

HEROIC HOSPITALITY

*Anniversary of the Beatification of 71 Martyrs of Hospitality
1992 - 2022*

LIVES TO CELEBRATE AND GOOD TO GENERATE

It was on 25 October 1992 in St. Peter's Square in Rome that Pope John Paul II beatified 71 of our Brothers, Braulio María Corres and his Companions Martyrs (the first group) who had offered their lives in martyrdom during the Spanish Civil War in 1936 and 1937. Looking back over the grievous events that also left their scars on the life of our Order in those days, we can see for ourselves how much the Holy Spirit had been at work in our many Brothers who gave their lives joyfully bearing witness to their unflinching faith in Christ in the service of Hospitality. Celebrating this anniversary is not about looking back at the museum of hospitality, but about seeing real lives lived, lives celebrated, and values defended with blood shed to sow faith, hope and charity. Our Brother martyrs are appealing to the St John of God Hospitaller Family not only to do good, but also to avert the paralysis of Hospitality. In his Encyclical *Fides et Ratio* (n. 32), John Paul II, vividly highlighted the value of martyrdom: *"The martyrs, who are the most authentic witnesses to the truth about existence. The martyrs know that they have found the truth about life in the encounter with Jesus Christ, and nothing and no-one could ever take this certainty from them. Neither suffering nor vi-*

olent death could ever lead them to abandon the truth which they have discovered in the encounter with Christ. This is why to this day the witness of the martyrs continues to arouse such interest, to draw agreement, to win such a hearing and to invite emulation. This is why their word inspires such confidence: from the moment they speak to us of what we perceive deep down as the truth we have sought for so long," These words of John Paul II help us to look to our Brothers not only in admiration and reverence, which would be far too little; their testimony reaches out to us to spur us on so that we can also undergo that experience of serving Christ "above all and before everything", for only in Him can we recognise ourselves in charity.

The Church needs Saints, but not to fill church niches, but because Martyrs and Saints change the world, glorify God and humanise humanity.

We are well aware that no-one faces martyrdom by chance. It is a gift of God, a grace that we are called to accept. From the testimonies gathered, we know that many of our Brothers, even before considering the possibility of martyrdom, carried within themselves this desire to shed their blood for Christ. The courage with which our Brothers chose to



Blessed Braulio M. Corres, 1897 - 1936.
Priest and Novice Master.

be witnesses was given to them by the Holy Spirit. In his homily at the Beatification, John Paul II remembered our martyrs with these words: *"I have fought the good fight to the end: I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith."* (2 Tm 4, 7). *And in our own century, there have been those who "kept the faith", who have "fought the good fight to the end": people that have borne witness (martyrs) to the Crucified and Risen Christ. "They have kept the faith". They were not daunted by threats*

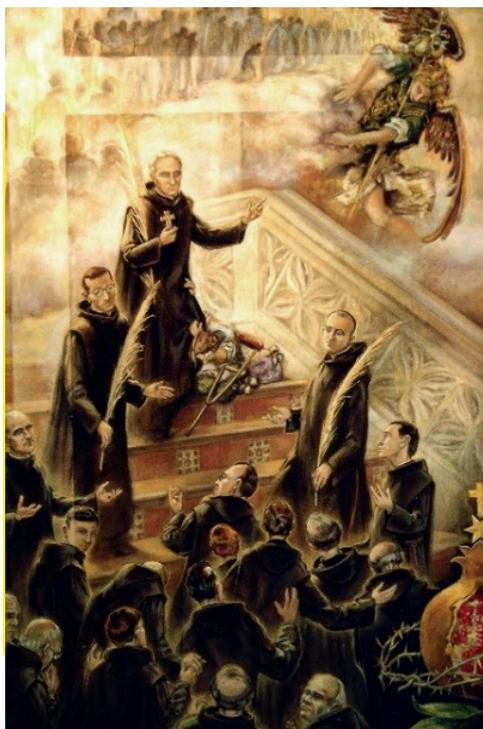
Author: Fra Dario Vermi, e-mail: postulazione@ohsjd.org
website: www.ohsjd.org

Editorial Support: Press and Communication Office FBF Rome, e-mail: ufficiostampafbf@gmail.com



and persecution. They were ready to set the seal, with their own lives, on the Truth they professed with their lips. They were ready to “give their lives”: “A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15, 13). It was with the most holy martyrdom of the Son of God Himself that they associated their martyrdom of faith, hope and love” (...). “These martyrs “are an example and an incentive for everyone”, but particularly for you, as Brothers of the Hospitaller Order, and also for those who devote their lives to nursing and caring for the sick, especially the poorest and the most marginalised. In your apostolate always endeavour to be tools on the hands of the Lord, who “is close to the brokenhearted, for he saves the stricken spirits”.

When passion and love for the truth are real, they even lead to self-denial. And this is our wish today, which we would like to see become a reality for all the members of the Hospitaller Family who are committed to hospitality.



Servant of God Brother Fortunatus Thanhäuser

On 4 May 2022, the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, looking ahead to the closing of the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of the Servant of God Brother Fortunatus, authorised the canonical identification and transfer of his mortal remains from the cemetery to the chapel of our hospital in Kattappana. The Diocesan Phase of the process is expected to close before the end of this year. We will provide more detailed information in the coming months.

The Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of the Florida Martyrs has begun

On 22 February 2022, at the request of Mgr William A. Wack., Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints authorised the opening of the Unified Collective Cause of the martyrs of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries during the evangelisation of Florida. The historical committee is rigorously examining each martyrdom account to assess their accuracy and credibility. The group of 57 Martyrs, some of whom qualify for recognition as Martyrs, includes one of our own Brothers: Brother (Phelipe) Felipe Orbalaes y Abreo, a barber-surgeon, killed on 26 August 1712. Historical research is currently underway to search for documents that provide a fuller account of our Brothers' presence in that territory. (<https://martyrsoflafloridamissions.org/martyrs>)

