

# PRAYER with the quotations from of our SISTERS and BROTHERS, the BLESSED MARTYRS OF ALGERIA

Beatified on 8 December 2018 in Oran (Algeria)  
Liturgical Feast Day: 8 May



**Beatification**  
**19 martyrs**  
**of Algeria**  
**1994-1996**  
**ORAN**  
**8 Dec 2018**



We can pray to them as a group asking that our Church, as a missionary Church, may receive the grace of fidelity, unity and fraternity, and may obtain blessings for the whole world.



God  
we praise you

Lord  
we acclaim you

in the great company  
of all the Saints.

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**Paul-Hélène  
Saint-Raymond  
(+ Casbah)**



Little Sisters of the Assumption

"I would believe myself to be a missionary, at the service of God and the Church, here as elsewhere....

I have a deep desire to be totally available....  
Wherever God wishes."

"Father, in any case our lives are already given."

## Frère Henry Vergès (+ Casbah)



Maristes Brothers

"Virgin Mary, make me an instrument of peace for the world"

"Like Mary, with Mary, welcoming Jesus in me and giving Him to others."

"God sent me simply to sow the seed in the field he had chosen.

Sow in peace, therefore, and leave the growth to Him, without being surprised by the presence of the Cross, as in the life of Jesus Himself."



**God  
we praise you**

**Lord  
we acclaim you**

**in the great company  
of all the Saints.**

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8 mai 1994



## Caridad Alvarez (+Bab el Oued)



Agustinas Misioneras

"Sharing the prayer of the Psalms is enormously enriching for me. I feel myself in communion with all the members of the Church, of humanity, and I pray for them."

"Mary was open to the will of God and perhaps that was costly for her. In the present circumstances, I want to remain before God with this attitude."



## Esther Paniagua (+Bab el Oued)



Agustinas Misioneras

"No one can take our life from us, since we have given it already.

Nothing will happen to us, since we are in God's hands., and if anything should happen, we are still in His hands."

Esther's father, on the day of the funeral:

"I forgive those who have assassinated my daughter, and I thank the people of Algeria who allowed her to be what she was.



God  
we praise you,

Lord  
we applaud you

in the great procession  
of all the saints.

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## Jean Chevillard (+ Tizi Ouzou)



White Fathers (Mafr)

"I know that I can die by assassination. Our vocation is to bear witness to the Christian faith among Muslims. For the rest, In cha' Allah [may God's will be done]."

"If Christians wish to be true Christians the sign by which they will be recognized is not the liturgy, the Mass or the Sacraments. 'At this you will be recognized as my disciples: if, just as I have loved you, you love one another to the point of sacrificing [your lives]'."

## Alain Dieulangard (+ Tizi Ouzou)



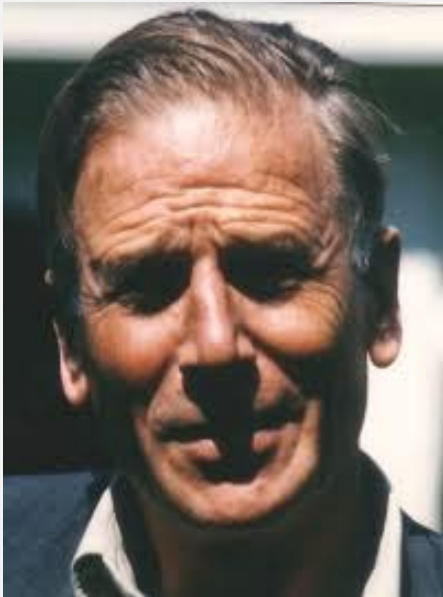
White Fathers (Mafr)

" We are continuing rendering the Church present and we even plan for the future here, as if nothing were happening, putting our trust in the Lord."

"Like the apostles on the lake, we have nothing left but to cry out to the Lord to awaken him. The future? That is in God's hands.

I hope that we shall be able to ensure at least a minimum presence of the Church, until peace returns which will one day happen."

## Charles Deckers (+ Tizi Ouzou)



White Fathers (Mafr)

"I know that my activities put my life in danger. My vocation is here, I remain... we put our trust in the one who holds the destiny of all humankind in His hands.

Fear reigns in Algiers, but to leave, while so many people are suffering, would be an act of cowardice.

The present world in general, but religious cultures in particular, cannot withdraw from the need to engage in dialogue in order to ensure that harmonious coexistence which is demanded by the honour of God whom we and others wish to serve.

## Christian Chessel (+ Tizi Ouzou)



White Fathers (Mafr)

"To believe in the significance of our presence in Algeria today is perhaps nothing other than to believe in the power of love, so as to be able to repeat at this time: "We have recognized the love of God and we have believed in it."

"To remain is an act of faith in God, in the Church, a grace for ourselves as Missionaries, a grace for Algeria, a grace for the Muslim World, a grace for the Church as a whole."

"Yes, it is a grace for the whole Church being in communion also with the passion of an entire population, and receiving from the Church the witness of its faith."



God  
we praise you

Lord  
we acclaim you

in the great company  
of all the Saints.

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**Jeanne Littlejohn**  
*Sister Angèle-Marie*  
**(+ Belcourt)**



Sisters of Our Lady  
of the Apostles

"We should not be afraid. We should just live well the present moment.... Whatever else besides is not ours to decide."

"I choose to remain in Algeria in order to bear witness to Jesus and I am not afraid, because I am with him and with the Blessed Virgin."

In its direct way, this answer says everything.

Denise Leclercq  
*Sister Bibiane*  
(+ Belcourt)



Sisters of Our Lady  
of the Apostles

"I am very upset, I feel helpless faced with so much suffering, but I know that God loves this people and I have great confidence in Our Lady of Africa."

"Her light helps me discover hidden wonders great solidarity, generosity, superhuman courage. The spirit is indeed working in their hearts."

"God's Word helps me to keep on listening in order to be a glimmer of hope. I choose to remain."

**God  
we praise you**

**Lord  
we acclaim you**

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of all the Saints.**

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# Odette Prévost (+ Kouba)



Little Sisters of the  
Sacred Heart of Jesus

"This is a privileged moment [for us] to live with more truly fidelity to Jesus Christ and to the Gospel."

"It is doubtless there, at the heart of this very simple life, shared, that we respond to the permanent call of God to seek Him, discover Him, hidden at the heart of the world, like fire."

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## Brother Luc (+Tibhirine)

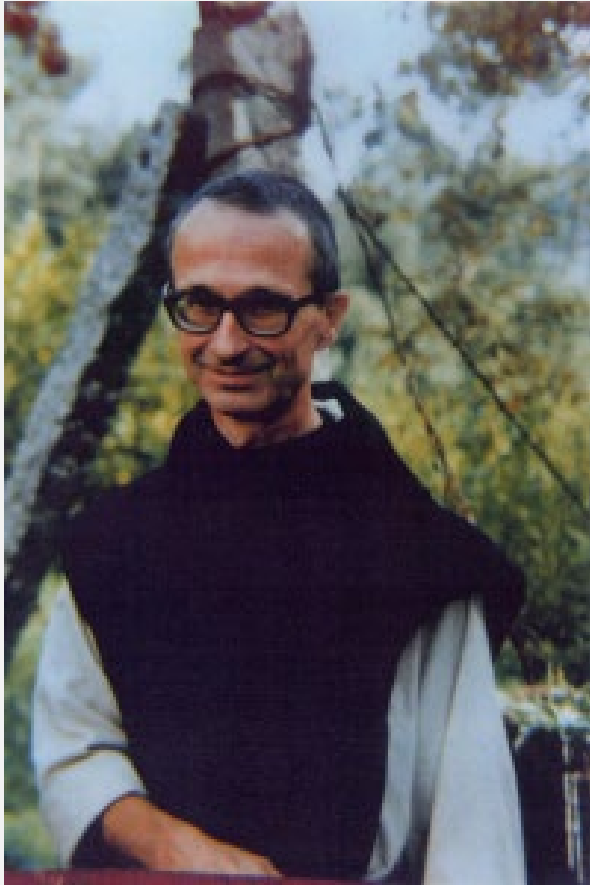


"Fear is a lack of faith; faith transforms anguish into trust. So of what or of whom could we be afraid? We are like a bird on a branch, ready to fly off to other Heavens, new Heavens and a new Earth."

"What can happen to us? To go towards the Lord and to immerse ourselves in His tenderness."

"Lord, give me the grace to die without hatred in my heart."

## Brother Christian (+Tibhirine)



"Christians and Muslims, we have an urgent need to enter into mutual mercy..."

The exodus towards the other cannot turn us away from the Promised Land, while it is certainly true that our paths converge when the same thirst leads us to the same well.

Can we slake the thirst one of the other? We have to judge by the taste of the water. The true living water is one that no-one can cause to well up, or can collect it. The world would be less of a desert if we were able to acknowledge a common vocation to increase on the way the number of fountains of mercy."

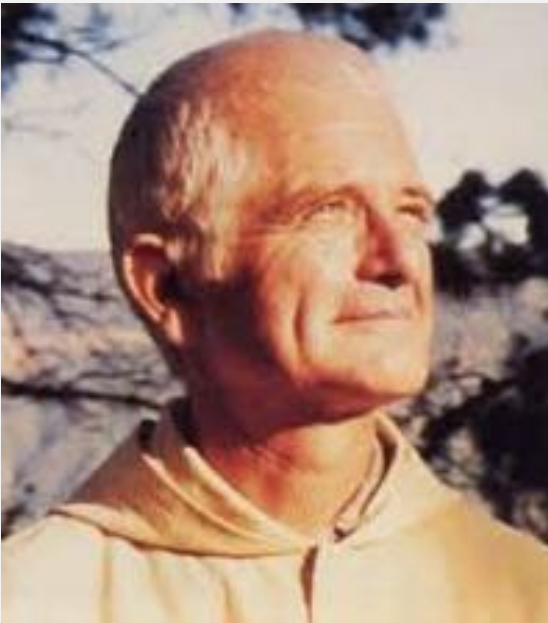
**Brother Christophe  
Lebreton  
(+Tibhirine)**



"Your word take the trouble to come and look for me; only the word can pierce my solitude, it comes to the threshold of the secret [self] and waits there. The word is listened to, I hear it growing in me; his gaze cries out, rending the veil. I see his glory, his hand is placed on my eyes, my lips, my heart. I am healed. It is time to go out, responding to love.

My body is [destined] for the earth, but please do not allow any protective barrier to come between it and myself. My heart is [destined] for life, but please let there be nothing artificial between it and myself. My hands [destined] for work will be folded, quite simply. May my face be left open so as not to prevent a kiss. And let my countenance be seen."

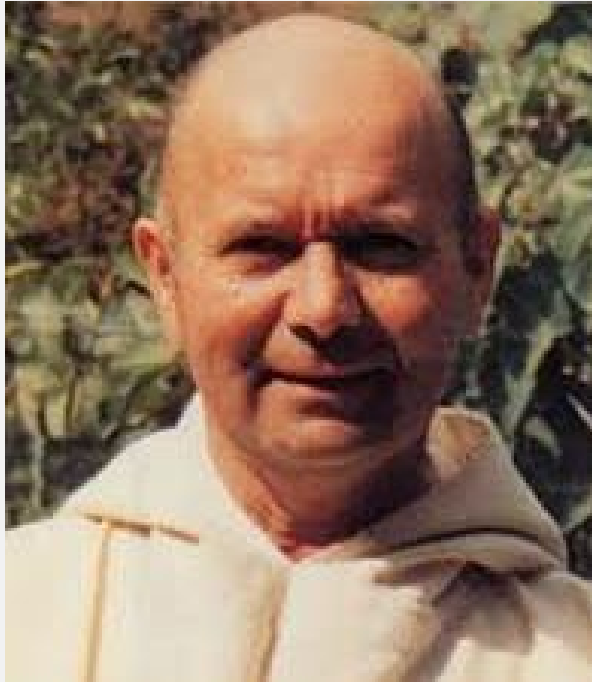
## Brother Célestin (+Tibhirine)



" O Jesus, I accept willingly that your death should be renewed, should come about in me; I know that with you one rises from the dizzying descent into the depths proclaiming to the Demon that he has been defeated."

"In carrying out the daily office (and that helps me each day) I sang this morning two short phrases: "O god, you are our Hope on the face of every living person" and "Wonder of your grace. You entrust to human beings the secrets of the Father."

## Brother Paul (+Tibhirine)



"Only one person knows the day and the hour of being set free in him... Let us be ready to let him act in us through prayer and a loving presence for all our brothers."

"There can only be love when two free minds meet. Love cannot be compelled. God knows that our happiness can only be in him, but he cannot impose it on us."

## Brother Bruno (+Tibhirine)



"... I thank the Lord for being here and for my state of life. It is simple, hidden like the seed buried in the soil which germinates in its own good time. A life of faith and of great hope. Here, as in the whole world, God has sown the seed of his Kingdom, but every birth is painful."

"Here I am before you, O my God. Here I am, rich in misery and poverty and of unnamable cowardice. Here I am before you, you who are nothing but love and mercy. Before you, but by your grace alone here I am in my entirety, with my whole mind, my whole heart and my whole will."



## Brother Michel (+Tibhirine)



"It is so ambiguous a word here, Martyrs. If something happens to us, I hope not; we want to suffer it here in solidarity with all those Algerian men and women who have already paid with their lives, in solidarity with all the unknown innocents."

"I would say that the one who keeps us going is the one who has called us. I remain deeply astonished by this."

God  
we praise you

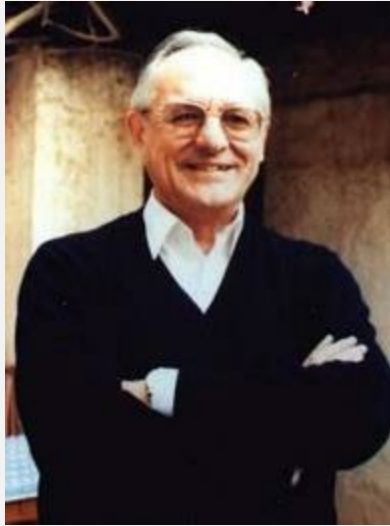
Lord  
we acclaim you

in the great company  
of all the Saints.

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# Mgr. Pierre Claverie bishop of Oran



Dominicans Order of  
Preachers

"It is now that we must share in the suffering and in the hope of Algeria, with love, respect, patience and lucidity."

"Martyrdom is the greatest testimony of love. Not to run towards death, nor to seek suffering for suffering's sake, but in shedding one's own blood one comes nearer to God."

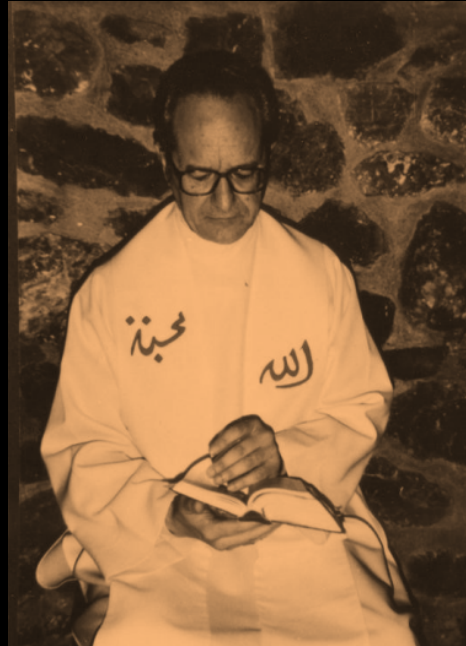
"Holiness is above all passion. There is folly in holiness, the folly of love, the folly of the Cross that scoffs at human calculations and wisdom."

God  
we praise you

Lord  
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Sanctuaire de Santa Cruz à Oran  
Lieu de la béatification

## Word of God: Romans 8:35-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All:

The Holy Spirit is not held captive by the boundaries of the Church.

The spirit is bestowed throughout the world. He is present in every human conscience, in the cultures and spiritual life of all people.

There is, outside the Church, an activity which converges with what the spirit is bringing about within the Church.



## Song of Zechariah:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
He has come to His people and set them free.

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
Born of the house of His servant David.**

Through His holy prophets  
He promised of old

**That He would save us from our enemies,  
From the hands of all who hate us.**

He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
And to remember His holy Covenant.

**This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham:  
To set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

Free to worship Him without fear,  
Holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.

**You, My child shall be called the prophet of the Most High,**  
**For you will go before the Lord to prepare His way,**  
To give his people knowledge of salvation  
By the forgiveness of their sins.

**In the tender compassion of our Lord**  
**The dawn from on high shall break upon us,**  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

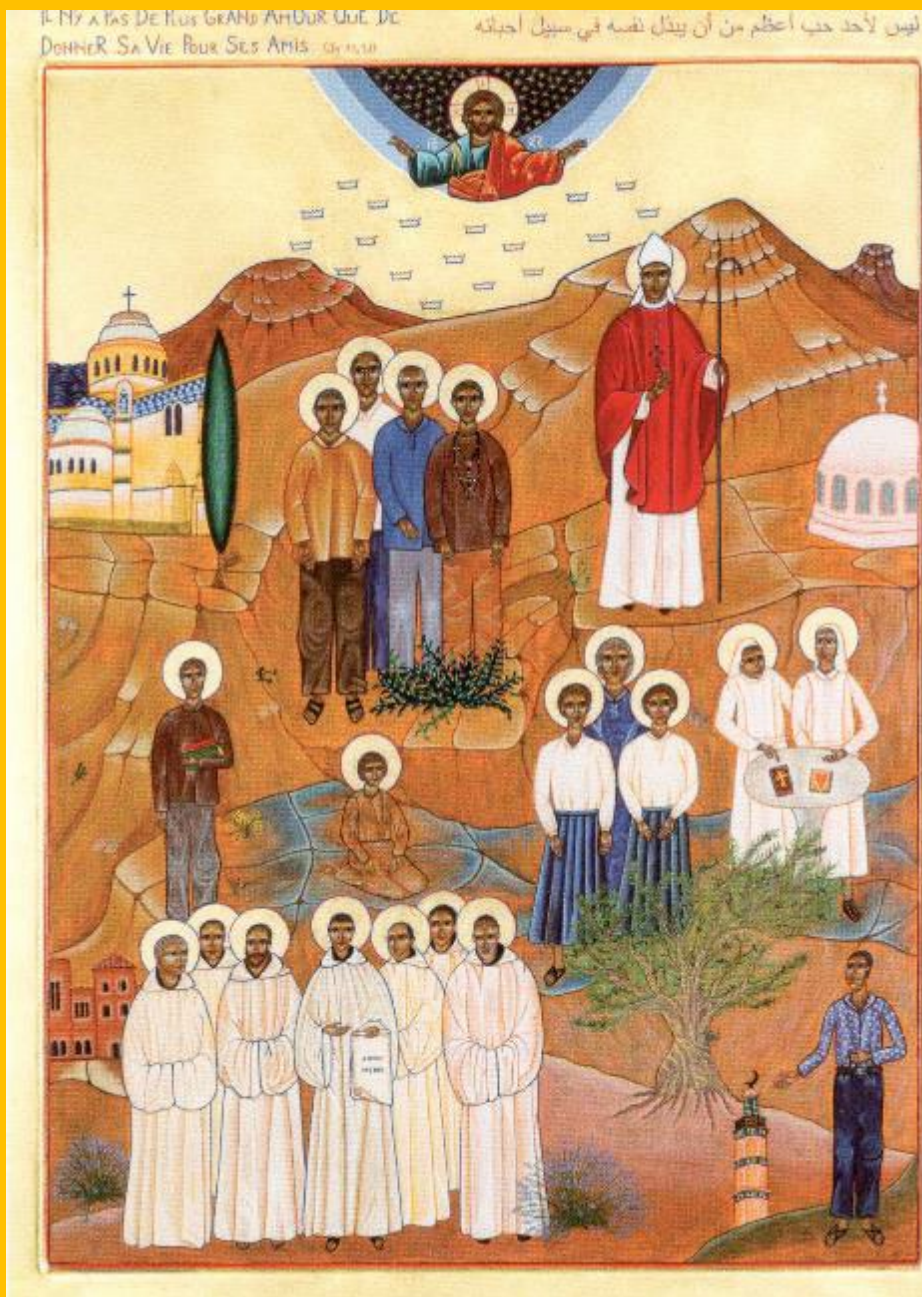
**All:**

**The Holy Spirit is not held captive by the boundaries of the Church.**

**The spirit is bestowed throughout the world. He is present in every human conscience, in the cultures and spiritual life of all people.**

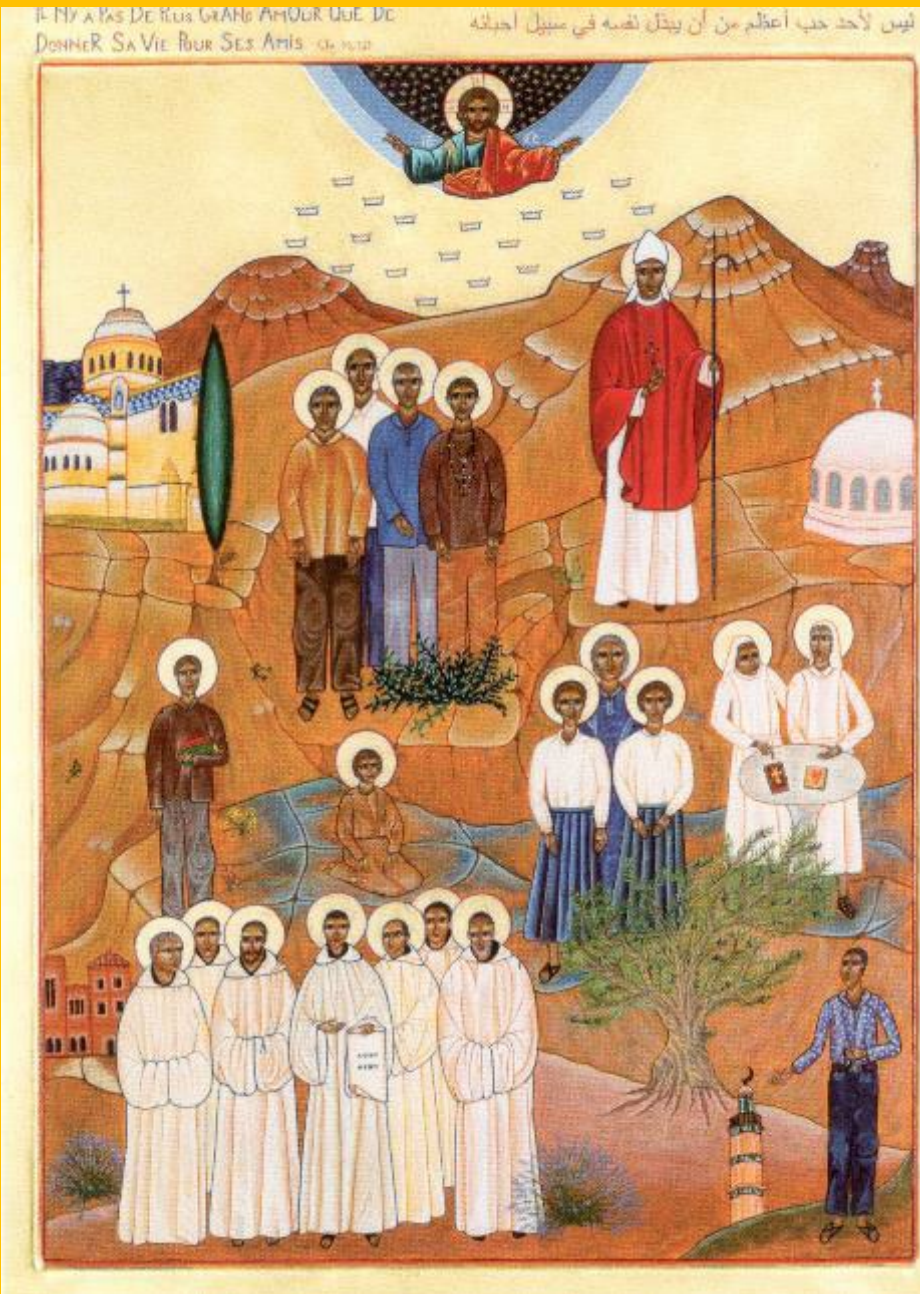
**There is, outside the Church, an activity which converges with what the spirit is bringing about within the Church.**

*(Cardinal Duval, Archbishop of Algiers 1954-1988)*



**Blessed**  
are those who have  
given their lives out  
of love!





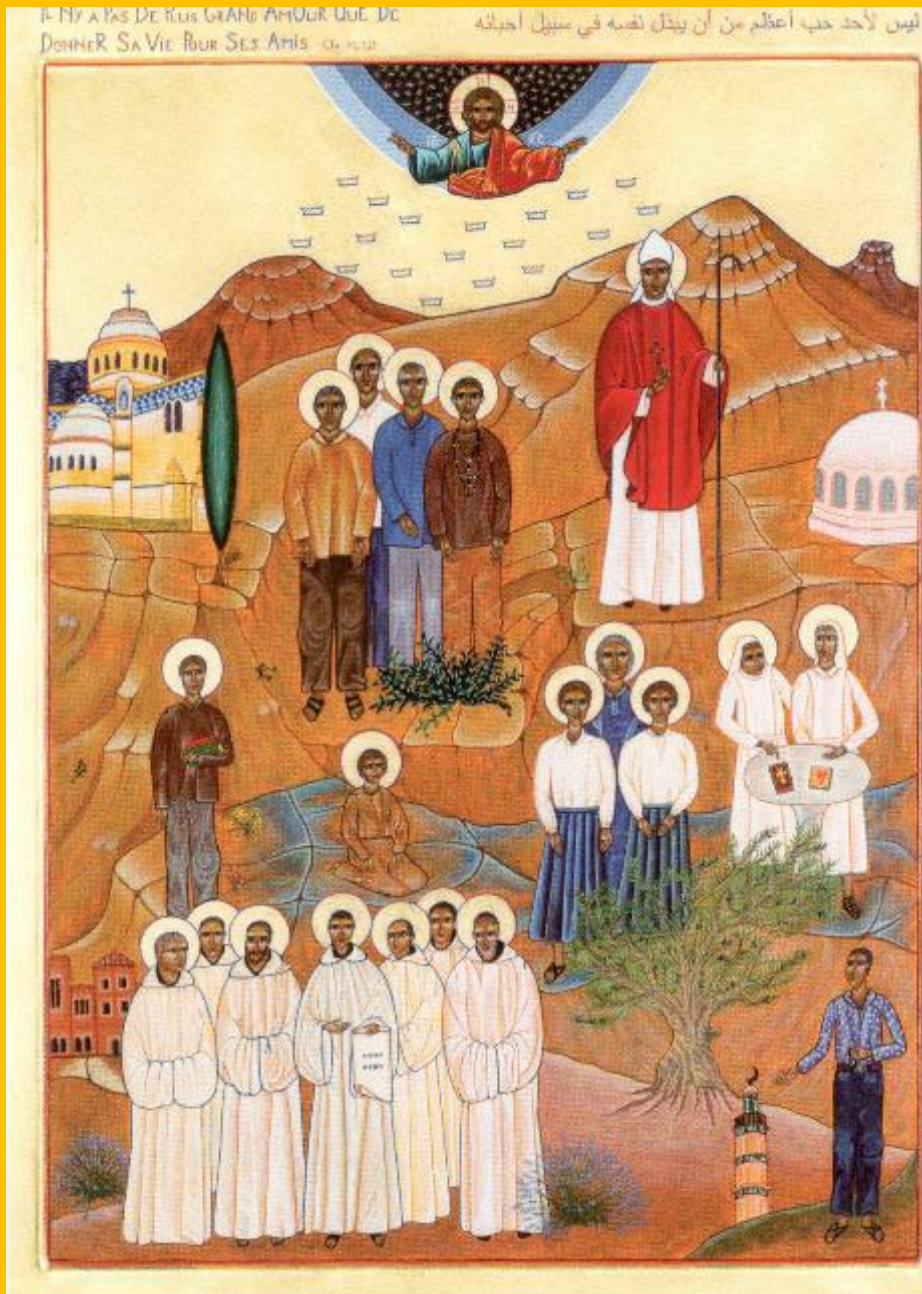
## Prayer through the intercession of the Martyrs of Algeria

Lord God and Father, we praise you for the Passion, Death and Resurrection of your Son Jesus, the paragon of Martyrs, from whom all salvation comes.

You wished to share his martyrdom with our brothers and sisters of the Church of Algeria:

Henri et Paul-Hélène, Caridad et Esther, Jean, Charles, Alain et Christian, Angèle-Marie et Bibiane, Odette, Christian, Luc, Christophe, Michel, Bruno, Célestin et Paul, and your bishop Pierre Claverie.





We pray, Father, that through their intercession dialogue, respect and love among Christians and Muslims, your children, may be strengthened.  
Bless Algeria and all its people with peace.  
We glorify you.

We invoke our martyrs for...

*(indicate the grace being asked for)*

Mary, you who were loved by each one of them and who are venerated in the Abode of Islam, hear our prayer and intercede for us with your Son Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.

## Final Prayer

Over the five Continents of the world, out of hatred for the Faith, so many Christians are threatened and persecuted.

Signs of contradiction, driven solely by the desire to show love, they die for your sake, the God of Love.

We pray to you for them. May they find in you a welcome.

We also entrust to you their persecutors, blinded by hatred and possessed by violence.

May the sacrifice offered by their victims, and their pardon, lead them along the path of conversion.



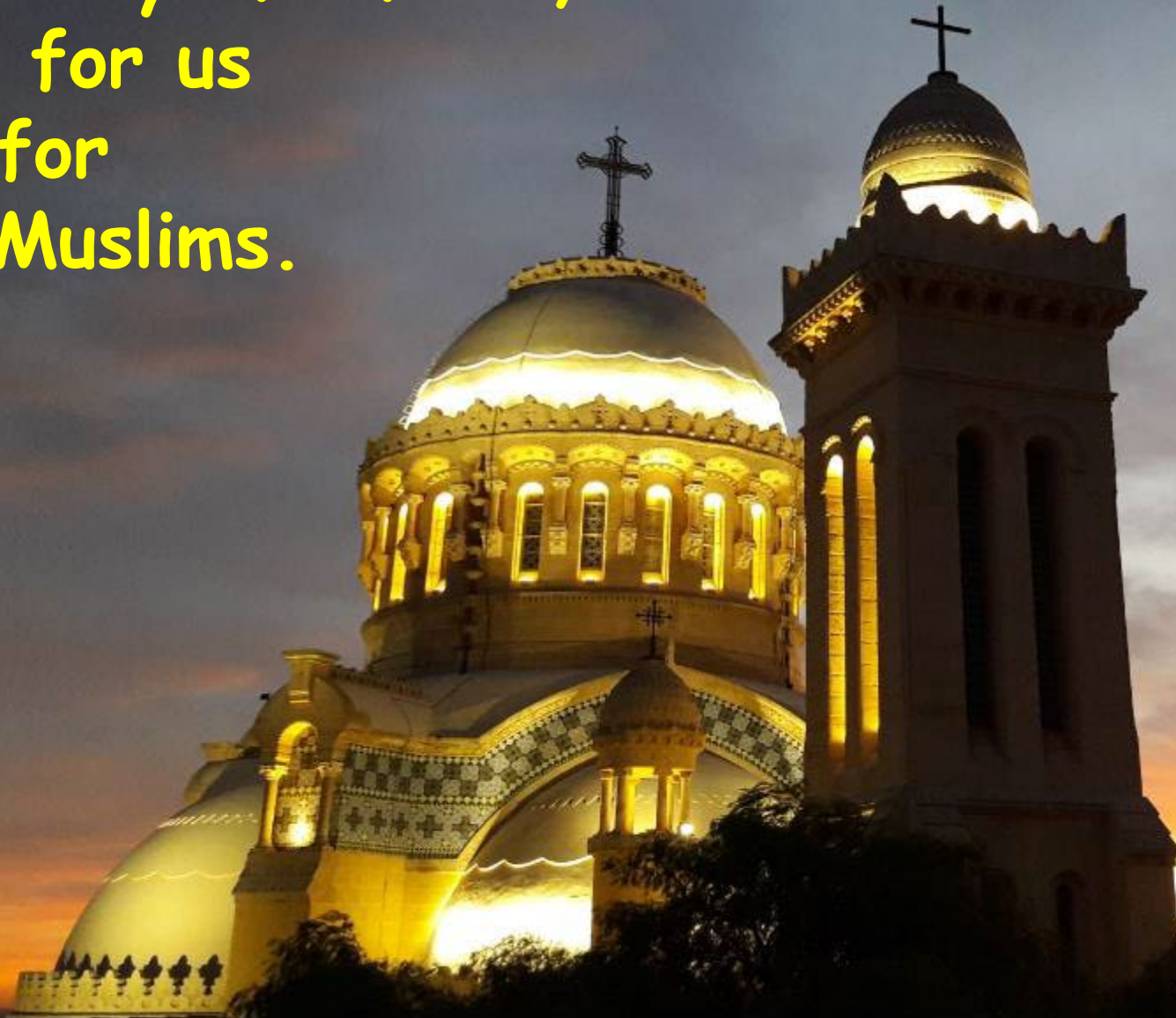


O Virgin Mary,  
you whose flesh was the first to be pierced by the  
sword, call down upon us the Spirit of fortitude.  
May the Spirit banish from us all fear, shame and  
cowardice.

May the same Spirit renew our faith and give us the  
desire at all times to bear witness to Christ, the  
Lord.

Vierge Marie, toi qui est la première éprouvas dans  
ta chaire le glaive, invoque pour nous l'Esprit de  
force, qu'il éloigne de nous la peur, la honte, la  
lâcheté, qu'il renouvelle notre foi et nous donne le  
désir de témoigner, en toutes circonstances, que le  
Christ est Seigneur.

Our Lady of Africa,  
pray for us  
and for  
the Muslims.







**Produced by**

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**White Fathers (MAfr)  
and Augustinian Sisters**

**Maghreb, 2020**

Translated and revised in May 2021

