



Letter of the Superior General

Roma, 8 July 2022



BEATIFICATION OF THE FOUR MARTYRS OF THE PARIS COMMUNE

Dear sisters and brothers,

Pope Francis has signed the decree of recognition of the blessedness of our four brothers Fr. **Ladislav Radigue, Polycarpe Tuffier, Marcellin Rouchouze, Frézal Tardieu**. These four brothers were shot on May 26th, 1871 during the time of the Paris Commune. Alongside them was Fr. Henri Planchat, their companion in martyrdom, the first priest of the religious of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The date of the beatification is **22 April 2023** and the beatification ceremony will take place in Paris.

With great joy we welcome this good news for the Church and for our Congregation.

With this act, the Church recognizes that our brothers were martyred "for the Glory of God and the salvation of the world." For this reason, they are proposed as exemplary witnesses who accompany the Church's journey on her pilgrimage in history.

This recognition reminds us of our common vocation to holiness. The life of God shines through these martyrs - who knew how to welcome it and let it unfold in their lives in the manner of Jesus: through the services that was entrusted to them, through their courage in assuming the risks of following Jesus, through the social and political context that was theirs.

At the same time, this recognition causes us to rejoice and give thanks for the work that God is carrying out in his Church, through so many men and women, witnesses to his love, a love given to the end.

Let us then enter into the joy of God and of the whole Church, occasioned by these brothers - and through this act of thanksgiving we thank God for what He has accomplished in them. Let us also rejoice, brothers and sisters, along with the Christian communities and lay people, both



of the congregation and with whom we journey. Let us especially unite ourselves to the intercession of these brothers through our adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist, in the service of Jesus-Church, and in closeness to Jesus-poor. Finally, may we rediscover the path of surrender that led them to martyrdom by reading the rich material that has been sent to the communities, which you will find via the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3bjQdzW>

Our gratitude to so many, who have discreetly and steadily worked on the process: to Fathers **Roger Laberge; Yvon Sabourin** of the religious of Saint Vincent de Paul; and to our brothers **Marcel Bocquet, Bernard Couronne, Alfred Bell, David Reid** and **Andrzej Łukawski**.

Now we can count on our brothers as Intercessors before the Lord. May Our Lady of Peace continue to raise in the Congregation bold artisans of peace just like our brothers were. May they accompany us and sustain us through their surrender and their prayer, so that God may also carry out his work in our Congregation and in each one of us.

Fraternally,

Alberto Toutin ssc
Superior General