



The Portuguese Bishops' Conference has granted the 'Nulla osta' for the opening of the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of Brother Bento (Manuel) Nogueira

Last May, the Portuguese Bishops' Conference authorised the opening of the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of Brother Bento (Manuel) Nogueira, a Brother of the Portuguese Province dedicated to Saint John of God, by promulgating the Edict by the Patriarch of Lisbon, Manuel José Macário do Nascimento Clemente, informing the people of God of this intention and asking the faithful to declare whether there were any arguments to oppose the opening of the Cause. Having obtained the necessary authorisation from the Portuguese Bishops' Conference, the Patriarch will now apply for the "Nulla osta" from the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in order to proceed with the opening of the Cause and to establish the Diocesan Tribunal which will have the task of investigating the virtues and fame of holiness of Brother Bento (Manuel) Nogueira. For our Order and the entire Hospitaller Family, this is a great moment of joy and gratitude to the Lord for the gift of this model of life who spent his whole existence at the service of the poor and the sick, and in a particular manner with the people of the diocese of Nampula

in Mozambique where he toiled for thirty years, consuming himself in charity and evangelisation. In addition to his priestly duties in the diocese of Nampula, he also served as superior, novice master and teacher. Everyone considered Brother Bento to be a good, generous, friendly man, particularly sensitive and intelligent; he is remembered with great admiration and esteem by the local clergy, religious brothers and sisters, our own Brothers, but above all by the simple, poor people, who turned

to him whenever they were in need, being treated sympathetically and with understanding. Brother Bento (Manuel) Nogueira was born on 5 April 1927 in S. Simão de Litém - Pombal, Portugal. At the age of 15, he entered the Order of the Brothers of St John of God. On completing his novitiate and making his temporary profession on 8 December 1945, he placed himself at the service of the sick, and successfully completed the nursing course. On 26 April 1951 he made his Solemn Profes-



Brother Bento celebrating the Eucharist

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On 23 March 2023, Pope Francis recognised the Heroic Virtues of the Servant of God Sister Maria do Monte, conferring on her the title ‘Venerable’



Brother Bento with his parents

sion. Ordained priest on 14 August 1960, after obtaining a Licentiate in Theology and a Diploma in Pastoral Care in Rome, he served as novice master, scholastics master, chaplain and teacher in the Nursing College. In 1972, he went as a missionary to the leprosarium in Upper Molocué, (Mozambique) where he remained for thirty years. He bore witness to great holiness of life with a radiant faith, hope without ever becoming discouraged, patient charity by the side of the mentally ill, dedicating himself to the poor, and founding the Parish of St John of God, comprising three Christian communities. Without having committed any crime, he was twice put in prison. He died in Lisbon on 26 October 2003 of an incurable disease, but above all he was exhausted by his hard work and unsparing hospitality. He stands as an example of a man who lived consistently true to the Gospel and with missionary hope. For further information and insights into the life of Brother Bento, please visit the following website: <https://www.isjd.pt/pt/padre-bento-manuel-nogueira/biografia>, in Portuguese, or the General Postulation web page.

Sister Maria do Monte Pereira, (born: Eliza de Jesús) 1897–1963, was a member of the Congregation of Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus founded by St Benedict Menni. The Servant of God was a sister in love with God. She experienced her vocation joyfully, dedicating herself with patience, self-denial and charity to her brothers and sisters in difficulty, especially the mentally ill, in whom she recognised the face of Jesus. Sister Maria was born in Funchal, on Madeira (Portugal) on 10 April 1897 into a humble family. She lost both her parents at the age of 17 in 1914, and had to take care of their very large family of 10 children, as her eldest sister suffered from mental problems. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters Hospitallers, and after the novitiate she made her temporary profession on 3 April 1929 and her perpetual profession on 3 April 1933 at Idanha (Portugal). For 37 years, Sister Maria performed her hospitaller service, embodying the spirituality of her Congregation which sees in every sick person the living image of Jesus. She always treated the sick with a motherly gentleness and tenderness; her serene face acted like a balm for the sick that calmed and healed them. In 1961 she began to suffer from health issues. The final

two months of her life were exhausting. She died in Funchal (Portugal) on 18 December 1963, at the age of 66, following an operation for gallstones, on the Memorial day of Our Lady of Hope. The priest who, at her request, had administered the sacraments to her left us this testimony: “She embodied simplicity and modesty. Throughout her suffering, I always saw her happy and fulfilled. I was with her when she breathed her last. She died like a saint”. On 4 March 2007, the process of beatification and canonisation was opened in the chapel of the House of the Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in São Gonçalo, and on 23 March Pope Francis declared her Venerable.



The Servant of God on the day of her Religious Profession

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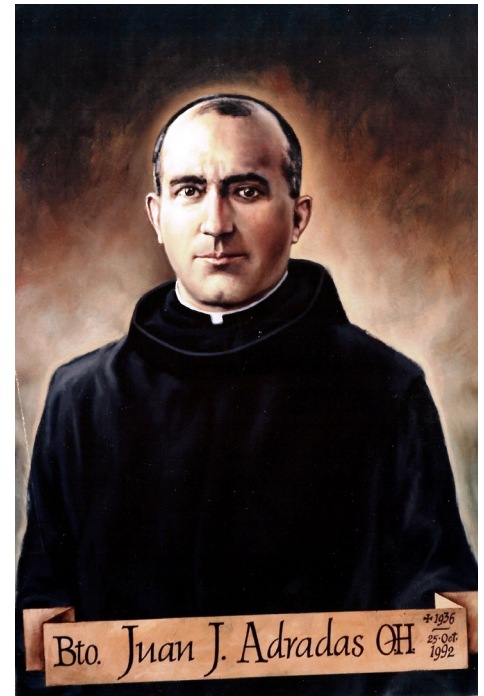
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Blessed Juan Jesús Adradas Gonzalo

Within a very short time, Providence has given us two fine Portuguese Religious Hospitallers. On this joyous occasion we must commemorate yet another of our Brothers who played a prominent part in the foundation of the Funchal Hospital on the Island of Madeira during his time as Provincial Superior. The Blessed Martyr Juan Jesús Adradas Gonzalo was born on 15 August 1878 in Conquezuela (Soria), in the diocese of Sigüenza (Spain) to Celedonio and Balbina; he was baptised on 18 August with the name Mariano. His parents were Christians with a strong, sincere and simple faith, of old Castilian stock. The Adradas family came from a wealthy and well-to-do background, but poor management gradually led them into poverty, and by the time Mariano was born his parents were having to cope with hardship and poverty. His father died when he was eighteen months old and his widowed mother put her eldest son José, who eventually became a priest, to work as a sacristan. Later on, he would become the head and supporter of the family, and especially of his younger brother Juan Jesús, whom he supported financially to complete his studies. His early education and moral formation were provided by his mother and a wealthy aunt, named Bonifacia Adradas, in whose house in Mojares he spent most of his childhood and his holidays when he was already a seminarian. This devout woman also financed part of his study costs. It was in this village that he received his earliest learning, distinguishing himself among his classmates by his wit and evident intelligence. At a young age he received his First Communion. After his ordination to the priesthood, his older brother, José, was appointed

to serve as parish priest of Oter; the family's financial situation changed and his mother and her children were able to experience a new life together. His brother, seeing Juan Jesús' fine qualities, his flair for study and his powerful vocation to the priesthood, carefully prepared him to enter the seminary. In 1895 he moved to the seminary in Sigüenza and entered the Colegio de Infantes, where, under a strict regime and iron discipline, he studied Latin and the Humanities; from here he went on to the major seminary for his philosophical and theological studies. He was one of the most gifted students, obtaining top grades. He led a life of intense piety, solid virtues and great thoughtfulness which characterised him all his life. He stood out for his devotion to the Virgin Mary and the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of 1903, he brilliantly completed his studies and was ordained priest. He celebrated his first Mass in the seminary chapel in Sigüenza and was happy to be a priest. Encouraged by his brother, he moved to the seminary in Zaragoza in 1904 intending to pursue a degree and doctorate in theology and canon law, and then compete for the canonry. These were his intentions, but God had very different plans for him. His religious vocation was born in Zaragoza when he least expected it. During his time there, one afternoon he visited the psychiatric hospital run by the Brothers of St John of God. When he left, the superior accompanying him, mindful that the house chaplaincy was vacant, offered him the opportunity to serve as chaplain. Juan gladly accepted this proposal. The Lord granted him the Hospitaller vocation when he saw the love and commitment of the Brothers by the



side of the sick, and was edified. He abandoned his studies, renounced his plans and, despite strong family opposition, he entered the Hospitaller Order in Ciempozuelos on 26 April 1904; on 21 June he took the religious habit and changed his baptismal name, Mariano, to Juan Jesús. He did his novitiate under the direction of the future Blessed Federico Rubio. From the moment he entered, he was a true example of a Hospitaller Brother. He spent his probationary year edifying the whole community. He made his simple profession on 30 June 1905 and his solemn profession on 24 November 1908. He served as chaplain to the hospitals of Palencia, San Baudilio de Llobregat, Ciempozuelos and Santa Águeda de Mondragón. He founded the choir of the Ciempozuelos hospital. Also in the same House, with the agreement of the Provincial, Father Andrés Ayucar, who highly esteemed him, he listened to his advice and actively supported his projects, on 2 February 1910 he founded the Apostolic School of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a vocational seminary that brought forth a rich harvest of voca-



tions. To this institution, which he more or less personally directed until June 1925, he dedicated his best energies, all his efforts and the tenderest affection of his heart. On 22 July 1911, he was appointed Novice Master at Carabanchel, without however giving up the management of the Apostolic School, which in the meantime had grown with extraordinary zeal and enthusiasm, resulting in the growth of religious saints, many of whom were martyred. In 1914 he returned to Ciempozuelos, where he worked with extraordinary zeal and enthusiasm and the result was a growth of religious saints, many of whom were to be martyred. In November 1919, the General Chapter elected him Provincial of Spain, Portugal and America, a position he held until 1925. In 1924, he laboured with extraordinary zeal and enthusiasm, and the result was a growth in the number of religious saints, many of whom were martyred. In November 1919, the General Chapter elected him Provincial of Spain, Portugal and America, a position he held until



Monument dedicated to the Blessed Juan Jesús, on the forecourt of the hospital in Funchal, Madeira

1925. In 1924, he promoted the development of the St John of God Health Centre in Funchal, Madeira, obtaining the canonical recognition of the Community. During his term as Provincial, he visited all the houses and had words of encouragement and consolation for all the Brothers. His zeal for regular observance was unwavering and he was a living example of getting others to follow his instructions, being the first to undertake the work of the community. Visiting houses in America proved to be a real test. With tireless zeal, he endured all the discomfort and hardship of long journeys (travelling for about twenty days on horseback) along difficult roads. He re-established the Order in Colombia with the foundation of the Houses in Santa Fe de Bogotá, Sibaté and Pasto, and in Chile with the psychiatric hospital in Santiago. In Spain, he inaugurated the San Juan de Dios Clinic in Santurce, the San José Psychiatric Sanatorium in Malaga and the Neuropathic Sanatorium in Funchal. He gave a great impetus to improving the organisation of the general management, succeeding in improving all the hospital services and remedying the shortcomings that some hospitals were suffering from, perfecting their structures and extending the care work. Anticipating later social legislation, drawing on *Rerum Novarum* he laid down rules for all the Order's auxiliary personnel, defining their rights, remuneration and pensions, and their medical care in the event of illness. He encouraged study to improve the organisation and promoted specialisations connected with the hospital services: priests, doctors, nurses, teachers and medical auxiliaries. This plan provoked envy and opposition, so much so that he was unable to carry it through, but the seed remained in the

furrow, and today the field is reaping the harvest. Appointed chaplain of the St John of God Basilica in Granada, he was an indefatigable preacher and confessor. The Archbishop of Granada granted him permission to go on a mission in the more remote areas of the Sierra Nevada reaping abundant fruits: people who had not received the sacraments for thirty years or more came to receive them and one old man even received his first communion. But the overwork took its toll on his health. In 1934, he was elected provincial councillor and novice master in Ciempozuelos. Devoted to the sanctification of the novices, he was caught up in the July 1936 revolution. On 7 August, the entire community was arrested, both brothers and novices, and taken to the prison of Sant'Antón, a boarding school converted into a prison. A fellow prisoner was Brother Guillermo Llop, the Superior of the Community. Here, Brother Juan Jesús, supported and prepared him to meet his end, and evading the vigilance of the terrifying militiamen, he gave spiritual talks to the Brothers, led retreat days, listened to their confessions, comforted them and encouraged them to face martyrdom. He suffered great hardship and sacrifices, villainy and indignities at the hands of his captors. He always remained calm and collected, and infused all the prisoners with this same attitude. Around noon on 28 November, a second expedition by the militia set off, in which they picked up Brother Juan Jesús and nine other members of the community. They were loaded onto a lorry and taken to Paracuellos del Jarama, Madrid, where they were riddled with bullets as they cried out: "See you in Heaven". "Long live Christ the King!" He was 58 years old. His mortal remains have never been identified.