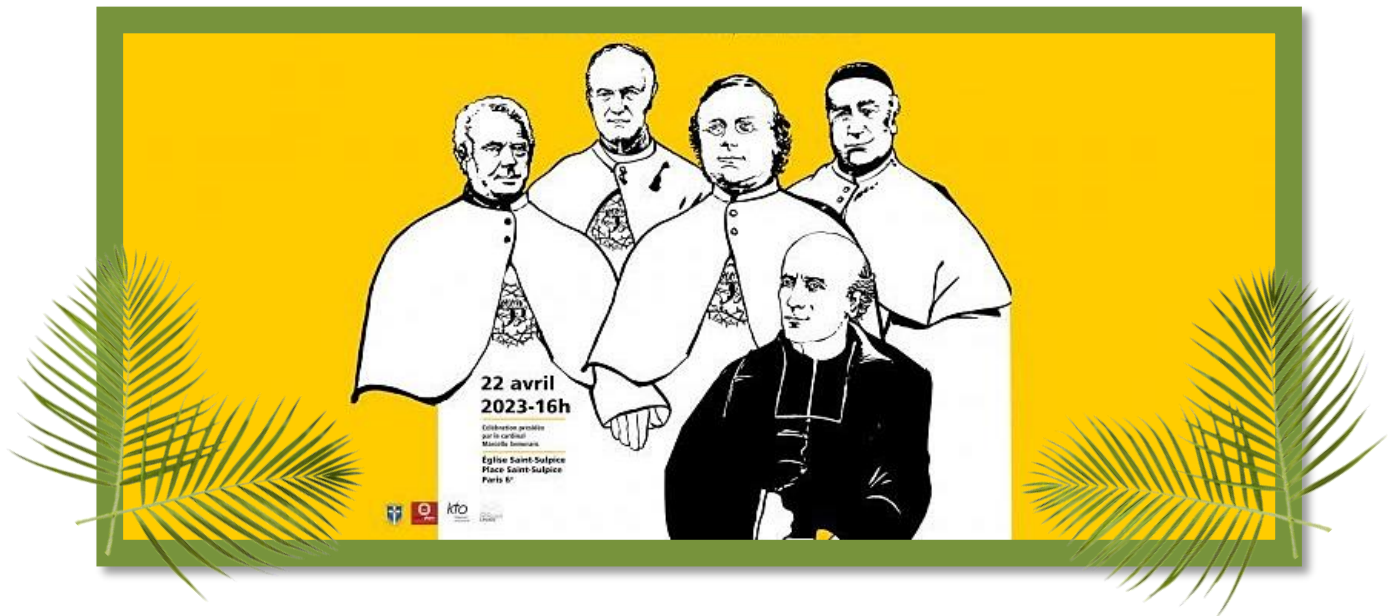


Let us rejoice with the Church

Alberto Toutin ssc
Superior General

INFO SSCC Brothers No 174 – 3 April 2023



Dear brothers,

The Church invites us to rejoice at the forthcoming beatification of our brother martyrs of Picpus, Ladislav Radigue, Marcellin Rouchouze, Frézal Tardieu and Polycarpe Tuffier. As you know, the beatification will take place on Saturday 22 April at 4 p.m. in the Church of Saint Sulpice in Paris.

Our martyrs drew from the same spiritual source that we have received from our founders. From the day of their religious profession and in the exercise of their various pastoral tasks, they understood that the fullness of life in the style of Jesus consists in giving it away in service of their brothers and sisters. In the midst of the complex circumstances of the society and the Church of their time, they were able to focus on the essentials of the Gospel. In their days of imprisonment and waiting for the outcome, each of the brothers matured in his response to the Lord. The essence of their response was forged in the solitude of their cells and in their sometimes distressing intimacy with the Lord. However, they were not alone. One of their sources of consolation and strength was the knowledge that their brothers and sisters were present to them in their prayers. They never imagined that the Easter time in prison would bind them and Jesus so closely together. In addition, a network of lay men and women, risking their own lives, accompanied and supported them.

Today, they who form part of the "cloud of witnesses that surrounds us" (Heb 12:1). Their intercession before the Lord sustains us in our mission and their journey of faith challenges and encourages us.

Martyrdom is one of the graces that comes with following Jesus. It is also the humble and powerful response to the various forms of violence that dominate our world and that also hides in our own hearts. Our brothers lived their martyrdom of self-giving as a decision consistent with their religious profession.

I therefore invite you to rejoice together with the Church at the evangelical witness of these brothers. Many SSCC brothers, sisters and lay people will attend the beatification on behalf of their communities. Let us also join in this celebration in our pastoral communities through a time of reflection, adoration and thanksgiving. For this purpose, you have at your disposal a wealth of material sent by the Commission for Spiritual and Historical Patrimony. It is also available on our website www.sccpicpus.com.

Accompanied by our brother martyrs, may this Easter season be a time of renewal for us all.

Fraternally,

Alberto Toutin ssc
Superior General

