



Corpus Christi Movement for Priests

## CCM Newsletter

Founded by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in 1981

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### BLESSED EASTER!

### Mother's Canonization

Last November Sr. Cyrene, MC (the Regional from Italy) wrote a seven-page letter describing Mother's canonization. Fr. Pascual wishes to share highlights of this letter with us. The Holy Father, Sister wrote, chose to "hold Mother as an icon of mercy ... renewing within us the zeal to be channels of his love and mercy to the poorest of the poor." Following are excerpts of Sr. Cyrene's letter.

"It all began with rumors of Mother's canonization as the Jubilee Year opened." To house the 125 delegate sisters, three large tents from the Knights of Malta were set up at the Casilina convent "on the understanding that if there was any natural disaster they would take them back. On **24th August** some of the sisters woke up feeling the building shaking, and we learned that there had been strong earthquakes in central Italy. 270 people were dead and entire villages destroyed. So we found ourselves with no tent for a chapel, but it was beautiful to see how everyone without grumbling worked to resolve the difficulties; all of the time too our thoughts were with those who had lost loved ones and homes. On **25th August** we had the joy of beginning to welcome the sisters, for most of whom it was their first time in Rome. Sr. Maria Salome was in the right place at the right time to welcome the bishops of India, and Mamata, the First Minister of West Bengal.

On **31st August** the heavens opened, the rain came down, the wind blew, and there was a tremendous storm that flooded the chapel tent. In the midst of the general confusion God's providence arrived in the shape of two cars full of food stuff and Sr. Patrick, dressed in a suitable raincoat. So whilst the Mary's were praying, the Martha's were running around trying to have everything back in order.

On **1st September** Fr. Sebastian with his brothers organized an "MC Family Feast." There was singing and dancing as well as a musical on Mother. The same day the exhibition on the life of our Mother was opened near the Vatican, remade with great love and much work by our sisters in the postulation office. What surprised us was the way that people did not just look quickly at the pictures and headlines but took real trouble to stop and read everything.

**2nd September** found us all in St. John Lateran for the prayer vigil. The basilica was full. **3rd September** was the catechesis of the Holy Father, very moving. Sr. Francesca, from the first group, managed to get close enough to the Holy Father to give him the garland she had prepared. In the evening in the church of St. Andrea della Valle a choir directed by one of our adopted families held an oratory, a mixture of reflections and music. It was beautifully done and the church was overflowing.



Mother's "Oratorio" in San Andrea della Valle, Sept 3



#### Corpus Christi Governing Council

International Coordinator:

Fr. Pascual Cervera

Msgr. Leo Maasburg (Vienna)

Msgr. Luis Cuña Ramos (Rome)

Fr. Joseph Illo (San Francisco)

Fr. Jaroslav Broz (Prague)

The great day dawned at last. Where possible the sisters from Italy brought with them groups of our poor people from our homes and soup kitchens. The square was packed with an estimated 120,000 people. The sky was blue and the sun was burning hot but everyone was happy to be there. It was very moving to hear our Mother proclaimed a saint; many of us had tears in our eyes and a deep inner joy for all that God has done in and through her. It made us realize that holiness is possible if we collaborate with God's grace, surrendering to Him and allowing Him ... as Mother would say so often "I will, I want, with God's blessing, to be holy." We all agreed with our Holy Father who said that, although she is now St. Teresa of Calcutta, we will still call her Mother Teresa."



Fr. Luis just before the canonization Mass



Pizza party in audience hall just after the canonization

After the canonization we all headed for the audience hall for pizza prepared by a chef named Vincenzo, and his group that came from Naples, for all 1500 of us, working with incredible speed and with a big smile. The next day, **5th September**, found the whole MC family gathered to celebrate the first feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta presided by Cardinal Parolin, who described Mother as "a clear mirror of the love of God, a luminous sign of mercy." after Mass we headed back to Casilina for lunch followed by the sharing of a sister and Marcilio, the person who received the miracle. The same day

the reliquary of Mother was brought to St. John Lateran for public veneration. It was as if our Mother went from us to belong to the whole Church. People flocked to venerate it. **6th September** saw the entire MC family gathered together for a thanksgiving Mass at the parish church of Casilina, St. Barnabas, with Fr. Sebastian as the main celebrant. After the Holy Mass the sisters, fathers, brothers, active and contemplative, Corpus Christi Movement and other priests who share in our work, LMCs and a few others—all went to Casilina for lunch. It was a great joy to have St. Danuta, Fr. Sebastian, Fr. Brian, Br. David, and Fr. Pascual and the members

of their respective branches of our Society. It was beautiful to be able to live this time together recognizing how much we have all received from our dearest Mother.



In the sacristy before the thanksgiving Mass

Sr. Cyrene concludes her letter with these words: "We have been just little pencils in His hands and He has done everything for us. May we live out our Mother's promise to give saints to Mother Church." Let us all rejoice in this great gift to our world, the canonization of our dearest Mother.



Sisters leaving Casilina after the Thanksgiving Mass meal (Sept 6)

### Fr. Martien Vernooy, CCM Priest of the Archdiocese of Utrecht, RIP

Fr. Martin, a Dutch priest who worked with the Sisters for many years, died on June 25, 2016 at age 88. He famously designed the chart displaying all the mission houses around the world, which most MC houses now post in their public area. Fr. Martin was proud to have helped in the foundation of the sisters in Malawi and to give few vocations for the MC sisters. The request is always and only done by a bishop; but he had asked them from M. Teresa, and Mother said when questioned: "Yes, I promised him." He was very happy to have been an instrument of peace for Jacqueline de Decker, the friend very close to Mother whom she had asked to support the Sisters as a sick and suffering co-worker, and who subsequently co-ordinated that part of the MC family. May he rest in peace.