martyrs, on seeing that those who left San Elias prison were not returning realized that he and his fellow brothers would meet their fate. With this knowledge in mind and the innocence that only a 19 year old could have, he was moved to tell a neighbor: "We are also going to die as martyrs and we will go to heaven. What luck!"

But what lesson do the lives and deaths of these brothers of ours hold for us today. We know that they have taken their place among the Communion of Saints and are part of a long line of martyrs from Spain, including our brothers who died in Bugobe. But what lesson do their lives and death have for us? Several actually. First of all, our brothers were teachers in the best sense of that word, teaching through the example of their lives. Like our founder they had set their hearts upon making Jesus known and loved among poor children and young people. Like all martyrs, they had come to take the gospel seriously.

Second, by their lives and deaths, these brothers of ours teach us about the importance of reconciliation. For, to be martyrs they had, first of all, to forgive those who took their lives. All wars are bitter,

civil wars perhaps more than most. For they set father against son, mother against daughter, brother against brother. In their aftermath, the work of healing and reconciliation can be as painful as war itself.

For any nation, the wounds left by a war never seem to heal on their own. Forgiveness is the only real remedy. For forgiveness leads to healing, and healing leads

to reconciliation, and reconciliation leads to new life. If the lives and deaths of the men whose witness we celebrate today are to mean anything, they must be the catalyst for forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation in the lives of each of us.

Martyrs are dangerous people. Not because of their beliefs for we all have beliefs. But due to the fact that they are willing to take action because of those beliefs. They know full-well that the gospel makes little sense unless it is visible in the words and actions of those who claim it as their own.

The 20th century is often referred to as an era of extraordinary progress in science and technology. However, it will also be seen through the prism of history as a time of great killing, the mass murders of peoples simply because of who there were or what they believed. And our brothers who died in Spain in 1934 and 1936 will be numbered among those who gave their lives so for someone greater than life itself: our Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot but admire them; we would do better to imitate them.

Life is a precious gift. Each of us has but one, made up of a limited number of years. And while life is freely given and ours to make of it what we will, the length of its days is not ours to determine. Some among us are taken prematurely due to accident or ill-health. The promise of our lives is perhaps not realized fully.



Others live many years beyond what might be expected; they witness great change, innovation, progress. But in every generation, there are also those few who achieve greatness through the free surrender of their lives. Cherishing God more than life itself, they leave a legacy that spans the centuries. On October 6th, 1934, Plácido Fàbrega Julià, known to us as Brother Bernardo, took his place among them. Two years later Mariano Afonso Fuente, known to us as Brother Laurentino, and 45 other confreres did the same. Let us give praise to our God for the lives and witness of Blessed Bernardo and Blessed Laurentino, as well as those of Blessed Carlos Rafael, Blessed José Federico, Blessed Ramón Alberto, Blessed Juan Crisóstomo, Blessed Gabriel Eduardo, Blessed Santiago María, Blessed Félix León, Blessed Alberto María, Blessed Ismael, Blessed Frumencio, Blessed Vulfrano, Blessed José Carmelo, Blessed Hermógenes, Blessed Victorino José, Blessed Vivencio, Blessed Santos, Blessed Gil Felipe, Blessed Dionisio Martín, Blessed Martiniano, Blessed Lino Fernando, Blessed Miguel Ireneo, Blessed Porfirio, Blessed Isaías María, Blessed Ángel Andrés, Blessed Jaime Ramón, Blessed Juan de Mata, Blessed Víctor Conrado, Blessed Fortunato Andrés, Blessed Santiago, Blessed Licarión, Blessed Gaudencio, Blessed Vito José, Blessed Virgilio, Blessed Felipe José, Blessed Antolín, Blessed Teódulo, Blessed Laureano Carlos, Blessed Prisciliano, Blessed Baudilio, Blessed Leopoldo José, Blessed Salvio, Blessed Leónides, Blessed Anselmo, Blessed Bernabé, and Blessed Epifanio. Pray for us. Amen.



Album





Album





THE LICEO CASTILLA DE BURGOS, RELATED TO THE MARTYRS



Br. Jesús Corral Carranza

We left from the Brothers' residence on the morning of October 26. "On the night of the 8th-9th of October 1936, the 46 Brothers were taken out of San Elías prison, Barcelona, and murdered". The bus was waiting for us. Little by little we gathered together, the Brothers and the relatives of the Brothers martyrs and we set out on the trip to Rome. A large group, 16 of the 47 newly beatified, were born in Castile. Behind us there were many days of preparation and memories.

"It was at night". The collage of photographs that commemorated the 172 Brothers, the stories of older Brothers, the various publications, and the successive announcements of the beatification process... they were behind us. The Roman sun of October 28 exploded to herald the way to the light and the truth. It is day of glory.

In the Liceo Castilla de Burgos and in the Marist community we took part in these beatifications with great joy. Two of the beatified martyrs, Brothers Laurentino and Virgilio were directors of this Centre and four, also, teachers: Brothers Angel Andrés, Anselmo, Ismael and Licarión. For us, Brothers and teachers of the Liceo Castilla de Burgos, this beatification, besides being a great joy, is a commitment to our received inheritance. Like them, it is our desire, and we continue making it a reality, to continue building our existence day by day from our mission of Marist educators; it is not at all easy. And this has been happening since 1891, the date of our Marist presence in Burgos.

This Centre, encouraged by Brother Laurentino, was the base for publications and pedagogic books that would be the origin of the editorial FTD; the current museums display the didactic resources that have always been present in Marist pedagogy. A rich credit that must become our inheritance for the future.

The Beatification ceremony for the 47 Marist Brothers

October 28, 2007



Br. AMEstaún



An event of grace for the entire Church. Beatification Mass. St. Peter's Square, Vatican City.

the Beatification ceremony for the 47 Marist Brothers

Br. AMEstauñ



Sunday, 28th October 2007 was a radiant day of light for Rome and for the Church of Spain, on a pilgrimage to the Eternal City to take part in the beatification of 498 of its children. The pilgrims got up early to reach St. Peter's Square. From six o'clock thousands of them queued up waiting for the police to open the security checks. Rome looked like a Spanish city, at least the surroundings of the Vatican did. Everything was ready to celebrate the beatification of 498 martyrs of the XX century in Spain, and among them 47 Marist brothers.



An atmosphere of peaceful celebration

After the mandatory security check, the crowd started to fill St. Peter's Square. The 35.000 chairs that the Vatican employees had placed were quickly filled; the number was proven clearly insufficient. Estimates say 50.000 people were present. The pilgrims coming from Spain brought handkerchiefs with them, of different colours identifying different groups. During some moments of the celebration, several Spanish flags circulated; some represented small groups of people, others the regions or autonomous districts of Spain. One could see also several banners in honour of the martyrs. All the colours added an atmosphere of solemn and serene festivity

to a simple celebration lived with composure and contemplation. Four large TV screens were placed in strategic points on St. Peter's Square, and they allowed the people who were present to all take part in the details of the ceremony.

The Beatification Mass for the martyrs was dressed with the colours of solemnity thanks to the presence of a large number of cardinals, bishops, priests, diplomats, representatives of religious congregations and martyrs' relatives. On both sides of the altar, the concelebrants stood (71 Spanish bishops and 1300 priests), together with the official delegations, the Superior Generals of the Religious Congregations which the martyrs belonged to, and a group of relatives of the new Blessed. A group of pilgrims in wheelchairs followed the ceremony from a privileged location, closer to the altar.

Practically all the Spanish dioceses are connected to one or another among the martyrs, either because of their place of birth, or because of the place where they died, or because of where they carried out their pastoral activity. The same is true for religious congregations. Among those with the largest number of martyrs are the Augustinians, with 98, the Brothers of the Christian Schools, with 58, and the Marists, with 47.

A Mass of multitudes

As a forward to the official ceremony, several texts were read, chosen among the various scripts of the martyrs who were about to be be-

atified. One of the texts, which deeply moved the Marists, was the letter written by Brother Laurentino to encourage his brothers to be strong in faith and in their Marist vocation in front of the heavy test that was befalling them.

At exactly 10 o'clock, the cross of the procession appeared in the door of St. Peter's Basilica; it was followed by the bishops who were to concelebrate, presided over by the Portuguese Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. While the procession advanced towards the altar, on the stairs of the basilica, the assistants sang: "Somos en la tierra semilla de otro reino, somos testimonio de amor. Paz para las guerras y luz para las sombras, Iglesia peregrine de Dios".

The Rite of Beatification

The most moving moment came when the names of the martyrs who were about to be beatified were read out loud, asking the Pope to record them in the Book of the Blessed. Cardinal Antonio María Ruoco Varela, from the Archdiocese most of the martyrs belonged to, accompanied by the Bishops and Postulators, walked toward the altar and said:

"Eminence, together with the archbishops and bishops from the dioceses where the 23 Causes were prepared for the 498 Martyrs of the XX century in Spain, we humbly ask His Holiness Benedict XVI to graciously condescend to write the



the Beatification ceremony for the 47 Marist Brothers



names of these Venerable Servants of God among the names of the Blessed”.

Afterwards, the bishops listed the causes of Beatification each of their dioceses was involved in. The Archbishop of Barcelona named “Laurentino (Mariano Alfonso Fuente), Virgilio (Trifón Lacunza Unzu) and 44 companions, Marist brothers”. The Archbishop of Burgos called out the name of “Bernardo (Plácido Fábrega Julià), Marist brother”.

Cardinal Antonio Maria Ruoco Varela concluded his petition with the following words:



“These new martyrs share the following characteristics: they were men and women of faith and prayer, especially rooted in the Eucharist and in their devotion to the Virgin Mary; also, as much as was possible, they took part in the Holy Mass, they received the Holy Communion and invoked Mary praying with the Rosary; they were apostles full of courage when they had to bear witness to their life as believers; always available to comfort others and to support their fellow prisoners, they rejected the summons to underestimate or reject their Christian identity



and they were strong when they were forced to undergo ill-treatment and torture; they forgave their tormentors and prayed for them; when the time of sacrifice came, they showed profound peace and serenity, they praised God and proclaimed Christ as their One and Only Lord”.

Reading of the Apostolic Letter

Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, read the Apostolic Letter:

“By order of the Sovereign Pontiff Benedict XVI, we now proceed with the reading of the Apostolic Letter whereby His Holiness records in the Book of the Blessed the Venerable Servants of God who lay down their lives for their faith.

Having welcomed the desire of our brothers, Lluís Martínez Sistach, Archbishop of Barcelona, Francisco Gil Hellín, Archbishop of Burgos,



by virtue of our Apostolic authority, we consent that the venerable servants of God... Bernardo Fabrega Julia, professed religious of the Institute of Marist Brothers of the Schools, Laurentino Alonso Fuente, Virgilio Lacunza Unzu and 44 companions of the Institute of Marist Brothers of the Schools... who in Spain, during the XX century, shed their blood to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, be called from now on with the name of Blesseds and that their festivity be celebrated every year on 6th November in the places and ways established by law. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”.

In that precise moment, from the balcony of the main facade of the Basilica, a large banner was unrolled, with the words “Beatification of the Martyrs of Spain. Rome 2007. 1934-36-37” over the shaded faces of the 498 martyrs. At the same time, the choir started to sing a song of acclamation “Christus vincit,



Christus regnat, Christus, Christus, imperat”. On St. Peter’s Square, standing, the people celebrated the beatification of the martyrs with many an applause, that rose from the heart of the thousands of people who had the privilege of living such an event. The singing of the Gloria concluded this first part of the ceremony.



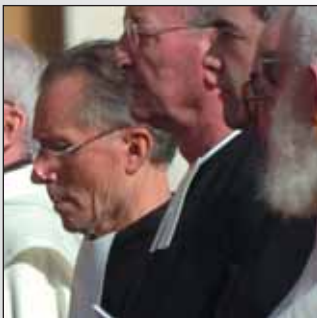


Shedding one's blood for the faith

*Your Eminences, Your Excellencies,
Bishops and Brothers in the Priesthood,
Distinguished Authorities,
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

HOMILY

Cardinal José
Saraiva Martins



Charged by Pope Benedict XVI to act as his Delegate, I have had the pleasant task of making public the Document through which the Holy Father proclaims blessed 498 Martyrs who poured out their blood for the faith during the religious persecution in Spain in 1934, 1936 and 1937. These Martyrs include Bishops, priests, men and women religious and faithful of both sexes. Three were 16 years old and the oldest was 78.

Until their martyrdom, this large group of Blesseds expressed their love for Jesus Christ, their fidelity to the Catholic Church and their intercession with God for the whole world. Before dying, they forgave those who persecuted them - and even prayed for them -, as was recorded in the causes for their Beatification introduced in the Archdioceses of Barcelona, Burgos, Madrid, Mérida-Badajoz, Oviedo, Seville and Toledo, and in the Dioceses of Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cuenca, Gerona, Jaén, Málaga and Santander.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms: "Martyrdom is the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith" (n. 2473). Indeed, following Jesus also means following him in suffering and accepting persecution for love of the Gospel (cf. Mt 24: 8-14; Mk 13: 9-13; Lk 21: 12-19): "And you will be hated by all for my name's sake" (Mk 13: 13; cf. Jn 15: 21). Christ anticipated that our lives would be bound to his own destiny.



The logo of this Beatification, which is of historical importance because of the very large number of new Blesseds, has as its central theme a cross that is red, the symbol of love taken to the point of pouring out blood for Christ.

The cross is flanked by a stylized palm branch which intentionally resembles tongues of fire, in which we see symbolized the victory of the Martyrs who with their faith conquer the world (cf. I Jn 1: 4), as well as the flames of the Holy Spirit that came to rest on the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, and likewise the burning bush that was not consumed by the flames (cf. Ex 3: 1-6), where God appeared to Moses in the Exodus account and is an expression of his very being: the Love that is given and is never extinguished.

These symbols are framed by a circular caption which calls to mind a map of the world: "Beatificación Mártires de España [Beatification Martyrs of Spain]."

The caption says "Martyrs of Spain" and not "Spanish Martyrs" because Spain was the site of their martyrdom and the homeland of many of them, but there were also some who came from other nations, in fact, from France, Mexico and Cuba.

In any case, martyrs are not the exclusive patrimony of a single diocese or nation. Rather, because of their special participation in the Cross of Christ, Redeemer of the Universe, they belong to the whole world, to the universal Church.

A saying of the Lord from the Gospel according to Matthew was chosen as the motto for this Beatification: "You are the light of the world" (Mt 5: 14). As the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, declares in the opening line: "Christ is the light of humanity" (n. 1); this light is reflected in the face of the Church down the centuries.

Today, it shines in a special way in the Martyrs whose memory we are celebrating.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world (cf. Jn 1: 5-9) that enlightens our minds, so that in recognizing the truth we may live in accordance with our dignity as human beings and children of God. Thus, we too, transformed into the light of the world, may enlighten all people with the witness

of a life lived in total consistency with the faith we profess.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (II Tm 4: 7). This is what St Paul, already nearing the end of his life, wrote in the text of the Second Reading for this Sunday. With their death, these Martyrs made St Paul's same convictions come true.

The Martyrs did not win glory for themselves alone. Their blood that soaked into the ground became a source of fertility and abundant fruit.



The Holy Father John Paul II expressed this in one of his Messages, inviting us to cherish the memory of Martyrs: "If we forget the Christians who sacrificed their lives to strengthen the faith, the present time with its projects and ideals would lose a precious element, since the great human and religious values would no longer be comforted by a concrete witness integrated into history" (*Message to Cardinal Paul Poupard*, 6 November 2003, n. 2; *L'Osservatore Romano* English edition, 3 December, p. 5).

We cannot be content with only celebrating the memory of Martyrs, admiring their example as we trudge wearily on in our own lives. What message do the Martyrs offer to each one of us present here?

We are living in an age when the true identity of



Christians is constantly threatened. This means either that they are "martyrs", that is to say, they adhere consistently to their baptismal faith, or that they are obliged to make compromises.

October 28 was a very special day for the beatification of the martyrs who give glory to God through their life and death, and who have become signs of love, pardon and peace. As personal testimony I have to point out that the impact of the many events was wonderful. The Saturday celebration at Marist level, was perhaps the greatest thing for me, through the preparation, the celebration, the content and emotions, On Sunday the immensity of the solemnity really impacted, the diversity of people that shared the same celebration. I was filled with a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of excitement, to be able to share with the people around me, as much with those at a distance, as with those within my reach. I am and we are heirs of the faith and love of the martyrs. The challenge that they send out to today's generations is that of being the light of the world. The ceremony of the beatification has been for me a call to testify to the love to God.
"Vosaltres sou la llum del món"

Lluís Garrofé



Since Christian life is a daily personal confession of faith in the Son of God made man, this consistency may in some cases even require Christians to pour out their blood.

But just as one Christian's life given in defence of the faith has the effect of strengthening the whole Church, the act of proposing the example of the Martyrs means remembering that holiness does not only consist in the reaffirmation of values common to all but in personal adherence to Christ the Saviour of the cosmos and of history. Martyrdom is a paradigm of this truth based on Pentecost.

Personal confession of the faith makes us take another step. It enables us to discover a strong bond between the conscience and martyrdom.

"The profound sense of the witness of the martyrs", as the then Cardinal Ratzinger wrote, lies in the fact that "they witness to man's capacity for truth as a limit to all power and a guarantee of his divine likeness. It is precisely in this sense that Martyrs are the great witnesses of the conscience, of the human ability itself to perceive, over and above power, also duty, and therefore, to pave the way to true progress, to true ascesis" (J. Ratzinger, *Elogio della coscienza*, Rome, 16 March 1991, p. 89).

The Martyrs who are inscribed in the Roll of the Blessed today behaved as good Christians, and when the moment came, they did not hesitate to offer their lives with the cry on their lips: "Long live Jesus Christ!".

To the men and women of our day they say aloud that we are all called to holiness, all of us without exception, as the Second Vatican Council solemnly



declared in dedicating a chapter of its most important Document - chapter V of the Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium* - "The call to holiness".

God created and redeemed us so that we might be saints! We cannot be satisfied with a lukewarm Christian life.

Nor can Christian life be reduced merely to a few individuals and isolated acts of piety: it must embrace every moment of our days on this earth.

Jesus Christ must be present in the faithful fulfilment of our ordinary daily duties, interwoven with details that seem small and unimportant, but these tasks acquire importance and supernatural grandeur when they are done out of love for God.

The Martyrs scaled the peak of heroism in the battle in which they gave their lives for Christ. The heroism to which God calls us is hidden in the thousand skirmishes of our life each day. We must be convinced that our holiness - this holiness, let us have no doubt about it, to which God calls us - consists in achieving what John Paul II called the "high standard of ordinary Christian living" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, n. 31). The message of the Martyrs is a message of faith and love. We must examine ourselves courageously and make practical resolutions to dis-

cover whether this faith and this love are expressed heroically in our own lives; heroism also of faith and love in our action, as people inserted into history like the leaven that causes dough to rise properly.

Faith, Benedict XVI tells us, helps to purify reason so that it may succeed in perceiving the truth.

Being consistent Christians therefore obliges us not to feel inhibited as we face the duty to contribute to the common good and always to shape society in accordance with justice, defending - in a dialogue modelled by love - our convictions on the dignity of the person, on life from conception to natural death, on the family founded on the one indissoluble matrimonial union of a man and a woman, on the parent's primary right and duty to decide on the education of their children, and on other matters that arise in the daily life of the society in which we live.



Let us conclude, united with the Holy Father Benedict XVI and the universal Church alive on all five continents, by invoking the intercession of the Martyrs beatified today and by turning with trust to Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs so that, on fire with a burning desire for holiness, we may follow their example.



Prayer of the faithful

Among the people who took part in the prayer of the faithful, we should stress the presence of Brother Manuel Vasquez Filgueriras, in charge of the Internship of the Marist School of Santa Maria in Ourense (Spain), who read his prayer in Galician: "Por los xoves, a quen Cristo chama hoxe para que lle sigan como apóstolos do tercio milenio e portadores de esperanza: para que o exemplo e a prexomidade dos novos mártires, tan novos moitos deles, alente a súa resposta vocacional no sacerdocio, a vida consagrada e o matrimonio, indisoluble y fecundo. Dominum oremus. Aveniat regnum tuum". Other prayers were read in Italian, French, Catalanian and Basque.

I had to wait many years before I was able to read a short biography of my great-uncle, Brother Victor Conrado, recently beatified. His biography is contained in the "positio." I see him as an ordinary person, taking responsibility for his own personal development, honest son as he was of a blacksmith, attentive to the poor, and noted for a deep sense of communion with his Brothers. I am proud to read the biography. I am moved when I re-tell his story. In a way, I consider myself the harvest of what my uncle has sown. The celebration that was held at the sanctuary of the Madonna del Divino Amore brought many of us together into one Marist Family with the martyrs. The celebration had been preceded by smaller ones in the community of Sants, Barcelona, where I live. There, with my confreres, I told off the litanies honoring each of our martyrs. These celebrations remain in my memory as a kind of challenge. Hearing the names of so many faithful and deeply committed martyrs, it is not easy to recall these Brothers without being deeply touched, and to ask that we might walk in their footsteps. As a result of the beatifications, several messages remain for us to understand better and to capitalize upon: the photos taken during the beatification days, especially at the various gatherings; the displays set up at the Generalate; the audio visual presentation in the Chapter Hall; the various texts written for the occasion; the large palms - living and full of promise - used at the prayer service to represent the martyrs; the countenances of Brother and lay people and, especially striking, the faces of the martyrs' immediate family. Thank you!

H. Toni Torrelles

Congressman Juan Andrés Torres Mora, grand-nephew of one of the martyrs, and by eight other congressmen of the People's Party. Doubtless, the highest among the delegations was that of the relatives, some very close, of the 498 martyrs.

The celebration ended with the singing of the hymn to the martyrs "Semillas de paz" (Seeds of peace), sung by the choir of the Cathedral of Almudena. The words were by Fr. José Luis Moreno, and the music by Claretian Luis Elizalde:

"Semillas de paz, mártires de Cristo, signos de amor, valientes testigos, antorcha de fe en nuestro camino".

Official Delegations

The delegation of the Spanish Government was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Angel Moratinos, who was accompanied by the Ambassador of Spain to the Holy See, Francisco Vazquez, the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Luis Calvo, and the General Director of Religious Affairs, Mercedes Rico Godoy. Representatives of the seven autonomous departments and numerous municipalities were also present. The Parliament was represented by socialist

SONG

Todos unidos, formando un solo cuerpo,
un pueblo que en la Pascua nació.
Miembros de Cristo en sangre redimidos,
Iglesia peregrina de Dios.
Todos nacidos en un solo bautismo,
unidos en la misma comunión.
Todos viviendo en una misma casa,
Iglesia peregrina de Dios.



STATISTICS OF THE BEATIFICATIONS

From the dossier of the Press Office

71 Spanish bishops

1.300 concelebrating priests

2.500 martyrs' relatives

50.000 pilgrims at the Beatification Mass

More than **30.000** pilgrims from Spain on package tours (**1.500** from the Marist Family)

More than **150** journalists were accredited by the Vatican to cover the event.

The Vatican TV Centre transmitted images of the beatification ceremony to TVE, Popular TV and Intereconomía TV, which broadcast the event live.

The website "Beatifications Special" of the Spanish Bishops' Conference was visited by about **80.000** people, half of them between 27th and 28th October.

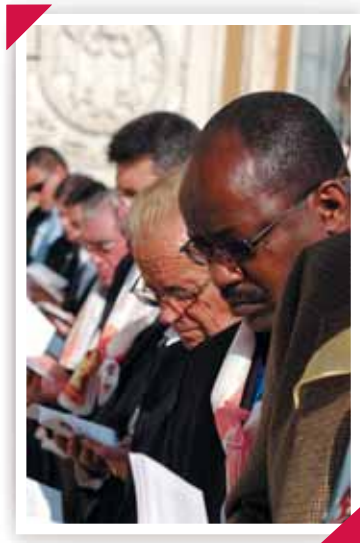
The news most clicked among the ones published on the website www.champagnat.org was the proclamation of the beatification of the 47 martyr brothers – more than **1.500** visits.



Album

THE BEATIFICATION CEREMONY FOR THE 47 MARIST BROTHERS





Album

THE BEATIFICATION CEREMONY FOR THE 47 MARIST BROTHERS





MARTYRIA 3436



Br. Marcelo C.F. De Brito

To experience the celebration of the beatifications of our Brothers martyrs in Rome as part of a community energized with conviction, dedication and many expressions of fraternity, has been for me a typical Marist experience of grace and a wonderful opportunity to rediscover the spirituality and sense of martyrdom as part of Christian life.

As a finishing touch to the enormous picture that our General House became in those days my contribution consisted in the digital editing of the videotape *Martyria 3436*. Supported by my expertise in digital

programming rather than my artistic and expressive gifts, we set to work. God took pity on my limitations and put into my hands the excellent script written by Bro. Toni Torrelles and a couple of music discs selected by him. In the development stage I let myself be moved by the music and, mainly, by that first word that would resonate in the final product: Happiness! That word and the face of the Brothers martyrs gave me another perspective on martyrdom, that of their heart, of a handful of simple lives with virtues and rough edges, but happily passionate for Jesus Christ. All this made me feel the call to celebrate the happiness of their dedicated and accomplished life, rather than the tragedy of their death. I believe that it is also a gift to live more intensely this *Year of Marist Spirituality* from that happiness that springs from our passion for Jesus Christ and his Word.

Angelus with the Pope

October 28, 2007



The Pope's greeting to those present. Saint Peter's Square, Vatican City.



At exactly twelve noon, Benedict XVI appeared at the window of his rooms, prayed the Angelus and blessed the multitude waiting for him in the square at the conclusion of the beatification mass. In the words he directed to the pilgrims Benedict XVI dedicated an affectionate greeting to all those who had attended the beatification of the martyrs and especially the Spanish pilgrims. After the Angelus, the Pope gave some words of thanks to God "for the great gift of these heroic witnesses of the faith who, moved exclusively by their love of Christ, paid with their blood for their fidelity to Him and his Church.



I was greatly impressed by the attention, the affection and the fraternal spirit with which the Brothers of the community of Rome treated their visitors from so many different countries. The atmosphere in the house radiated a religious climate of happiness, identifying through various symbols, the Marist martyrs of all times, celebrating with faith, with recognition and deep pride the sanctity proposed by our Founder and which made them become Brothers. I was impressed by the creativity, the good taste, the aesthetic feeling and the wealth of detail relative to the beatification of the Brothers martyrs which translated into a vibrant catechesis. The visitors were welcomed and accompanied around the exhibition which narrated the most outstanding features in the life of the Brothers, making more comprehensible their life, their apostolic zeal and their heroism when opting between life and the faith. The availability of the Brothers of the Community was also felt as a testimony of life, helping the visitors to experience fraternity and recalling to mind what they had lived in their childhood beside the Brothers.

**Br. Waldomiro Bettoni
Prov. do Rio Grande do Sul, BR**

With their testimony they light our spiritual road towards sanctity, and encourage us to give our lives as offerings of love to God and the Brothers. At the same time, with their words and expressions of forgiveness towards their persecutors they encourage us to work unflinchingly for mercy, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. "

Interrupted often by the applause of the crowds, the Pope invited us "to strengthen our ecclesiastic communion. To be faithful witnesses of the Gospel in the world, feeling the happiness of being living members of the Church". And he concluded his speech by asking the newly beatified, "through the Virgin Mary, Queen of Martyrs to intercede for the Church in Spain and in the world; that the fecundity of their martyrdom produce abundant fruits of Christian life in the faithful and in their families; that their blood which has been spilled be the seed of numerous holy vocations, priestly, religious and missionary."



VOICES OF THE PILGRIMS AS HEARD BY THE VISITORS' GUIDE

Preparations were long and carefully carried out. The event itself was organised in great detail. The previous days went by in a flurry of activities and concern. The celebration of “our martyr brothers” was well worth it. And the hundreds of people expected for the event certainly deserved it.



Br. Juan Moral Barrio

When we shall remove the decorations, the symbols and the exhibition, all will go back to normal, but it will not be “the end of the party”, as empty as a desert, there will rather be a calm feeling of satisfaction in everyone. Either because the outcome was extremely positive, or because the impression and general feeling are of something pleasant and harmonious, we are left with a nice taste in our mouth for days we can live once more and which we wish would come again.

I remember a few common expressions that had nothing to do with the banal language of an exchange of formalities. The emotion and intensity they were uttered with left no doubt as to the desires and intentions they revealed. Here are some of them:

“You prepared a wonderful itinerary, full of catechetical contents”.

“You prepared the itinerary in the house carefully, with plenty of details of the life of the Marist family”.

“Everything in Rome was an unforgettable experience, but I also loved the presentation in the General House”.

"I was glad that we could visit the General House at the end of our programme and stay in Rome. It was like the climax of these moving days".

I also remember three anecdotes concerning the martyrs' relatives. Being elderly people, who were particularly touched by the events, there was an irresistible emotion in their witness:

While we were going through the thematic exhibition of the "corridor of the superiors", we could stop by each of the groups that showed special memories and touching facts. We could sing with the group the "You remember, Mother", the musical work of the blessed martyr brother Santiago, in front of the statue in white marble of the Virgin of Fatima, with that personal stirring in one's heart for a special honour reserved to a member of the family. And finally, with tears in her eyes a woman approached me and said: "Please, leave me the music sheet of this song. Today I really feel the joy and pride of belonging to the family of a Marist martyr".

As we approached the painting of brother Victorino with another group, Joseph Blanch, his nephew, could no longer hold back his emotion, and tears came to his eyes when he saw the arrangement that had been prepared: "Les espar-denyes!" (the slippers); and he stood weeping while listening to his story. Shortly later, when he had recovered, he told me "Today is one of the most happy days of my life. I felt involved in the martyrdom of my uncle and I felt the honour that my whole family was given with this celebration".

Someone gently approached me, before I left the group I was taking through the exhibition: "See – he said – now I feel that the things and details of the life of my relative martyr are really interesting. Please, gather together all the documents that are in the archives for me; they will be like authentic relics for us. We shall read them again and again, and treasure them with affection".

A family gatering

October 28, 2007



Marist Brothers, at home, under the protection of their Good Mother. General House, Rome. Meeting of brothers with the Superior General.



I had the great happiness of attending the recent beatification of our Marist Brother martyrs of Spain. I regard the opportunity as a very special message which the newly beatified Brothers have given to me. This is so because, over my years of religious life, I have had the chance to speak about these martyrs in religion classes, in conferences and at exhibitions set up to honor Mary. During the Mass of Beatification, an intense unity could be felt in the huge crowd in praising and thanking God and the Church for presenting to the Christian world these 498 models of fidelity, and among them, in a special way, our forty seven Brothers. During the Mass and at the ceremony of beatification, I felt caught up in strong emotions. How proud I was to be a member of the great Marist family! Moments which I will never forget! I was imagining to myself the following triumphant scene: the group of our 47 Brother arriving in heaven, greeted with open arms by Champagnat who hurries to bring them to Mary; and she, in her turn, presenting them to her Son, so that he might bestow upon them the crown of glory.

Br. Paul-André Lavoie

On Sunday evening, October 28, after the Mass of the beatification of the martyrs that had seen St Peter's Square filled with people of every age and condition, the Superior General, Sean Sammon, gathered the brothers who had come to Rome on pilgrimage to rejoice in a fraternal meeting and give thanks to God for the gift of the 47 Marist martyrs beatified by the Church that



morning. About 300 Marist Brothers from different countries came to the meeting, at 5.00 pm, the hour of Vespers after a long day filled with prayer and emotion. "How good it is to be united in love!" These were precious moments spent with the Superior General brought together by the 47 martyrs.

A living presence

The family gathering began in the Main Chapel where the presence of the martyrs was tangibly felt through the flickering of 47 lamps filled with oil. In the catacombs in Rome the first Christians used similar lamps. This symbol recalled the 47 martyrs who, through their selfless gift of martyrdom had gone to meet the Lord holding alight the lamp of faith. At the foot of the cross, making a single crown around the paschal candle, were spread posters bearing the name of each one of the martyred brothers. On each were reproduced his finger prints and a small cross, a sign that identified them as believers in Jesus Christ. In front of the altar was a banner inscribed in large characters: "We forgive as Jesus has forgiven."

The Good Mother guides our footsteps

The celebration began with a procession, Brother Sean Sammon leading the way carrying the statue of Mary – our Good Mother – to whom Marcellin Champagnat had such a great devotion. Then a statue of Marcellin was placed on the altar, and alongside it, two paintings, one in remembrance of Brother Bernardo, and the other representing Brother Laurentino and his companions in martyrdom.



Fidelity to vocation

After this, scriptural passages and personal testimonies were read; allowance was made for the multicultural character of the Institute by the use of eight languages, one of which, Swahili, was practically unknown.





You are at home here

WELCOME

Br. Seán Sammon
Superior General

Brothers, I welcome you to the general house. You are at home here. Let everyone feel welcome, feel at home. Truly, we have very much appreciated the presence of so many people who have come as visitors here in recent days, and the general council and I have dearly looked forward to this evening meeting with the brothers.

This moment presents the opportunity to say some words of thanks to the brothers of Spain: thank you all for your significant presence in the Institute; for your capacity to be creative and innovative; for the long history of your generosity, devotedness and hard work; for your ardent hearts; for the gift of your spirituality, so widely shared. You are one of the treasures of the heritage of Marcellin Champagnat. The Institute would not be the same without your presence and without the love that you show for our way of life and our mission.

Thank you very much.

At the same time I wish to acknowledge, once again, our three postulators who are with us here: Gabriele, Giovanni Maria and Mariano. It is through their attention to details, their generous giving of their time, and their love for the causes that we have been able to arrive at a journey like that of today, one of such importance in the Institute. There are many people who have worked intensely to make these days such memorable one. I will

make a point of personally expressing our thanks to them in the course of the coming weeks. At the same time, this evening I want to mention especially the members of the preparatory commission: Emil Turu, who coordinated the tasks, Onorino Rota, Giovanni Maria Bigotto, Ivan Buenfil and Santiago Fernandez. A very big thank you to each and every one of you.

The beatifications we have celebrated today have a special meaning for all of us. But, as I was saying earlier, they touch very closely the lives of several brothers present here, given the different relations that unite them with some of the new *beati*.



We wish to express our solidarity with these brothers and their families, at the same time praying that the recognition the Church has given of their martyrdom and the heroicity of their virtues may help to assuage all feelings of loss. May this event be a sign of healing for them, as also for us!

The martyred brothers were simple men who lived in difficult times. Like us, they cherished projects and hopes, they were happy in their work among children and the young, they had their problems as all brothers do, and they made plans for the future. But history changed the course of their lives. They were, for sure, simple ordinary people, but they were able to respond with extraordinary courage when the time came for them to do so. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to be like them in our everyday lives.

By their life and their death, these brothers teach us a second lesson. Pope Benedict XVIth explained this very well in the address he gave in St Peter's Square this morning after the ceremony: it is the lesson of reconciliation. This was the great desire of Marcellin Champagnat as he approached the end of his days: that we know how to be reconciled with one another, that we learn to forgive and to ask for forgiveness, that we leave the past behind us in order to live the present, spending our energies in building the kingdom of God.

If there is one thing that we simply must learn after the experience of these days, let it be this exhortation to reconciliation. Therefore, if there is something that comes between us who are here, or between us and the confreres of our community, let us do what is necessary to heal these wounds. In that way we will truly be what we must be as religious brothers, that is to say, the living memory of what the Church can and must be, a place of reconciliation.

I am unable to imagine a better period of history to live in, or to be a member of the Marist Institute in, than this one. Why? Because in the very same way that Marcellin received the grace to establish our fraternity, we have re-

ceived the task to revitalise it in our time. But we will achieve this only if we work together on mission. Each one has an important part in this effort.

I would also say to you young brothers: do not think of yourselves in terms of the future, for you are also the present. Share with us your energy, your enthusiasm for Jesus Christ and his Gospel, your new ideas, your intuitions, the projects and hopes of your generation, your confidence in the fact that everything is possible if we are animated by a true desire to



bring it about. Help us to mould the present and to build the future.

And I would say to my aged brothers: give us the richness of your long experience, the hopes that have stood the test of difficult times, your wider view of things, your faith, your love of the Institute and your faithful perseverance in its mission. Give us your desire to leave a heritage that touches the lives of the young. Share these gifts and qualities generously. Help us to mould the present and to build the future.

And to you, my fellows of middle age, I say: give us your hope of for a new blossoming,



Three places, three moments:
Life, Mystery and Apotheosis

I would like in the following way to express my emotion and my admiration for our Brothers martyrs. Place one. "The Corridor of the Superiors" exhibiting the pictures of our Brothers, each one with a symbol of his daily work. Brothers who lived and died in community where they shared their bread, their salt and their work among the children entrusted to them by the Lord.

Place two. "The Big Chapel" where the handprint, together with the name of each Brother formed a poster, personalizing their unique and unconditional commitment, forming a crown of light at the foot of the cross and of the paschal candle. The votive lamps on the floor radiating their splendour in the darkness submerged me in the total, unreserved mystery of the holocaust.

Place three. "The Sanctuary of the Madonna del Divino Amore" A thousand Marists at our Good Mother's feet celebrating the "exaltation" of our Brothers, just like in the catacombs: Procession with the paschal candle, "light in the lamp"; with the Word of God "put into practice"; a bundle of wheat ears "that die and give fruit"; two loaves of recently baked bread "broken and shared". Finally the procession with 47 palms, from the back of the temple to the altar while we intoned the litany of the newly beatified. The entire event will remain deeply etched in my mind and heart for the rest of my life. So many models of sanctity in our Marist family to which I feel proud to belong!

Br. José Flores G. (Chepo)

those first projects matured already by the years you have lived your religious life, your enthusiasm to go ahead despite the weight of the task and the uncertainty of the way. Give us this peaceful and mature love that you have for the charism, for the mission, for Jesus. Give us your heart burning with the desire to prepare the young to become good Christians and good citizens. Share these gifts and qualities generously. Help us to mould the present and to build the future.

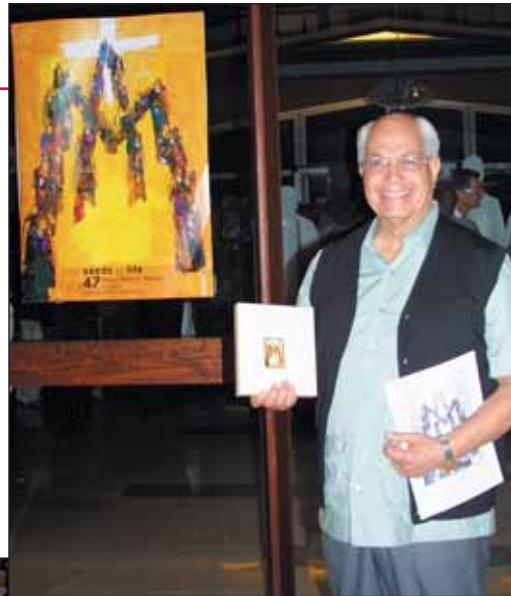
And to all of you, I say: let us pray that we may be granted the passion for God that burned in the heart of our Founder; that we begiven his attentiveness to the poor and his ardent desire to tell the young how much Jesus loves them. Yes, let us each morning make the firm resolution to work for the evangelisation of the young and for the betterment of the world in the name of Jesus and his Good Mother. Let us use the gifts that God has given us to become the Champagnats of today, men seized by God and burning with the fire of His Word, living portraits of our martyred brothers, men of faith, men full of courage, men of hope, men who witness that the dream of Marcellin remains very much alive today. Thank you.

Family Memories

There were moments of deep emotion during the meeting, one of which was the time when the Vicar General, Brother Luis Garcia Sobrado, called upon brothers whose parents had been martyred to give their testimony. Lucio Zudaire, Toni Torrelles, Tiomoteo Perez, Jesus Martinez, Gregorio Acero,

Jose Luis Melgosa witnessed by their presence that the blood of martyrs had been the seed of Marist vocations.

The evening was brought to a close by the singing of the *Salve Regina* in Latin. This prayer has a long tradition in the Marist Institute; in fact, since the time of the Founder, the *Salve Regina* has been sung or said in the communities at the beginning of morning prayer.



A moving souvenir

At the end of the shared prayer, the Superior general, Brother Sean Sammon, greeted each

brother personally, and at the same time gave each one a souvenir: a small card with a reproduction of the beatification logo bearing this saying of the Founder:

Oh how consoling, at the moment of appearing before God, to recall that one has lived his life under the auspices of Mary and in her Society!



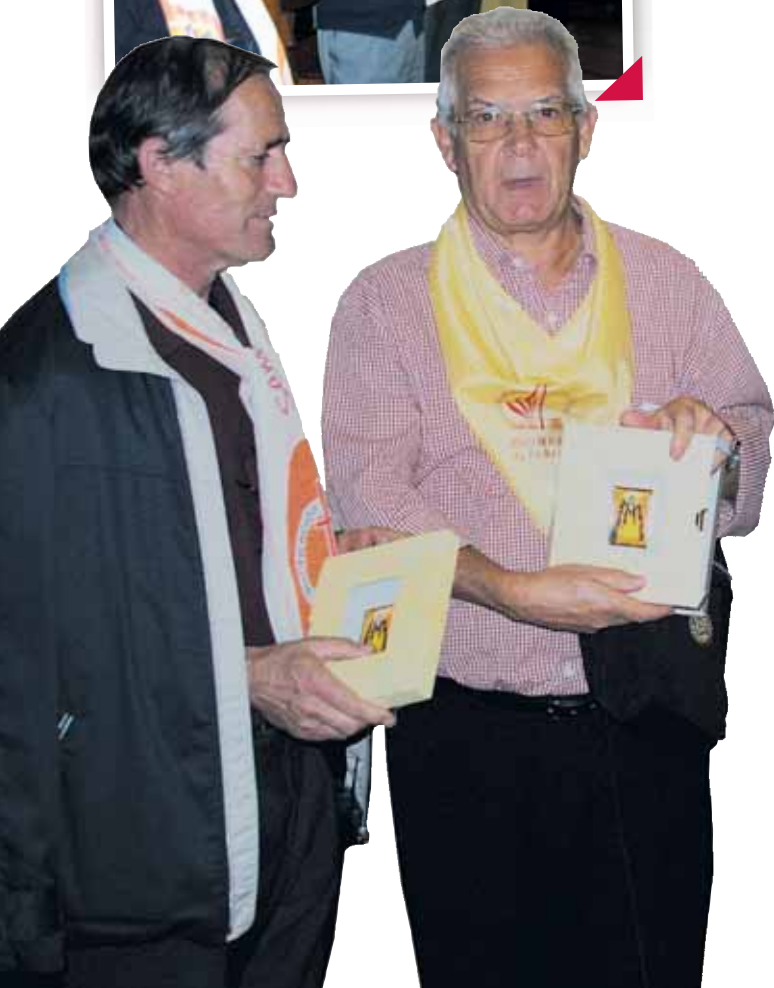
This was the case with our martyred brothers. As in all feasts worthy of the name, there was an aperitif and a toast to the martyrs and the Marist Institute proposed by the Superior General.

Album





Album





A VISION FROM THE TASK OF COORDINATING THE JOURNEYS



Br. Luis Antonio Martínez Chasco

Ideas illuminate the way. Experiences motivate the steps securing ideas or generating new ones. What one lives from hearsay barely touches the heart; what one lives personally defies the progress of time.

Often - for different reasons - it is necessary to conquer resistance to living some events closely. Once the leap

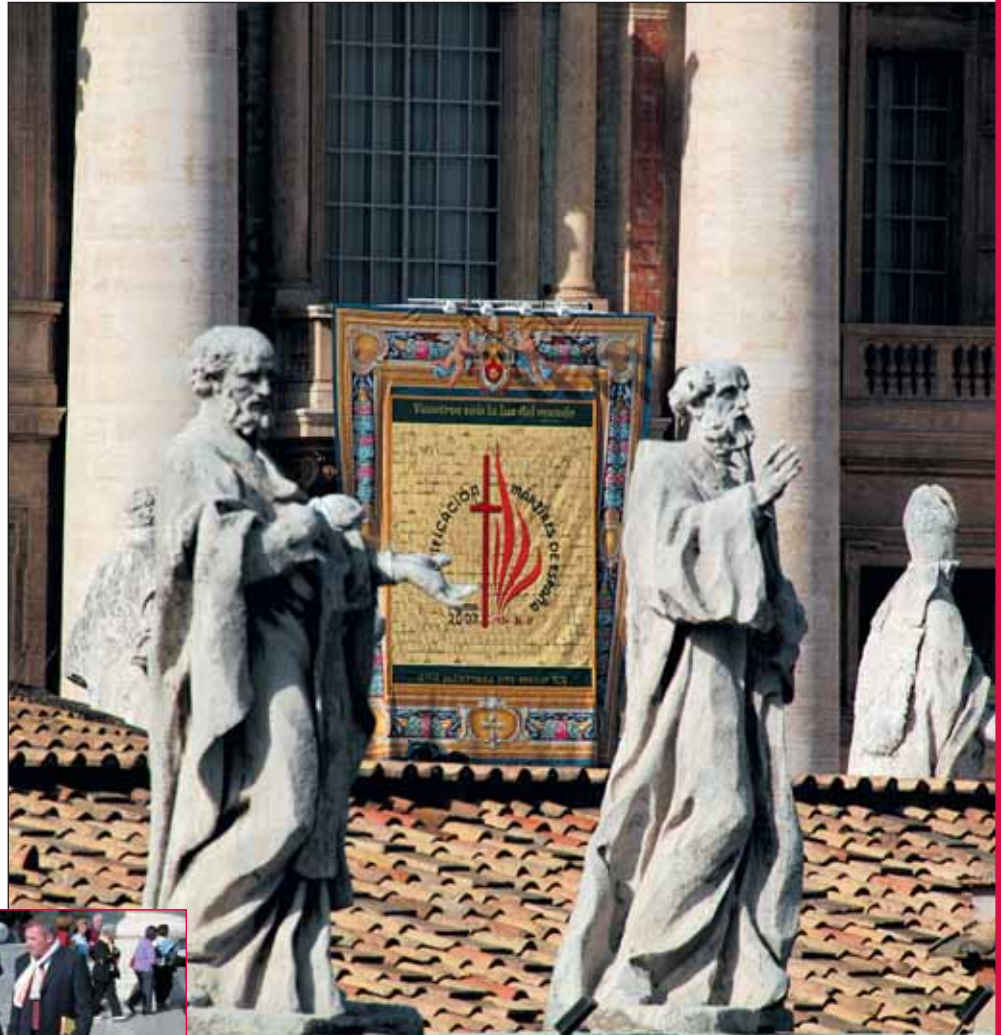
has been made, the spirit finds itself to be more receptive to entering into the experience. This widens and intensifies if it is shared with other people.

This happened to me in the recent beatification of our martyrs. The task of coordination of the journeys in the province and of motivating the pilgrims a little has encouraged my own approach to their biographies and their unequivocal testimony of fidelity. The socio-political context muddles the serene outlook on the event. But the contact with the relatives of the martyrs reorients our perspective toward genuine consideration and strengthens our own convictions.

I lived the celebrations in Rome with simplicity and happiness, with emotion and peace, with gratitude and hope, with an air of family, feeling at home, even in Saint Peter's Square. In some there prevailed sentiment and closeness; in others, the universality and the different shades of a common faith. They were all recorded in an album of photographs, but mainly may the message of the newly beatified penetrate deeply and be proclaimed in our daily life.

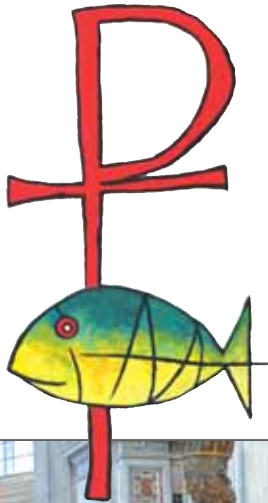
Thanksgiving for the beatificación

October 29, 2007



Beatifications are a grace given to the Church universal. Mass of thanksgiving for the beatification of 498 spanish martyrs. Saint Peter's Basilica. Vatican City.

thanksgiving for the beatificación



The beatification is a grace-filled event for the whole Church, for the whole of society, and on this occasion, in a particular manner, for the Marist Institute. That is why, traditionally, on the day after a canonisation or beatification, the Mass celebrates the Mass of Thanksgiving.

On this occasion the beatification of a great number of martyrs brought together a big number of pilgrims. That is why the basilica of St Peter was chosen as the venue for this celebration. The



attendance at this Mass exceeded expectations for many who intended to gain entrance to the interior of the basilica, which normally seats 10,000 people, had to follow the Mass in St Peter's Square with the aid of giant television screens.

The Mass was celebrated with all the solemnity suitable to the occasion; Cardinal Tarcisio Berone, Vatican Secretary of State, presided at the Eucharist accompanied by many bishops and priests.

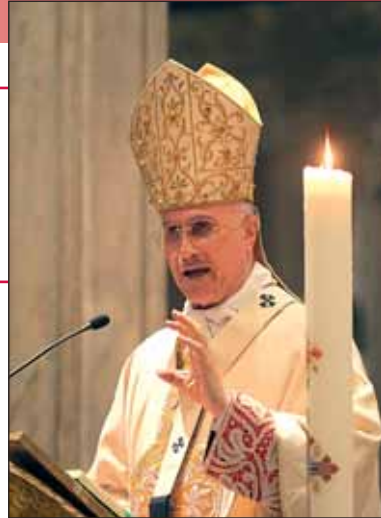
Living the Gospel radically

Dear brothers in the episcopate, dear priests, religious and lay people!

The beatification of 498 Spanish martyrs, which we celebrated yesterday, allowed us once more to contemplate the uninterrupted line of Christians who were drawn from the very beginning of the apostolic preaching by Jesus' example and who were supported by his love. We have gathered now to offer our fervent thanksgiving to the Lord for this event in the life of the Church. We wish to trust in the intercession of these brothers of ours, whose very existence has become for us, and for the people of God on pilgrimage in Spain and in other countries, a powerful beam of light, a pressing summons to live the Gospel with radical simplicity, offering a brave public witness to the faith we profess.

Of course, every act of martyrdom takes place in tragic historic circumstances, sometimes during persecutions, which lead to violent death because of one's faith. However, amidst such tragic circumstances, martyrs transcend the concrete historical moment and contemplate their fellow human beings with the heart of God. Thanks to the light that comes to them from Above, and thanks to the blood of the Lamb (cfr. *Rev* 12:11), martyrs put the confession of faith before their very lives, and they diminish the force of the attack by means of prayer and the heroic immolation of themselves. By loving their enemies and praying for those who persecute them (cfr. *Mt* 5:44), martyrs reveal the mystery of faith they have received and become a sign of great hope. Through their witness they proclaim redemption for everyone. By uniting their blood with the blood of Christ sacrificed on the cross, the martyrs' immolation becomes an offer made in front of the throne of God, a plea for clemency and mercy for their persecutors. As Pope John Paul II taught, "Martyrs found suitable ways to proclaim the Gospel amid situations of hostility and persecution, often even making the supreme sacrifice by shedding their blood... They show us the vitality of the Church... Even more radically, they tell us that martyrdom is the supreme incarnation of the Gospel of hope" (*Ecclesia in europa*, 13).

Complete union with Christ Martyrdom, then, is an eloquent sign of how the vitality of the Church does not depend only on plans or human calculations, it stems from complete union with Christ and his message of salvation. The martyrs were well aware of this, they drew strength not from a longing for personal protagonism, but from unconditional love for Jesus Christ, even at the cost of their lives.



HOMILY

Cardinal
Tarcisio Bertone

In order to understand better the true Christian sense of martyrdom, we need to let the martyrs themselves speak. By their example, they left us a heritage that sometimes we are afraid of opening. However, if we listen to them, their lives will certainly speak to us of faith, fortitude, of generous courage and ardent love, while facing a culture that sometimes strives to marginalize or despise the human and moral values that the Gospel teaches.

Everybody knows that the XX century has given great fruits of Christian life to the Church in Spain: the birth of religious congregations and institutes devoted to teaching, to assisting in hospitals and helping the poorest of the poor, or devoted to a number of other cultural and social works. Also, great examples of sanctity are found, and a high number of martyr bishops, priests, men and women religious, and laypeople. Absolutely regardless of politics.

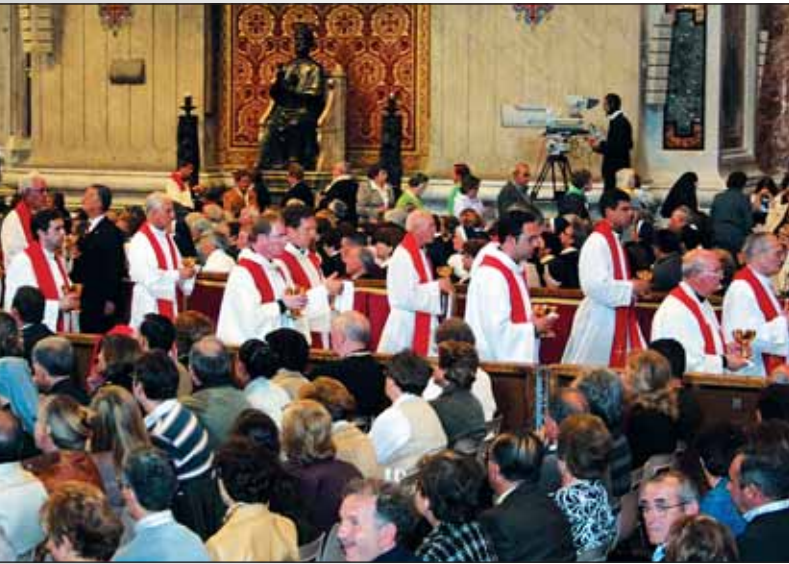
These martyrs were not offered to the veneration of the people of God for their political implications, nor to fight anyone, but in order to offer their existences as a witness of love for Christ, of people fully aware of feeling limbs of the Church. That is why, at the moment of their death,

all of them agreed in addressing the ones who were killing them with words of forgiveness and mercy. And so, among many similar examples, it is certainly touching to listen to one of the Franciscan religious of the community of *Consuegra*, who said to his brothers: "Brothers, lift your eyes to the heavens and pray your last Our Father, for in a few moments we shall be in the Kingdom of heaven. And forgive those who are about to kill you".

That is why these new blessed have enriched the Church of Spain with their sacrifice, and today for us they are witnesses of faith, of solid hope against all fear, and of love until the end (cfr *Jn 13:1*). Their death is an important stimulus for everyone, it urges to overcome divisions, to give new life to our ecclesial and social commitments,

constantly seeking the common good, harmony and peace.

Dear brother and sisters, it is due to their love for life that these martyrs, that include two French, two Mexicans and one Cuban, gave their life to Christ. They lived an exemplary existence, completely devoted to many kinds of apostolate, fully believing in the religious option they had made or in the fulfilment of their family duties. These humble and resolute witnesses of the Gospel are beams of light that guide our earthly pilgrimage. By venerating the ones who "have come out of the great ordeal" (*Rev 7:14*), as the Book of the Revelation says, we beg the Lord to grant us their same dauntless faith, their resolute hope and their profound love.





More than mere heroes Dear brothers and sisters, we meet here in Rome, where at the beginning of the Church an endless host of martyrs confessed their faith in Christ even by shedding their blood. Both the Christians of the first age and the ones who were beatified yesterday should not arouse in us only a mere feeling of admiration. They are not mere heroes, or characters of a remote era. Their words and gestures speak to us and challenge us to shape ourselves more and more on Christ, finding in Him the source which authentic ecclesial communion stems from, so that in our modern society we may offer a consistent witness to our love and commitment to God and our brothers.

With their example and their intercession, the martyrs help us not to let ourselves be conquered, in the present, by discouragement and confusion, and to avoid inertia and sterile complaint. Indeed, this time of ours, just like theirs, is a time of grace, a propitious opportunity to share with others the joy of being disciples of Christ.

With their existence and the witness of their death, they teach us that authentic happiness is found in listening to the Lord and putting into practice His word (cfr *Lk 11:28*). The most

precious service we can give, then, to our brothers, is to help them to meet Christ, who is "the Way, and the Truth, and the Life" (cfr *Jn 14:6*), the only One who can satisfy the noblest aspirations of humankind.

By God's will, may this beatification generate a vigorous call in Spain to enliven faith and intensify ecclesial communion, while asking the Lord for the blood of these martyrs to become a fruitful seed for many holy vocations to priesthood and consecrated life; may it be a constant summons to families, founded on the sacrament of marriage, to be an example and school of true love for their children, a "sanctuary" of the great gift of life.

Finally, we also ask the Lord that the saintly example set by the new martyrs may obtain precious fruits of authentic Christian life for the Church that is in Spain and in other nations, which some of the martyrs come from: love, to overcome tepidity, enthusiasm, to stimulate hope, respect, to welcome truth, and generosity, to open one's heart to the needs of the poorest of the world.

May the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Martyrs, obtain from her divine Son this grace that we trustfully commend now to her motherly hands. Amen!



PREFACE OF SAINTS MARTYRS

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation to offer thanks... The blood of the glorious martyrs, poured out like Christ's, to confess His name, manifests the marvels of your power, for by their martyrdom, Lord, you have made their weakness strong, and their fragility a witness to your glory...

That is why, with the angels who sing your praised in heaven, we acclaim you on earth, saying: Holy, Holy, Holy.

HYMN TO THE MARTYRS OF THE 20TH CENTURY IN SPAIN SEEDS OF PEACE, MARTYRS OF CHRIST

Estribillo

Semillas de paz, mártires de Cristo,
signos del amor, valientes testigos,
antorchas de fe en nuestro camino.

Estrofas

1. Es semilla de cristianos
vuestra sangre martirial,
es perdón de los hermanos
y esperanza de la paz.
2. Sois racimo bien maduro
que el Señor prensó en su cruz,
trigo sois limpio y fecundo
triturado por Jesús.



3. En España el siglo veinte
resplandece en santidad,
pues dais vida en vuestra muerte
a una nueva humanidad.

4. Entregadnos el testigo
que hoy queremos recoger,
por seguir en el camino
al Señor, Testigo fiel.

5. Dadnos gozo y valentía
al sembrar la paz y el bien,
proclamando en nuestra vida
la alegría de la fe.



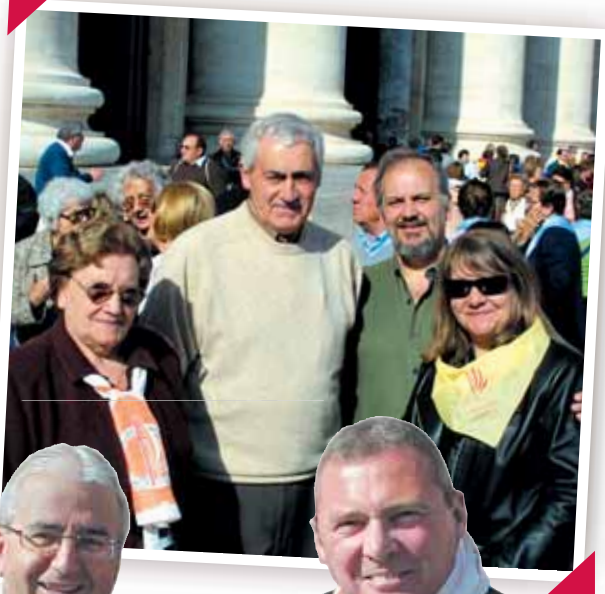
Album



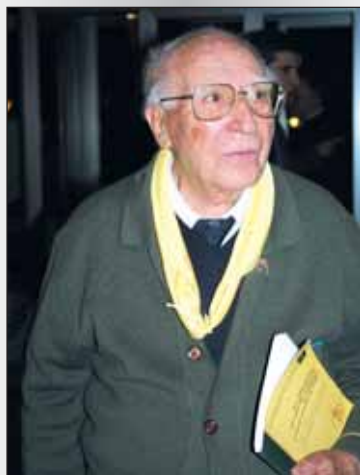
Album

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICACIÓN





BROTHER FRANCISCO PERUCHENA SURVIVOR OF SAN ELÍAS PRISON



Br. Francisco Peruchena

Brother Peruchena is a survivor of San Elías, of the tragic night of 9 October 1936, in Barcelona when they shot 40 Marists. At this time he is spending his latter years peacefully in a residence for the elderly in Arroyo de la Miel (Málaga). He decided to go on pilgrimage to Rome in his 91st year to attend the feast of the beatification. The Marist family regarded him with interest and admiration as he took part in the party. Good-natured, open and frank he chatted with numerous people who went to greet him.

Meeting with Brother Superior General

On his return home he shared his experience of the beatification in Rome with his Brothers.

"A little tired - he says - because age is unforgiving, but I am delighted to have accompanied 'my brother martyrs' - he emphasizes 'my brothers' -, especially the seven Marist Brothers, companions in the community of "Colegio Sagrados Corazones" of Sants whom I keep in my mind and heart because we shared many things before their death and in the final moments of their lives there was great fraternity and great faith in Our Lord. How could I forget those with whom had lived? "

About his stay in Rome, he highlighted his meeting with the Brother Superior General. I was greatly surprised when I was told that the Brother Superior General wanted to





welcome me. I went up to the General House and there he welcomed me with a great embrace. The same with the Brother Vicar and the other Brothers Councillors. A great family atmosphere reigned at that moment."

With the Bishop and the Ambassador

He also has an excellent recollection of his meeting with the Archbishop of Burgos and the good times that he shared with the Spanish Ambassador to the Holy See during the dinner served in the General House. "The Ambassador was interested in the details of my time in the anarchists' prison. I told him how my life was saved, by a pure miracle, on two occasions.

The first time when the Brother Superior told us that we had to abandon the community because they were coming for us. He had taken on the task of looking for houses of good people and friends where we could be given refuge. I went to a house and one day the patrolmen turned up, but Divine Providence which is above all, saved us because there was a seriously sick



person in the house, and at that moment the doctor arrived and he said to the patrolmen: 'You have no right to do this to sick people and people who have done nothing wrong and are not involved in politics'. And surprisingly, they left. Then the worst thing of all, the deceit of the ship, where they took everything that we had, two and a half pesetas in my case, San Elías prison and the death of 40 of the 107 Brothers who were there. This time I survived thanks to the fact that the president of the Generalitat, Luis Com-

pany, got to know about our situation and he ordered the executions to be stopped, otherwise they would have shot me on the night following the death of my Brothers, because we had been separated into two groups and they had already shot those in the first group."

A small miracle

In his account to the Brothers, in their calm house of Arroyo de la Miel, once he had recovered from the rigours of the journeys, he adds the story of a little miracle granted by the Brother Martyrs to our Hispanic pilgrim.

"At the last minute – he concludes by saying -

I come to the sacrament of the beatification when Saint Peter's immense square is completely filled. How could I find a good place in the front row, very near the biggest altar? Step by step and kindly looked after, in a very short time I find myself in an outstanding place, and I confirm that I have completed to the letter... "the last will be first". Thank you, dear Hispanic martyrs!!!



Visiting the generalate



Mary and the newly Beati-fied welcome the Beatifica-tion visitors. In the Sala Champagnat. The central staircase. The Superiors' Chapel. The Council's meet-ing room. Along the Marist Way with our martyrs. The martyrs' families; those who took the leading roles. Si-lence and prayer in the Main Chapel. Devotion and commitment.

The objectives

During the four days celebrating the feats of the martyrs many people visited the general house. The exposition, "We walk with our martyrs" had three objectives: to make the origins of the Institute known by means of a summary of Marist history, with the martyrs in a prominent position, to make the martyrs known through mementoes, and to let the general house be known from the inside.



A video projection and a logo

The video projection of "Martyria 3436", set up in the chapter hall, was the focal point of the meeting. The pilgrims who visited the general house found a number of new things: it had been decorated in gala fashion to celebrate the beatification of the 47 Spanish Marist martyrs. First, on the façade of the house, was the shining Marist beatification logo, painted by Goyo Dominguez, sur-

rounded by the portraits of the 47 Marists martyred in Spain, a great panel proclaiming to the four points of the compass the sanctity of the new *beati*.

In the main reception area of the house, the statue of Mary visiting her cousin St Elizabeth, 2.4 metres high, in multicoloured ceramic, gave a mother's welcome to the visitors, alongside Brothers Bernardo, Laurentino and Virgilio whose names led the list of the causes.

In the Marist reliquary

During this visit it was possible to admire the refurbishment of the "Salle Champagnat" where there





was a display of original documents of St Marcellin, including his passport, some of his letters and a rain coat and hood used by him.

The main stairway, giving access to the chapel of the superiors and the general council meeting room, brought to the attention a phrase of Brother Diogene who was Superior General when the new blessed martyrs were killed. It expressed his feelings, so poignant at this moment.

The superiors' chapel is a permanent reliquary holding the altar used by Marcellin, the original portrait done by Ravery some hours after his death, the statue of the Good Mother, and a small bone of Marcellin's right hand kept in a golden showcase. The council meeting room was open, with various Marist documents on view and above all the faces of the children constantly present during the reflection, study and decisions of the general council.

Cross and resurrection

The path of the exposition led to the main chapel where the names of the forty seven martyrs formed a crown around a great cross and the paschal candle. In an atmosphere of silence and recollection it was possible to let the words and images perceived along the way sink in. At this point in the exposition it was necessary to spend some minutes in silence and prayer, reflecting on all that had been seen and heard.

As they left, visitors were given a small symbolic bag with grains of wheat, "seeds of life", to be sown in open places, watered and cared

for so that they could bear fruit in abundance, if possible "one hundred fold".

A great family memory

Particularly moving was the visit of a group of brothers who had personally known the new *beati* or the parents of the martyrs, deep feelings arising at the meeting of those close to them.

More than a thousand pilgrims of the Marist Family – brothers, parents of the martyrs, teachers, old scholars, students passed through the exposition during the four days, brothers who lived in the general house being their privileged guides.

Some visitors came from great distances: Malaysia, Brazil, Argentina, USA, while others were from closer countries: France, Germany, Italy... The greatest number came from Spain.

Everyone left the general house with the feeling that they had found themselves at home delighted that they belonged to such a big "family" with such a history that, thanks to the martyrs, was now a little better known.



A SHORT REFLECTION ON THE BEATIFICATION OF SPANISH MARTYRS IN ROME



Br. John Chin y Br. John Tan

We are deeply grateful to be able to come to Rome for the Beatification of the Spanish Martyrs. This trip is yet another spiritual journey that deepens our faith and commitment to be Marist Brothers. We were profoundly touched by the peoples, both fellow Brothers and lay people from

different countries of the world, and the events of the days climaxing in the beatification of our 47 martyred Brothers at the Vatican. The blood they shed not only bloomed into the faith of a sample of people we encountered and witnessed here in Rome, we too were strengthened by their examples to live and die for Christ. They showed us how ordinary lives can become extraordinary if Jesus Christ was the centre and main purpose of their lives. For this our Mother Church recognises as heroic holiness by beatifying them.

The gesture of reconciliation both explained by the Pope and our Superior General is yet another touching aspects of these events. Errors of history need healing through reconciliation rather than retaliation. We were well advised to bring home this spirit of forgiveness to our communities to foster new life and vigour. Let not the blood of our Spanish Martyrs be shed in vain but bring spiritual growth to all Champagnat's sons and daughters all over the world.

The exposition

"We walk with our martyrs"





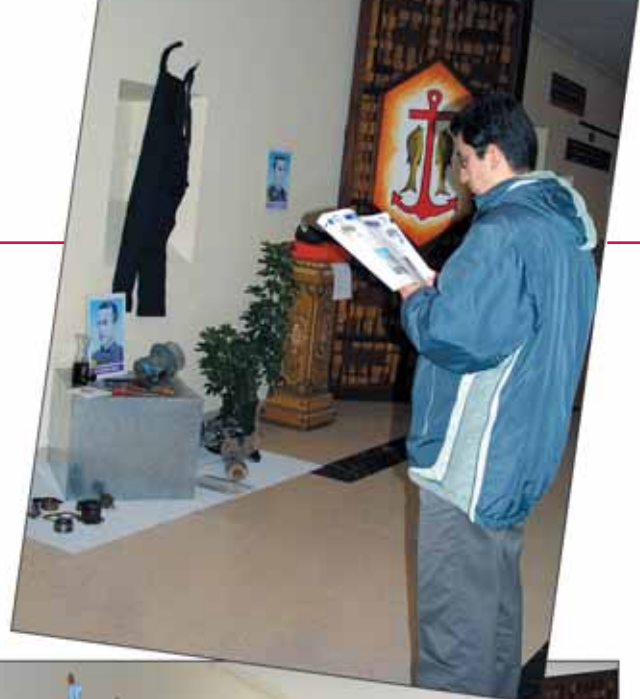
The corridor of the Superiors General housed an exposition built around five motifs. The first was the title that unified the whole reflection and guided the visit, the invitation of Jesus to take up the cross and follow him that 37,586 persons have responded to by making their religious profession as Marists from the origins of the Institute to our own days. The second was a tribute to the holiness of the Congregation with Marcellin, the martyrs and the Marist confessors whose causes have been introduced.

The third motif presented some of the martyred brothers in groups suggested by common elements. For example, the brothers who were in the infirmary of Les Avelanes with those of Lerida which were set up as infirmaries when the college became a hospital receiving wounded brought from the front line of the war. Or the tribute to the mothers of all the mar-



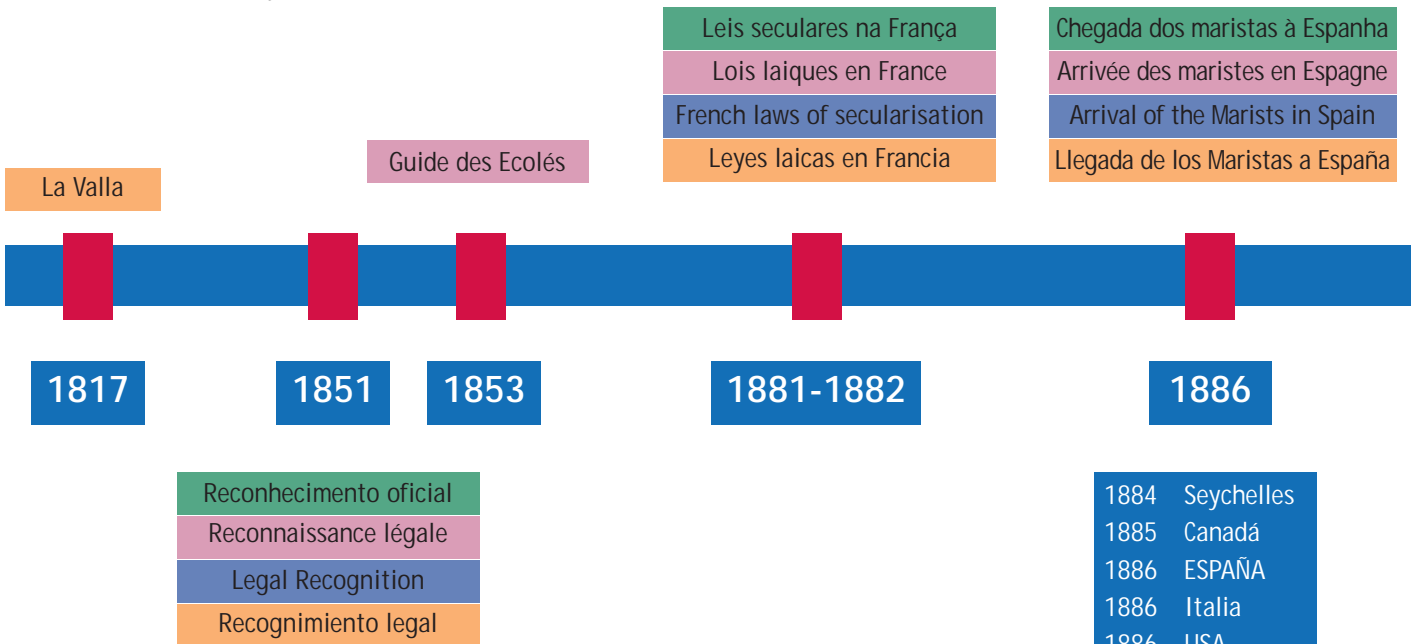
tyrs, since there were two martyred brothers who were blood brothers, another confessed that his vocation was due to the prayers of his mother, and a fourth who had written precious letters to his mother.

The martyred Marist Brothers in Spain lived and died in community. This was the fourth motif. Using the analogy of a sports team,



eleven martyred brothers reflected the virtues they had practised in community. The master of novices and the director of the scholasticate, who were also martyred, accompanied them as formators of the spiritual life.

Finally, the fifth motif had as its point of reference the brothers who by their Marist pedagogy defended the free school. A brief summary indicated the key moments in the history of Marist pedagogy by putting on display the books and documents that had guided these brothers in bringing to bear their characteristic educational approach.



• EXPOSITION •

• EXPOSITION •

• EXPOSITION •

• EXPOSITION •

• EXPOSITION •



- Guia do Professor
- Guide du Maître
- Teacher's Guide
- Guía del Maestro

- Lei das Congregações
- Loi sur les Congrégations
- Law of Congregations
- Ley de Congregaciones

- Incêndio da FTD
- Incendie de FTD
- Burning of the FTD
- Quema de FTD

Combes

1903

1928

1933

1936

Immobiliaria mundial S.A.





Gravissimum educationis momentum

POR LA ESCUELA LIBRE

1965

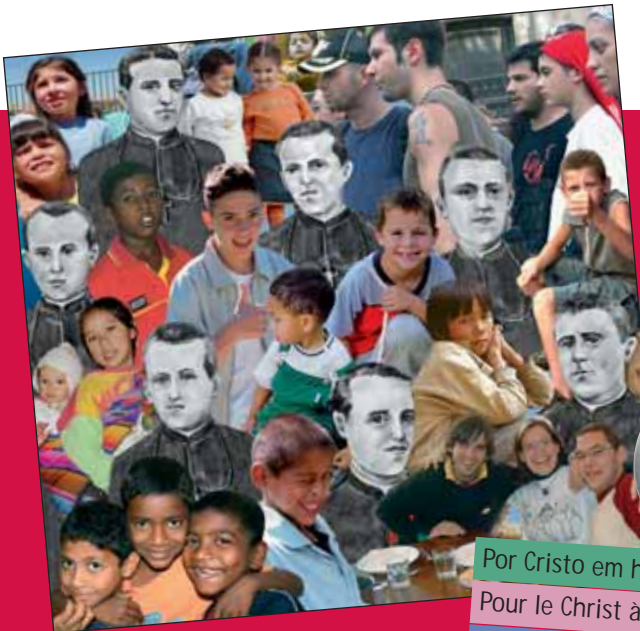
1983

O Educador marista

L'éducateur mariste

The Marist Educator

El educador marista



Por Cristo em horario completo

Pour le Christ à temps plein

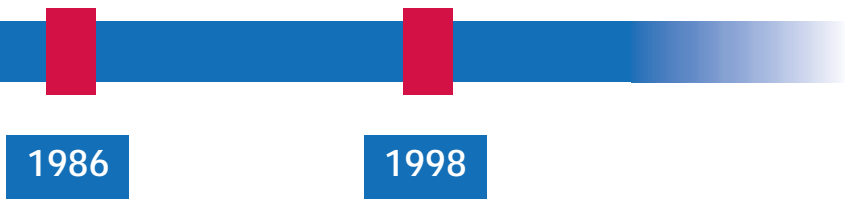
Full time at the service of Christ

Por Cristo a tiempo completo



Congresso nacional de educação marista. Salamanca
 Congrès national de l'éducation mariste. Salamanca
 National Congress for Marist education. Salamanca
 Congreso nacional de educación marista. Salamanca

Sereis minhas testemunha até os confins do mundo
 Vous serez mes témoins jusqu'au bout du monde
 You will be my witness to the ends of the earth
 Seréis mis testigos hasta los confines del mundo



Missão educativa marista: Um projeto parao nosso tempo
 La mission éducative mariste - Un projet pour aujourd'hui
 In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat: A vision of Marist education today
 Misión educativa marista: Un proyecto para hoy



Album





THE FAMILIES OF THE NEWLY BEATIFIED BROTHERS REMEMBERING THE BEATIFICATION

We will never be able to express our gratitude for everything that was done, for the enormous work expended over the past few years so as to arrive... finally! at one of the happiest days of our lives, the Beatification ceremony of relatives who are so dear to us.

I am anxious to tell you that the trip was marvelous, moving, unforgettable, because for me anyway, I will never forget it as long as I live... Thank you, Brother, from the bottom of my heart. Very fond best wishes.

Juan and Asun Latienda

Very many thanks for all that you did to make our trip and stay easier: everything was organized very well. I could sum up the entire experience by the adjective "touching" from beginning to end. At your Generalate we had the chance to appreciate the dedication, the self-giving witness of your newly beatified martyrs.

Fermina Acero (Sister Angela)

The celebration at the Vatican was magnificent, worthily measuring up to all the work which took place in preparing the ceremony, so solemn, so significant for



Elvira Albareda Blanch

the Church and for the Marist Brothers. I saw the ceremony on television and, believe me; I was deeply touched, because we were their almost immediate successors in the Marist communities. May the Lord grant that this celebration increase and strengthen Saint Marcellin's charism among the Brothers, and may we, yes, we too follow in their footsteps and in their spirit.

Villalba

I was in Rome with Bishop Jesús and the group of people who accompanied me. The Mass in St. Peter's Square was magnificent. The tribute offered to our martyrs at the Divino Amore Sanctuary was wonderful and deeply moving with the palms which represented each of them. I picked off a few leaves from one of the branches to bring back home with me. I placed the leaves in a bouquet of flowers which I brought to the cemetery, to the tomb of my grandfather and grandmother. In this way all three of them were together in a symbolic way. Your Generalate transformed into a exposition hall-museum; on the façade the photo of all the martyrs... on the small table with his slippers, the photo of my uncle was deeply moving, especially when I learned that the husband of the woman who had welcomed my uncle was also shot and killed. Never will I forget this visit. I thank you for everything that you did to honor the martyrs, for all the small services that you offered us, for the magnificent books... a heartfelt thank you. May God grant you a long life. Following my mother's example, I will lovingly keep all the texts which you have sent me.

Elvira Albareda Blanch

Young people meet the martyrs



The video «Martyria 34-36». The Sala Champagnat. Central Staircase. The Superiors' Chapel. Walking side by side with our martyrs. Silence and prayer in the Main Chapel. Devotion and commitment.



For me this pilgrimage has been an example of life. **It has really helped me to realize that I have to be a better person.** After this experience it is important to improve our life and that of other people.

Nicolás de Santiago

This pilgrimage has helped me from the point of view of my faith, because **I have seen that I am not alone and there are many more people with these religious convictions.** I have also been helped by the knowledge that **God supports us** and that he is always with us and that we should really learn how to listen to him. And lastly, that there are people who are able to give up their life to defend their beliefs.

Andrés Sabio

In my opinion, this experience that we all lived so intensely will be unforgettable. A lot of people complained about the 30 hour bus journey, but I think that that was the best thing of all, because it has been good for me to make new friends and to tighten even more the knots of friendship among my lifelong friends. This experience **has also helped me to grow in my faith. Now I am fully convinced of what I believe** and what I think, without caring what other people think of me.

José Luis Martos

I feel a lot surer of myself and I have discovered lots of new things. I usually learn a lot of good things from meeting with other people, but never in such a religious sense. **I have discovered that you are never alone; He will always be with me.** If He lets me weaken, it is because He wants me to pick myself up with greater strength and learn. The truth is I feel that this sharing has been a special time in my life, and it has made me meditate a lot and liberate myself. I now have more trust in myself and in Him. **I think that He has always been with me.**



Adrián Núñez



but this has been the first time that I have done it. It has also been good for me to get to know people that I only knew by sight, and to become friends with them, because it is very important that a person has friends and is never alone. Although the truth is that we have never been alone, **there has always been Jesus to lean on** in the most difficult moments.

Pablo Martínez

It has been a unique experience. When you are in your house and one morning you turn on the television and you accidentally hit on a channel where they are showing a ceremony in the Vatican, the first thing that you do is change the channel because you find it to be really boring, but once you do it you have a completely different concept. **You live it with excitement and happiness.**

Ignacio Santos

This pilgrimage began with a protest from me and my pals about the distribution of the bus. Maybe, in the other bus there was more enjoyment, but I felt happy because I got to know people who wanted to get to know me. **Regarding the faith, it has maybe been good for me to see that we are not alone**, that there are many people behind this, but I have also realized that the young people are at the head of the Church, and I also realized that our actions could have repercussions throughout the entire world.

Francisco Luque

This pilgrimage has been a unique experience for me, impossible to forget. To begin with I wasn't very keen, because of the bus journey and such-like, but then you realize that that is one of the best things in the pilgrimage, since that is how you get to know more people and you live with them. I felt very comfortable with the people who went, and with things in general (prayers, visits, catacombs, etc.) This has helped me to understand many things I'd heard about, but which, until you live them you don't really understand. I hope that pilgrimages like these happen again, because they are stupendous.

Teresa Domínguez

This pilgrimage was very enjoyable for me. I got to know a lot of people from other Marist schools. I have made many friends, and I hope to see them soon again. **I also loved seeing the Pope** and I was so happy that 47 Marist Brothers were beatified.

Isabel Garrido

This experience has helped me to see that each person is a world, and that the best qualities are in each person. As for people, we can all be appreciated if we put ourselves in the place of others. On the other hand, **I like the strength and the faith of Bro. Adolfo.**

José M. González Miguel

This pilgrimage has been brilliant for me, a new experience. I had never done anything like that, (mind you, I once went to la Javierada),



young people meet the martyrs



For me it has been an unforgettable experience, because I got to know a lot of people, I have seen Rome and I have been able to attend the beatification of all the martyrs who gave their life for God. In spite of the long and exhausting trip, it was worthwhile and I would be happy to do it again.

Ayette

This pilgrimage has been good for me in reinforcing my faith, because to see so many unfamiliar people united in Vatican Square taught me a lot. Many people meeting with only one goal: to show our belief in God and our love of Jesus Christ, without caring what others might say. Also to see the great group of beatified martyrs who knew how to give their life for God's sake in the difficult circumstances in which they found themselves.

Cristina Rueda



Album



Preparatory stage





37



PREPARATORY STAGE

Album





REFLECTING UPON THE PREPARATORY STAGES

A committee was appointed by those Provincials who are responsible for apostolates in Spain. The committee was to make contact with Church authorities and with relatives of the Brothers to be beatified. The committee was to provide them with information about the Beatification ceremony and the way in which travel arrangements and Rome-based gatherings would be coordinated.

Brothers José Calleja and Teodoro Barriuso got in touch with Church authorities and with martyrs' relatives living in Castille (Burgos and Palencia); Brother Víctor Pastor, with those of Navarre, Bilbao, Saragosa; and Brother Mariano with those living in Catalonia. Initial contact was via letter; later a personal visit was made. In the course of these meetings, the Brothers heard joy-filled testimony and touching remembrances of family history.



Br. Victor Pastor

Testimonies gathered by Brother Víctor Pastor

All the parish pastors on whom I called showed a lively interest in the matter. To give you an example, one of them - a monk of the Iranzu monastery - told me that he would like to set up a display (featuring an enlarged photo of the martyred Brother) so that the Brother might be honored in the parish where he was born. The families also were quite excited, especially Brother Virgilio's family and that of the Brothers from Estella (the Ayúcar family). It was clear that in these families great respect had been developed for the uncles who had been members of religious communities.

* * *

There was a solemn celebration at the Pamplona cathedral to thank God for the Beatification of the sixteen martyrs from Navarre, nine of whom Marist Brothers beatified on October 28. All their surviving relatives were present.

On November 1, All Saints Day, at Ciriza we celebrated the beatification of Brother Virgilio. Judging by the feeling in the air and the commentaries heard, everyone was deeply satisfied by what they had experienced in Rome, especially the prayer service at the Divino Amore Sanctuary.

On December 22, 2007 in Estella (Navarre), tribute was paid to our newly beatified Brothers León and Ramón Alberto Ayúcar Eraso. Everything took place perfectly in regard to the Navarre families.

Br. Víctor Pastor

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE INSTITUTE TO 31 DICEMBER 2006*

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PROVINCES	NOVICES			BROTHERS			LOSSES			PROFS	
	1 st	2 nd	TOT	Temp	Perp	TOT	Dec	Perp	TOT	1 st Prof	PPer
AFRIQUE CENTRE EST	14	6	20	33	57	90	0	4	4	10	2
AMÉRICA CENTRAL	0	3	3	7	116	123	5	3	8	2	3
BRASIL CENTRO NORTE	3	2	5	20	113	133	0	4	4	2	6
BRASIL CENTRO SUR	6	0	6	27	105	132	5	7	12	4	2
CANADA	3	2	5	2	168	170	14	1	15	2	1
CHINA	0	0	0	0	30	30	2	0	2	0	0
COMPOSTELA	0	0	0	2	253	255	10	3	13	0	0
CRUZ DEL SUR	1	1	2	11	161	172	7	3	10	2	0
EUROPE CENTRE OUEST	0	0	0	0	172	172	9	0	9	0	0
IBÉRICA	0	0	0	1	208	209	5	1	6	0	1
L'HERMITAGE	2	0	2	2	415	417	25	2	27	0	0
MADAGASCAR	3	0	3	7	51	58	1	0	1	0	0
MEDITERRÁNEA	1	7	8	23	283	306	9	2	11	3	7
MELBOURNE	0	1	1	0	91	91	2	0	2	0	0
MÉXICO CENTRAL	3	3	6	13	121	134	3	4	7	0	2
MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL	3	2	5	3	135	138	4	4	8	1	1
NEW ZAELAND	0	0	0	5	109	114	3	3	6	0	1
NIGERIA	7	8	15	17	69	86	2	0	2	2	2
NORANDINA	5	5	10	17	133	150	3	6	9	4	3
PHILIPPINES	4	3	7	11	39	50	0	4	4	3	4
RIO GRANDE DO SUL	3	7	10	45	175	220	8	3	11	8	1
SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES	4	2	6	3	123	126	3	2	5	1	1
SOUTHERN AFRICA	13	1	14	41	77	118	3	7	10	7	1
SRI LANKA AND PAKISTAN	4	2	6	16	46	62	2	2	4	5	2
SYDNEY	3	11	14	29	219	248	5	6	11	6	1
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0	0	0	1	200	201	2	2	4	0	0
TOTAL	82	66	148	336	3669	4005	132	73	205	62	41

* Note: The Provinces are those that have finished restructuring (January 2006).



BROTHERS WHO TOOK FIRST VOWS IN 2006

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	PROVINCE	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DATE
1. Arraztoa Hernández	Jorge Martín	Cruz del Sur	Argentina	2006-01-08
2. Vega Saguier	Luis Fernando	Cruz del Sur	Paraguay	2006-01-20
3. Fernando	Kurukulasuriya Mayon Nilupul Lukshan	Sri Lanka and Pakistan	Sri Lanka	2006-02-18
4. Asif	Adnan	Sri Lanka and Pakistan	Pakistan	2006-02-18
5. Younas	Albert	Sri Lanka and Pakistan	Pakistan	2006-02-18
6. Arulraj	Antony Adaikalam	Sri Lanka and Pakistan	India	2006-02-18
7. Kanikaisami	Jesudoss	Sri Lanka and Pakistan	India	2006-02-18
8. Bolibol	Albert	Philippines	Philippines	2006-05-20
9. Siva	Leo	Philippines	Philippines	2006-05-20
10. Sevilla	Danilo	Philippines	Philippines	2006-05-20
11. Kulinduduko Nangale	Patrick	Afrique Centre Est	Tanzania	2006-06-11
12. Bahati Hamuli	Georges	Afrique Centre Est	Congo D R	2006-06-11
13. Kikongolo Sadiki	Innocent	Afrique Centre Est	Congo D R	2006-06-11
14. Pataule Kyembwa	Jules	Afrique Centre Est	Congo D R	2006-06-11
15. Mukabane	Chrispinus Alvin	Afrique Centre Est	Kenya	2006-06-11
16. Akimana	Ernest	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2006-06-11
17. Abiyaremye	Felicien	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2006-06-11
18. Mayira	François Xavier	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2006-06-11
19. Mushinzimana	Valens	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2006-06-11
20. Nzasabimfura	Gaston	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2006-06-11
21. Ngarsandje	Frederick Nadji	Mediterránea	Tchad	2006-06-17
22. Oruche	Sthephen	Nigeria	Nigeria	2006-06-17
23. Onwuasoeze	Marcel Ifeanyi	Nigeria	Nigeria	2006-06-17
24. Earong	Sebastian Kanguri	Mediterránea	Ghana	2006-06-17
25. Siryeh	Anthony Doe	Mediterránea	Liberia	2006-06-17
26. Zazueta Muñoz	Angel	México Occidental	Mexico	2006-06-18
27. Sinei	Brendan	Sydney	Papua New Guinea	2006-11-18
28. Ururu	Andrew	Sydney	Papua New Guinea	2006-11-18
29. Au	Peter	Sydney	Solomon Islands	2006-11-18
30. Peto	Max	Sydney	Solomon Islands	2006-11-18
31. Tauwato	Ishmael	Sydney	Solomon Islands	2006-11-18
32. Chimera	Alexander Gavinala	Southern Africa	Malawi	2006-11-19
33. Mkwani	Crisple Thoni	Southern Africa	Malawi	2006-11-19
34. Chembe	Cosmas Elliot	Southern Africa	Malawi	2006-11-19
35. Chidothi	Richard Dumbo	Southern Africa	Malawi	2006-11-19
36. Januario Jamal Paulo Fernando	Antonio	Southern Africa	Malawi	2006-11-19
37. Chimba	Eugene Mwamba	Southern Africa	Zambia	2006-11-19
38. Herrera Galicia	Alejandro Gustavo	América Central	El Salvador	2006-12-08
39. Velásquez Valladares	Juan Carlos	América Central	El Salvador	2006-12-08
40. Martínez Nárvaez	Luis Antonio	Norandina	Colombia	2006-12-08
41. Morales Mutumbajoy	Harold Fabian	Norandina	Colombia	2006-12-08
42. Quintero Galvis	José Alberto	Norandina	Colombia	2006-12-08
43. Sigindioy Chindoy	Alexis Ermes	Norandina	Colombia	2006-12-08
44. Allebrandt	Marcelo	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
45. Brandelero	Danzio	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
46. Cimadom	Leandro	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
47. Mitcov	Rogério de Oliveira	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
48. Toledo	Joilson de Souza	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2006-12-08
49. Ribeiro	Wesley Adenilton	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2006-12-08
50. Perius	Roger Ariel	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
51. Mentges	Adélio Luís	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	PROVINCE	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DATE
52. Dall'Agnol	André Luis	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
53. Cerbaro Toffolo	Ezequiel	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
54. Wermann	Geandir Luís	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
55. Da Rosa Barrachini	Luciano	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
56. Bonhemberger	Marcelo	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
57. Vancini	Rodinei Fernando	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-08
58. Nivihero	Santos Antonio	Southern Africa	Mozambique	2006-12-08
59. Mèronville	Jourdin	Canada	Haiti	2006-12-09
60. Exama	Frantzley	Canada	Haiti	2006-12-09
61. Golding	Justin Michael	Sydney	Australia	2006-12-10
62. Salvatierra Céspedes	Aldo Gabriel	Santa María de los Andes	Peru	2006-12-17

BROTHERS WHO TOOK PERPETUAL VOWS IN 2006

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	PROVINCE	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DATE
1. Pérez Vides	Alex Humberto	América Central	El Salvador	2006-01-02
2. Silva	Jair Emerson da	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2006-01-10
3. Fontes	Guilherme Soares	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2006-01-10
4. Dantas	Lúcio Gomes	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2006-01-10
5. Batick	Jean-Marie	Sydney	Vanuatu	2006-03-25
6. Bertoldi	Murilo	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2006-05-07
7. Chingath	Santhosh I.	Sri Lanka and Pakistan	India	2006-06-03
8. Yacob	Esu Raja	Sri Lanka and Pakistan	India	2006-06-03
9. Hernández Castillo	Juan Pablo	Mediterránea	Spain	2006-06-05
10. Oejo Lambert	Mauricio	México Central	Mexico	2006-06-10
11. Cardona Muñoz	Nelson Eduardo	Norandina	Colombia	2006-06-18
12. Alvarez Poveda	Salvador	Norandina	Colombia	2006-06-18
13. Cruz Cruz	Wilson Antonio	Norandina	Colombia	2006-06-18
14. Brollo	Adriano	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2006-08-13
15. Rusanganwa	Protais	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2006-08-19
16. Ndagijimana	Clement	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2006-08-19
17. Osuji	Gregory Ekene	Nigeria	Nigeria	2006-08-26
18. Obiefule	Nicholas Chinyere	Nigeria	Nigeria	2006-08-26
19. Mwape	Kasongo	Southern Africa	Zambia	2006-09-16
20. Franco Hernández	Juan Jesús	México Central	Mexico	2006-10-07
21. Ocasiones	Rommel Cudal	Philippines	Philippines	2006-10-07
22. De Castro	Allan Jopson	Philippines	Philippines	2006-10-07
23. Calabria	Demosthenes	Philippines	Philippines	2006-10-07
24. Casuyon	Florante C.	Philippines	Philippines	2006-10-07
25. Talia	SAMISONI	New Zaeland	Tonga	2006-10-09
26. Kwame	Isaac Frimpong Amponsah	Mediterránea	Ghana	2006-10-21
27. Doua	Joachim	Mediterránea	Ivory Coast	2006-11-04

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	PROVINCE	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DATE
28. Koffi	Pascal Kouadio	Mediterránea	Ivory Coast	2006-11-04
29. Porres Arellano	Francisco Luis	América Central	Guatemala	2006-11-29
30. Silva	Renato Augusto da	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2006-12-08
31. Santos	Juraci Carlos dos	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2006-12-08
32. Souza	Natalino Guilherme de	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2006-12-08
33. Sepúlveda Romero	Álvaro Danilo	Santa María de los Andes	Chile	2006-12-08
34. Vázquez Zarazúa	Hugo Pablo	México Occidental	Mexico	2006-12-08
35. Ruiz Aguirrezábal	Iñaki	Ibérica	Spain	2006-12-08
36. Walter	Frisnel	Canada	Haiti	2006-12-09
37. Lima	Francisco Magalhães de	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2006-12-17
38. López Ríos	Edgardo Rafael	América Central	Puerto Rico	2006-12-19
39. Kanjan	Simon	Mediterránea	Cameroon	2006-12-27
40. Nguma Mbeng	Martin	Mediterránea	Cameroon	2006-12-27
41. Awoh	Peter Acho	Mediterránea	Cameroon	2006-12-27

BROTHERS WHO DIED IN 2006

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME IN RELIGION	DATE	AGE	PROVINCE
1. Fillion	Pierre		2006-01-01	55	Canada
2. Nkhuwa	Mathias	Abdon	2006-01-01	72	Southern Africa
3. Weber	Léon	Ignace	2006-01-05	88	Europe Centre Ouest
4. France	Jean-Antoine	Euchariste	2006-01-06	90	L'Hermitage
5. Langlois	Roger	Laurent Emile	2006-01-07	85	Canada
6. García Ortigosa	Emilio	Adolfo Rafael	2006-01-07	86	Ibérica
7. Turcotte	Raymond	Louis Raymond	2006-01-09	91	Canadá
8. Vaser	Antonio	Antonio Giuseppe	2006-01-12	100	Mediterránea
9. Santamarta Gallego	Atanasio	Miguel Urbano	2006-01-13	94	América Central
10. Strack	José Matías	Gregorio Luis	2006-01-18	72	Cruz del Sur
11. Esslinger	Martin	Louis Martin	2006-01-19	93	L'Hermitage
12. Salleneve	Bernard	Pascal	2006-01-22	83	L'Hermitage
13. Casto	Guillermo	Ruperto Germán	2006-01-29	85	Cruz del Sur
14. Maierbeck	Georg	Raphael Maria	2006-01-29	93	Europe Centre Ouest
15. Vincent	Vincent	Jean Marie	2006-01-30	78	L'Hermitage
16. Appuhamy	Don Anthony	Peter Berchmans	2006-01-31	90	Sri Lanka and Pakistan
17. Álvarez Rubio	Eloy	Ángel Eduardo	2006-02-08	99	Compostela
18. Neis	Rudi João	Ignacio de Azevedo	2006-02-13	75	Brasil Centro Sul
19. García Galarza	Ángel	Juan Gregorio	2006-02-16	90	Ibérica
20. Bilibio	Julio	Ricardo Felipe	2006-02-17	87	Brasil Centro Sul
21. Miguel Espinosa	Ananías	Bonifacio José	2006-02-19	95	Norandina
22. Paulos	João	Paulo Cyriaco	2006-02-25	90	Compostela
23. Teyssier	Pierre-Marie-R	Marie Cassien	2006-03-01	89	L'Hermitage

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME IN RELIGION	DATE	AGE	PROVINCE
24. Olmo Barriuso	Tomás del	Bernardo Exuperio	2006-03-01	84	Ibérica
25. Vallaris	Nicolas	Chrysologue	2006-03-02	89	L'Hermitage
26. Balandras	Léon-Louis	Aimé Jean	2006-03-04	84	L'Hermitage
27. Fernández Suárez	Antonio	Simón Antonio	2006-03-09	85	Compostela
28. Dubuc	Denis		2006-03-11	65	Canada
29. O'Donnell	George Robert	Canice Philip	2006-03-15	91	Sydney
30. Di Benedetto	Joseph Anthony		2006-03-18	65	United States of America
31. Ibañez Gutiérrez	José	Cosme Bernardo	2006-03-20	85	Mediterránea
32. Kangku	Henry Thomas	Bernard Celestine	2006-03-22	73	Sydney
33. Martínez Gómez	Víctor	Víctor Isidro	2006-04-02	86	Mediterránea
34. Koczicki	Demétrio	Demétrio Abdon	2006-04-02	87	Brasil Centro Sul
35. Orenge	Alfredo	Giuseppe Adolfo	2006-04-04	75	Cruz del Sur
36. Devantery	Paul-Robert	Paul Candide	2006-04-06	94	L'Hermitage
37. Chambouvet	Marcel	Joseph Pambon	2006-04-07	91	L'Hermitage
38. Lezaun Apestegua	Ciriaco	Pedro Alberto	2006-04-07	96	América Central
39. Lezcano Santos	Francisco	Avito Félix	2006-04-13	87	América Central
40. Cerini	Rocco	Giacinto	2006-04-15	82	Mediterránea
41. Pestaña García	Agustín	Ramón Agustín	2006-04-19	75	Compostela
42. Badoil	Petrus-Eugène	Pierre Augustin	2006-04-23	83	L'Hermitage
43. Bet	Antônio	Afonso Rodrigues	2006-04-26	79	Rio Grande do Sul
44. Madalozzo	Avelino	Luciano Mauricio	2006-05-04	82	Rio Grande do Sul
45. Bossaert	Joseph	Joseph Lucien	2006-05-13	91	Europe Centre Ouest
46. Ajenjo Fernández	Justo		2006-05-17	68	Compostela
47. Duvivier	Jean-Marie	Joseph Maxime	2006-05-18	78	Europe Centre Ouest
48. Doheny	Thomas	Canice	2006-05-20	95	China
49. Budgen	Terence George		2006-05-21	60	Sydney
50. Varis	André	Frédéric Marie	2006-05-21	80	L'Hermitage
51. Bisson	Maurice	Louis Théodule	2006-05-23	80	Canada
52. Beaudet	Claude-Roland	Claude Albert	2006-05-27	90	Canada
53. Mc Cormack	John Joseph	Philip Neri	2006-05-29	83	Europe Centre Ouest
54. Pizzotto	Remigio Paulo	Taciano Pedro	2006-06-05	97	Rio Grande do Sul
55. Alonso García	Ignacio	Alberto Martín	2006-06-06	83	Ibérica
56. Drouin	Napoléon George	Georges Edouard	2006-06-15	92	Canada
57. Agnew	Kevin Anthony	James Kenneth	2006-06-15	71	Melbourne
58. Girard	Joseph-Aimé	Ambroise Emile	2006-06-15	96	Canada
59. Guérin	André	Faustin	2006-07-01	81	L'Hermitage
60. Pérez González	Bernardo	Pelayo	2006-07-09	82	América Central
61. Sánchez Cobian	Jesús	José Leandro	2006-07-11	102	México Occidental
62. Zorita Echeverria	Antonio	Arnulfo	2006-07-12	101	Mediterránea
63. Robles Merino	José	Gustavo José	2006-07-16	81	Compostela
64. Dupré	Jean	Ignace Jean	2006-07-16	66	L'Hermitage
65. Fonseka	Joseph Kuvin	Gregory Paul	2006-07-16	75	Sri Lanka and Pakistan
66. Peláez Barbero	Eladio	Eladio Víctor	2006-07-17	72	L'Hermitage
67. Moreau	Jean-Baptiste	Benoît Hermas	2006-07-19	92	Canada
68. Andrieux	Félix	Marie Charles	2006-07-22	90	L'Hermitage
69. Desbienes	Jean-Paul	Pierre Jérôme	2006-07-23	79	Canada
70. Perret	Alfred	Yves Eugène	2006-07-26	94	L'Hermitage
71. Collombo	Oswaldo	Oswaldo Paolo	2006-07-26	88	Brasil Centro Sul
72. Preciado Palacios	David	David Alfonso	2006-07-29	75	México Occidental
73. Costa	Cristiano Baltazar da		2006-07-29	63	Southern Africa
74. Ferland	Louis	Louis Gédéon	2006-08-06	94	Canada

BROTHERS WHO DIED IN 2006

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME IN RELIGION	DATE	AGE	PROVINCE
75. Pellissier	Luis María	Bernardo Pascual	2006-08-09	91	Cruz del Sur
76. Sporen	René	René Germer	2006-08-11	83	L'Hermitage
77. Samartino Molina	David	David Gabriel	2006-08-14	72	Compostela
78. Razafimandimby	Bernard		2006-08-16	62	Madagascar
79. Schwaller	Lucien	Octave Léon	2006-08-23	90	L'Hermitage
80. Butler	Thomas Joseph	Patrick Mary	2006-08-26	77	Sydney
81. Hughes	Francis Xavier	Emilias	2006-08-26	88	United States of America
82. O'Driscoll	John Michael	Fabianus	2006-08-28	96	New Zaeland
83. López López	Miguel	Miguel Marcelino	2006-08-29	75	México Central
84. Egan	James	Raymund James	2006-08-29	67	Southern Africa
85. Charly	Emile	Blaise	2006-08-29	87	L'Hermitage
86. Glaeser	Pedro Vendelino	Paulo Luciano	2006-08-30	100	Rio Grande do Sul
87. Gallifa Maqueda	Felipe		2006-09-01	56	L'Hermitage
88. Martínez Conde	Cándido	Salvador María	2006-09-01	81	Cruz del Sur
89. Liu Tsun (Zun)	Paul	Paitoulou Célestin	2006-09-01	91	China
90. Goutagneux	Marcel	Joseph Philippe	2006-09-03	84	L'Hermitage
91. Scopel	Avelino	João Ildefonso	2006-09-05	88	Rio Grande do Sul
92. García del Valle Aguilar	José Pablo Fernando	Pablo Fernando	2006-09-06	84	México Occidental
93. Kavanagh	Owen Joseph	Owen Marcian	2006-09-11	93	Sydney
94. Ybarz Oliver	Diego		2006-09-21	57	L'Hermitage
95. Cebrían González	Sabas	Primitivo Juan	2006-09-22	84	Santa María de los Andes
96. Eke	David Onyemaechi		2006-09-24	47	Nigeria
97. Echavarri Aramendia	Silvestre	Custodio Enrique	2006-09-25	91	América Central
98. Okeke	Joseph		2006-09-28	61	Nigeria
99. Berthet	Francis Claude	Antoine	2006-09-29	81	L'Hermitage
100. Eguía Quevedo	Antonio		2006-10-01	58	Norandina
101. Aguirre Asurmendi	Máximo	Ramón Alberto	2006-10-04	81	Ibérica
102. Jiménez Enriquez	Victoriano	León Martín	2006-10-08	88	Compostela
103. Antón López	José	Blas José	2006-10-12	85	Mediterránea
104. García Andrés	Gonzalo	José Andrónico	2006-10-14	75	Compostela
105. Vinai	Michele	Gaetano	2006-10-16	96	Mediterránea
106. Setti	Luiz	Egydio Luiz	2006-10-16	87	Brasil Centro Sul
107. Benedettini	Lorenzo	Donato Lorenzo	2006-10-17	83	Cruz del Sur
108. De Kee	Willy	Albert Joseph	2006-10-27	81	Europe Centre Ouest
109. Loisselle	Emilien	Emilien	2006-10-29	85	Canada
110. Champagne	Marcel	Paul Azarias	2006-10-29	80	Canada
111. Ortiz Gallegos	Juan	Juan Oswaldo	2006-11-06	72	México Central
112. Pastrana Corral	Ángel	Nazario José	2006-11-10	81	Norandina
113. Carmona Hernández	Fernando	Filemón	2006-11-11	90	México Occidental
114. Rodríguez García	Leoncio	Leoncio Germán	2006-11-17	86	Mediterránea
115. Senosiain Eguaras	Marino	Teófilo Mateo	2006-11-17	89	Cruz del Sur
116. Moreno Villanueva	Manuel	José Guadalupe	2006-11-20	75	México Central
117. Antón del Cueto	Agustín	Pablo León	2006-11-23	79	Compostela
118. Carpintero Gento	Gonzalo	Hipólito Félix	2006-11-24	77	L'Hermitage
119. Kunst	Linus	Lino Serafim	2006-11-24	90	Rio Grande do Sul
120. Martín Arranz	Lauro	Pascual Aurelio	2006-11-25	87	Santa María de los Andes
121. Auwerx	Jean Camille	Célestin Marius	2006-11-25	84	Europe Centre Ouest
122. Blewman	John Patrick	Cletus John	2006-11-29	81	New Zaeland
123. Smith	Michael Austin	Walter Mary	2006-12-02	80	Melbourne
124. Bennett	Augustine Joseph	Lawrence Thomas	2006-12-04	91	New Zaeland

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME IN RELIGION	DATE	AGE	PROVINCE
125. Bruna	Severino	Diego	2006-12-06	94	Mediterránea
126. Heinen	Nicolas	Joseph Bénédicte	2006-12-10	86	Europe Centre Ouest
127. Desrumaux	Robert	Robert Gérard	2006-12-10	83	L'Hermitage
128. Figueroa Tapia	Albino	Raúl Emiliano	2006-12-14	87	Santa María de los Andes
129. Lachapelle	Bernard	Bernard Arthur	2006-12-15	72	Canada
130. De Wergifosse	Fernand	Agathon Eugène	2006-12-18	86	Europe Centre Ouest
131. Neuwald	Lauro José	Lauro Felipe	2006-12-24	85	Rio Grande do Sul
132. Pasa Neto	Ângelo	Claudino Clemente	2006-12-31	82	Rio Grande do Sul



GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE INSTITUTE TO 31 DICEMBER 2007*

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PROVINCES	NOVICES			BROTHERS			LOSSES			PROFS	
	1 st	2 nd	TOT	Temp	Perp	TOT	Dec	Perp	TOT	1 st Prof	PPer
1. AFRIQUE CENTRE EST	11	12	23	39	53	92	3	1	4	6	2
2. AMÉRICA CENTRAL	2	0	2	6	113	119	2	2	4	0	3
3. BRASIL CENTRO NORTE	7	2	9	22	107	129	3	3	6	2	2
4. BRASIL CENTRO SUL	4	4	8	29	105	132	2	1	3	3	3
5. CANADA	6	3	9	5	161	166	7	0	7	3	1
6. CHINA	0	0	0	0	28	28	2	0	2	0	0
7. COMPOSTELA	0	0	0	2	245	247	7	1	8	0	0
8. CRUZ DEL SUR	3	1	4	11	159	170	1	2	3	1	0
9. EUROPE CENTRE OUEST	0	0	0	0	165	165	7	0	7	0	0
10. IBÉRICA	0	0	0	1	201	202	6	1	7	0	0
11. L'HERMITAGE	0	2	2	2	391	393	21	3	25	0	0
12. MADAGASCAR	2	3	5	7	48	55	3	0	3	0	0
13. MEDITERRÁNEA	6	1	7	29	280	309	3	1	4	7	0
14. MELBOURNE	0	0	0	0	89	89	1	1	2	0	0
15. MÉXICO CENTRAL	11	3	14	16	119	135	1	1	2	3	1
16. MÉXICO OCCIDENTAL	2	2	4	4	129	133	3	4	7	2	2
17. NEW ZEALAND	0	0	0	5	108	113	0	1	1	0	0
18. NIGERIA	3	7	10	24	68	92	1	0	1	7	0
19. NORANDINA	5	5	10	22	128	150	4	1	5	5	0
20. PHILIPPINES	5	4	9	14	39	53	0	0	0	3	0
21. RIO GRANDE DO SUL	3	2	5	46	172	218	2	1	3	1	2
22. SANTA MARÍA DE LOS ANDES	1	4	5	4	117	121	5	2	7	1	0
23. SOUTHERN AFRICA	12	13	25	52	75	127	2	0	2	11	5
24. SRI LANKA AND PAKISTÁN	2	4	6	19	46	65	0	0	0	3	2
25. SYDNEY	0	3	3	32	211	243	5	3	8	3	4
26. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0	0	0	1	193	194	7	0	7	0	1
TOTALE	85	75	160	388	3552	3940	98	29	127	61	28

* Note: The Provinces are those that have finished restructuring (January 2007).



BROTHERS WHO TOOK FIRST VOWS IN 2007

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	PROVINCE	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DATE
1. Machinga	Benjamin	Southern Africa	Zimbabwe	2007-01-02
2. Song	Gang-soo (Francisco)	México Central	Korea	2007-01-07
3. Shin	Cheol-sik (Canuto)	México Central	Korea	2007-01-07
4. Chun	Young-geun (Damaso)	México Central	Korea	2007-01-07
5. Urrutia Nuñez	Carlos Adrian	Cruz del Sur	Argentina	2007-01-08
6. Masih	Biniamin	Sri Lanka and Pakistán	Pakistan	2007-01-12
7. Carreño Céspedes	Juan Freddy	Santa María de los Angeles	Perú	2007-01-17
8. Dalpathado	Kostapatabandige Shanaka Udara	Sri Lanka and Pakistán	Sri Lanka	2007-02-17
9. Santhiagu	Robinston	Sri Lanka and Pakistán	India	2007-02-17
10. Benimana Kahigiro	Robert	Afrique Centre Est	Congo D R	2007-05-17
11. Cagampan	Joseph Adrian	Philippines	Philippines	2007-05-19
12. Ponteras	Joey	Philippines	Philippines	2007-05-19
13. Sionosa	Mark Xyryx	Philippines	Philippines	2007-05-19
14. Ngardoum	Nandoumangar	Mediterránea	Chad	2007-06-16
15. Ngaro	Samedi	Mediterránea	Chad	2007-06-16
16. Idehen	Joachim Osas	Nigeria	Nigeria	2007-06-16
17. Iloabueke	Ndubuisi Innocent	Nigeria	Nigeria	2007-06-16
18. Ogwu	Lucky Paul	Nigeria	Nigeria	2007-06-16
19. Ogu	Emmanuel Oguchi	Nigeria	Nigeria	2007-06-16
20. Okebaram	Samuel Chidinma	Nigeria	Nigeria	2007-06-16
21. Shomya	Callistus James	Nigeria	Nigeria	2007-06-16
22. Ugbaji	Emmanuel Terdoo	Nigeria	Nigeria	2007-06-16
23. Dinayen	Brenda Ghakanyuy	Mediterránea	Cameroon	2007-06-16
24. Mbiydzenyuy	Evaristus	Mediterránea	Cameroon	2007-06-16
25. Tombir Sunjo	Brendane	Mediterránea	Cameroon	2007-06-16
26. Naatey	Augustine Teye	Mediterránea	Ghana	2007-06-16
27. Sikloh	Erasmus Pupoh	Mediterránea	Liberia	2007-06-16
28. Vargas Graciano	César Iván	México Occidental	Mexico	2007-06-17
29. Delgado Esparza	Luis Fernando	México Occidental	Mexico	2007-06-17
30. Odhiambo	Evans	Afrique Centre Est	Kenya	2007-06-17
31. Oguta	Bernard	Afrique Centre Est	Kenya	2007-06-17
32. Ndombari	Augustin Apollinaire	Afrique Centre Est	Central Africa	2007-06-17
33. Karerangabo	Crescent	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2007-06-17
34. Twagirayezu	Emilien	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2007-06-17
35. Grisales Ortiz	Miguel Angel	Norandina	Colombia	2007-07-09
36. Arnold	Francisco	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2007-11-02
37. Besing	Moacir	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2007-11-09
38. Duarte	Henrique	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2007-11-09
39. Garaffa	Rafael Antonio	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2007-11-09
40. Sangul	Elie	Sydney	Vanuatu	2007-11-09
41. Tombil	Jerome	Sydney	Papua New Guinea	2007-11-09
42. Fakaia	Raphael	Sydney	Solomon Islands	2007-11-09
43. Kesakudza	Lucias Samuel Bernard	Southern Africa	Malawi	2007-11-17
44. Mkanda	Oswald Msosa	Southern Africa	Malawi	2007-11-17
45. Phiri	Witman Gracius	Southern Africa	Malawi	2007-11-17
46. Simwinga	Peter Chifundo	Southern Africa	Malawi	2007-11-17
47. Tweah	Benjamin Priscillah	Southern Africa	Malawi	2007-11-17
48. Banda Lungu	Reuben	Southern Africa	Zambia	2007-11-17
49. Njobvun	Asensio	Southern Africa	Zambia	2007-11-17
50. Chakabva	Paddington Taurai	Southern Africa	Zimbabwe	2007-11-17

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	PROVINCE	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DATE
51. Gijima	Tererai	Southern Africa	Zimbabwe	2007-11-17
52. Mahlangu	Samson	Southern Africa	Zimbabwe	2007-11-17
53. Chamorro Chamorro	Jorge Mauricio	Norandina	Colombia	2007-12-08
54. Jacanamijoy Josa	Alvaro Fredy	Norandina	Colombia	2007-12-08
55. Viveros Varona	Vladimir Orlando	Norandina	Colombia	2007-12-08
56. Colala Troya	Héctor Xavier	Norandina	Ecuador	2007-12-08
57. Ferreira de Lima	Edvaldo	Brasil Centro-Norte	Brazil	2007-12-08
58. Martins de Jesus	Paulo Henrique	Brasil Centro-Norte	Brazil	2007-12-08
59. Forestal	Toussaint	Canada	Haiti	2007-12-09
60. François	Wilguins	Canada	Haiti	2007-12-09
61. Louis-Jeune	Jean Mance	Canada	Haiti	2007-12-09

BROTHERS WHO TOOK PERPETUAL VOWS IN 2007

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	PROVINCE	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DATE
1. Rivero Flota	Juan Pablo	México Occidental	Mexico	2007-02-04
2. Dhason	Baskar	Sri Lanka and Pakistán	India	2007-03-24
3. Sagolo	Alfred	Sydney	Papua New Guinea	2007-04-13
4. Medina Lugo	Antonio	México Occidental	Mexico	2007-04-28
5. Kucher	Franki Klenserson	Brasil Centro-Sul	Brazil	2007-05-05
6. Correã Dos Santos	Márcio	Brasil Centro Sul	Brazil	2007-05-25
7. Kelets	Cornelius	Sydney	Papua New Guinea	2007-06-09
8. Delgado Vázquez	Antonio	México Central	Mexico	2007-06-16
9. Tanguan	Brian	Sydney	Papua New Guinea	2007-06-16
10. Nsabimana	Egide	Afrique Centre Est	Rwanda	2007-06-17
11. Kifala Munyilongo	Joseph	Afrique Centre Est	Congo D R	2007-08-19
12. Maceia	Felizardo Vasco Domingos	Southern Africa	Mozambique	2007-08-19
13. Bwanali	John Francis	Southern Africa	Malawi	2007-09-01
14. Seguin	Joseph Claude Roger	Canada	Canada	2007-09-08
15. Robertson	Anthony	Sydney	Australia	2007-09-15
16. Tiecher	Claudiano	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2007-09-16
17. Phiri Chiza	Lorent	Southern Africa	Zambia	2007-09-22
18. Sawayenga	Tomás Sawália Kapitango	Southern Africa	Angola	2007-10-21
19. Rivera	Albert	United States of America	United States of America	2007-11-03
20. Malfatti	Venicios Meneguzzi	Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	2007-11-17
21. Sánchez Kopper	Jorge	América Central	Costa Rica	2007-11-20
22. Dellalibera	Valério	BrasilCentro-Sul	Brazil	2007-12-05
23. Sandoval Martínez	Juan Antonio	América Central	El Salvador	2007-12-08
24. Chaskasara	Francis Fortune Chiedzo	Southern Africa	Zimbabwe	2007-12-08
25. Nonis	Chinthana Nuwan	Sri Lanka and Pakistán	Sri Lanka	2007-12-08
26. Chinchilla Villalobos	Ricardo Enrique	América Central	Guatemala	2007-12-16
27. Santos	José Antônio dos	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2007-12-22
28. Falqueto	Rubens José	Brasil Centro Norte	Brazil	2007-12-22



BROTHERS WHO DIED IN 2007

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME IN RELIGION	DATE	AGE	PROVINCE
1. Dinnean	Vincent D.	Conan Vincent	2007-01-03	92	United States of America
2. Rodríguez Rodríguez	Primitivo	Modesto Miguel	2007-01-05	87	Compostela
3. Rutamunuga Rwandoha	Vianney		2007-01-07	62	Afrique Centre Est
4. Lezcano Giral	Emilio	Crisóstomo Luis	2007-01-08	95	L'Hermitage
5. Pérez Nozal	Ildefonso	Gabriel Eduardo	2007-01-10	84	Ibérica
6. Berthet	Claude	Claude Marcel	2007-01-10	83	L'Hermitage
7. González Sanz	Lorenzo	Severo	2007-01-23	99	Ibérica
8. Joaquím Da Fraga	António	Amos Rafael	2007-01-29	90	Compostela
9. Grenier	Marcel	Louis Philippe	2007-01-29	87	Canada
10. Voarino	Agostino	Agostino	2007-01-30	74	Mediterránea
11. Ali-Messai	Didier		2007-02-03	43	Afrique Centre Est
12. Descamps	Remi	Joseph Polycarpe	2007-02-17	85	Europe Centre Ouest
13. Ouellet	Joseph Jean Art	Simeon Arthur	2007-02-18	79	United States of America
14. Cordun	José	Luiz Albano	2007-02-27	91	Brasil Centro Sul
15. Vilda Vilata	Juan Francisco	Pablo Leandro	2007-03-04	89	Norandina
16. Arnaud	Firmin-Marcel	Marcel André	2007-03-15	75	L'Hermitage
17. Biren	Léon Jean	Jean Michael	2007-03-18	85	Europe Centre Ouest
18. Sulmon	Michel	Léon Arsène	2007-03-24	78	Europe Centre Ouest
19. Ruth	Bernard Johann	Bernard Josef	2007-03-26	68	United States of America
20. Martín Alamo	Gabino	Rubén María	2007-03-31	96	Santa María de los Angeles
21. Faure	Jean-Baptiste	François Denis	2007-04-03	93	L'Hermitage
22. Condado Paz	Dionisio	José Vicente	2007-04-04	96	China
23. Perron	Romuald	Romuald Benoît	2007-04-07	87	Canada
24. Huidobro Díez	Pedro María	Javier Pedro	2007-04-10	68	Ibérica
25. Romo López	Crispín Santos	José Ramón	2007-04-11	86	Norandina
26. Thiébo	Antoine	Antoine Berthuin	2007-04-12	87	L'Hermitage
27. Snowden	Matthew	Matthew Richard	2007-04-22	78	United States of America
28. Perreault	Camille	Auguste Désiré	2007-04-24	89	Southern Africa

BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME IN RELIGION	DATE	AGE	PROVINCE
29. Lavalatte	Maurice	Valéry	2007-05-02	79	L'Hermitage
30. Fidalgo Redondo	Basilio	Dámaso Silvio	2007-05-03	84	Santa María de los Andes
31. Llovet Jario	Ángel	Licerio José	2007-05-04	95	Santa María de los Andes
32. Chou Hsien Hui (Zhou Xian Hui)	Joseph	Hilaire Edmond	2007-05-14	85	China
33. Grivel	François	Natale	2007-05-15	88	L'Hermitage
34. Martínez de Guereñu y Martínez de Albéniz	Isaac	Doroteo Manuel	2007-05-17	80	Ibérica
35. Lampard	Kevin James	Martial John	2007-05-28	83	Sydney
36. Heavey	Bernard E.	Paul Bernard	2007-06-01	72	United States of America
37. Rodríguez García	Ángel	Ventura	2007-06-01	92	Compostela
38. Piper	Mogens	Olaf	2007-06-02	95	Europe Centre Ouest
39. Viricel	Claudius	Joseph Fulgence	2007-06-03	82	L'Hermitage
40. Gutiérrez Fernández	Norberto		2007-06-08	64	Compostela
41. Olano Merino	Enrique Alberto		2007-06-10	29	América Central
42. Romo López	Jesús	Teodoro Vicente	2007-06-10	81	Compostela
43. Picheyre	Antoine	Noël	2007-06-16	81	L'Hermitage
44. Ramaroson	Joseph		2007-06-16	59	Madagascar
45. Ibañez Barbero	Luis	Luis Victorino	2007-06-17	68	L'Hermitage
46. Bouchet	Maurice	Louis Emmanuel	2007-06-17	82	L'Hermitage
47. Metuh	Samuel	John Samuel	2007-06-21	81	Nigeria
48. Cembrero Hervas	Silvino	Silvino Donato	2007-06-27	87	Brasil Centro Norte
49. Palmer	Martin	Aloysius Martin	2007-07-08	85	Europe Centre Ouest
50. Castillo Santander	Luis	Carlos Marcelino	2007-07-12	85	Santa María de los Andes
51. Romanckiv	Paulo	Marcos Eleuterio	2007-07-14	83	Brasil Centro Sul
52. Pedrosa Zapatero	Eutimio	León Eutimio	2007-07-16	89	Compostela
53. Roy	Bertrand	Denis Bernard	2007-07-17	85	Canada
54. Borrell	Octavius William	Marie Octave	2007-07-18	91	Melbourne
55. Garetto	Carlo	Joseph Borgia	2007-07-18	85	Brasil Centro Norte
56. Moro	Rovilio	Braz María	2007-07-20	78	Rio Grande do Sul
57. Fuentes Garrido	Ángel de	Anselmo Claudio	2007-07-23	90	Norandina
58. Pérez González	Segismundo	Armancio José	2007-07-31	90	México Occidental
59. Paquette	Omer	Julien Omer	2007-08-03	78	Canada
60. Dwyer	John Aloysius	Alman Sylvester	2007-08-04	76	Sydney
61. Rakotondrazafy	Augustin Aristide		2007-08-04	48	Madagascar
62. Reboulet	Jean	Gentilis	2007-08-08	79	L'Hermitage
63. Auclair	Léonard	Odilon Léonard	2007-08-10	79	Canada



BASED ON DATA RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME IN RELIGION	DATE	AGE	PROVINCE
64. González Moreno	José María	Gerardo José	2007-08-12	73	Mediterránea
65. Ibañez Santana	Gabriel	Oton Gabriel	2007-08-13	81	México Central
66. González del Amo	José	Fidelis Ángel	2007-08-14	88	Ibérica
67. Elcarte Elia	José	Elviro	2007-08-17	85	L'Hermitage
68. Baños Rodríguez	Benito	Efrén María	2007-08-22	86	América Central
69. Frassy	Giovanni	Louis Claudien	2007-08-24	85	Brasil Centro Norte
70. Maire-Sebille	Georges	Louis Clémentin	2007-08-26	84	L'Hermitage
71. Fernández García	David	David Agustín	2007-08-30	77	Compostela
72. Gschrey	Johann	Manfred	2007-09-05	69	Europe Centre Ouest
73. Hopson	Kevin Nicholas	Crispin Donald	2007-09-13	74	Sydney
74. Grehl	Josef	Otmar Josef	2007-09-14	72	Europe Centre Ouest
75. Palomera Palomera	Adolfo	Grimoaldo María	2007-09-18	97	Santa María de los Andes
76. Mottin	Antonio João Silvestre	Elvo Clemente	2007-09-19	86	Rio Grande do Sul
77. Caverley	John T.	Denis Christopher	2007-09-26	74	United States of America
78. Corredera Gutiérrez	Eduardo	Adolfo José	2007-09-29	96	L'Hermitage
79. Cotta	Gildo	Gildo	2007-09-30	94	Mediterránea
80. Favreau	Roger	Urbain André	2007-10-03	87	Canada
81. Brath	Joseph	Théodoric	2007-10-08	87	L'Hermitage
82. Dhesa Dhego	Isidore	Honoré Ignace	2007-10-14	82	Afrique Centre Est
83. May	Kevin Arthur	Mark Aquinas	2007-10-19	75	Sydney
84. Lacour	Justin	Marie Arnould	2007-10-23	86	L'Hermitage
85. Peró Chamberch	José	Luciano	2007-10-23	83	L'Hermitage
86. Arija Santidrian	Juan	Doroteo León	2007-10-31	79	Ibérica
87. Zepeda Cepeda	Luis Federico	Víctor Aurelio	2007-11-09	81	México Occidental
88. Coughlin	Francis Eric	Venantius	2007-11-18	80	Sydney
89. Galliot	René	Marie Gonzague	2007-11-22	89	L'Hermitage
90. Razafintsalama	Marc	Marc Antoine	2007-11-25	72	Madagascar
91. Martín Andrés	Argeo	José Floriano	2007-11-27	82	Norandina
92. Linés Escardó	Pablo	Pablo Luis	2007-12-06	88	L'Hermitage
93. Sáiz López	Benito	Teófilo Benito	2007-12-07	77	L'Hermitage
94. Valle Cagigal	José del	Filogonio José	2007-12-14	98	Cruz del Sur
95. Tesche	Carlos Guilherme	Deodato María	2007-12-14	73	Southern Africa
96. Muñoz Romero	Fernando de Jesús		2007-12-26	40	México Occidental
97. Ouellet	Omer-Fernand	Joseph Simon	2007-12-28	101	Canada
98. Mathews	George	Leo George	2007-12-31	87	United States of America



The Beatifications reverberate

A glowing page has been written by the Marist Brothers who contributed to the Beatification weekend by tough, demanding, persevering work. Champagnat must now be contemplating with satisfaction those Brothers who worked hard to give a special brilliance to the Brothers who surrendered their lives for the cause of Christ and his Good Mother.

When the Beatification was announced, I truly rejoiced, because it would be a just recognition of those who bore witness to their faith in Christ. At the same time, Brother Mariano, I feel it a duty to tell you how much I appreciate all that you do to promote the cause of our Marist martyrs. My heartfelt, brotherly salutations. May the Lord of the harvest, and Mary and Champagnat and our martyrs bestow abundant blessings upon those who have helped us to open our eyes upon the world, there to let the truth be clearly seen.

In Jesus, Mary, Champagnat and our Blessed martyrs,
Br. Armando L. Bortolini

Here at the University, we celebrated the occasion by a ceremony for our teachers and the Brothers. In Lima, on another occasion, we conducted a religious service with the University students.

The video presentations which we saw brought back memories of Les Avellanes.

It was all deeply moving, and we celebrated here with enthusiasm. In addition, on his return, Brother Gregorio told us about his trip and the celebrations.

Br. Arturo Fernández

For our part we will have a solemn celebration at Bogotá-College Champagnat, on November 4th.

Ramón Benseny



around the Marist world

Church bells in the dioceses of Barcelona, Burgos, Urgell, Girona, Lleida, Palencia, Pamplona, Solsona, Tarragona, Terrassa, Vic, resounded with joy on the Beatification of some of their offspring. The Bishops organized thanksgiving Masses because, at the heart of their communities, they had had Christians who, in fidelity to their faith, were able to give their lives as did Jesus Christ... "in forgiving." To honor the newly beatified who were born therein, many parishes also conducted special Masses. The ceremonies were an invitation to fidelity

and to thanksgiving for having a son of their own town presented by the Church as a model worth imitating.

An unforgettable memory still remains deeply imprinted on my mind of the days spent in Rome. On November 6, at the cathedral, we had our own diocesan celebration to honor all the martyrs, among them Brother Bernardo. Eight hundred priests were in attendance as well as thousands of the faithful.

I have been deeply touched by the enthusiasm generated by our martyrs! Very truly yours

**José Ignacio Munilla,
Bishop of Palencia**

On November 18, a thanksgiving Mass presided by the Bishop was celebrated at the Lleida cathedral. On December 1st, he paid a visit to the village of Torregrossa, there to celebrate the Eucharist and bless a display, featuring a photo of Blessed Victorino José (José Blanch Roca) destined for the parish church. I am very happy, because God has granted me the health necessary

to see with my own eyes the Beatification of my uncle. Everything was deeply moving.

Elvira Albareda Blanch

On December 8, in Sant Pere d'Oscor Parish (Girona) we celebrated the Mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception in thanksgiving for the Beatification of Marist Brother Jaume Morella Bruguera. Then, in the church where he was baptized, we set up a memorial plaque of the ceremony.

M. Ramón Oller



