

Beatification of the Martyrs of Picpus

The solemn celebration of the beatification of our Brothers **Ladislas Radigue**, **Polycarpe Tuffier**, **Marcellin Rouchouze** and **Frézal Tardieu**, together with Father **Henri Planchat**, of the Congregation of Saint Vincent de Paul, took place in the church of Saint Sulpice in Paris on Saturday, 22nd April at 4.00pm. We remember this event with different images, before and after this event, as well as short texts, homilies and other details around this special congregational moment.

You can find all the information on our **website**: <https://bit.ly/40DeZSU>

◆ **Vigil preceding the beatification**, in the Chapel of Picpus, on Friday, 21 April at 20.30 h.



📷 Photo gallery: <https://bit.ly/41wMveE>

📺 Video: <https://bit.ly/43SaJSj>

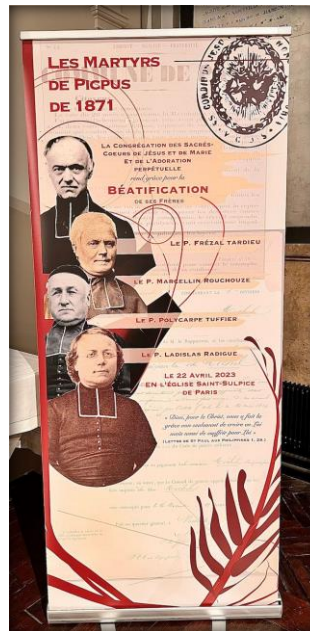
📖 Adoration Guide: <https://bit.ly/40NjOsK>



◆ **Special space dedicated to the Martyrs of Picpus**

To mark the occasion of the beatification of Fathers Frézal, Ladislav, Marcellin and Polycarpe, a small exhibition dedicated to their memory was set up in the Picpus chapel. The exhibition contains various objects that belonged to the martyrs as well as a reliquary.

On one side of the church, four boxes made from special woods drawn from the three continents (Europe, Africa and Asia) were placed in a niche that has been adorned with mosaics. The bodies of the four martyrs will soon be transferred from the cemetery of Picpus to this church, where the much revered statue of Our Lady of Peace is located.



◆ **Mass of Beatification of the Martyrs of Paris who were killed in 1871**

The Mass was celebrated on Saturday, 22 April, at 4.00pm in the Church of Saint Sulpice, in Paris.



Andrzej Łukawski, the General Postulator, presenting the biography of our brothers **Ladislav Radigue**, **Polycarpe Tuffier**, **Marcellin Rouchouze** y **Frézal Tardieu**.



Cardinal **Marcello Semeraro**, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, who presided over the celebration, reading the Apostolic Letters on behalf of the Holy Father. From now on the venerable servants of God Henri Planchat, Ladislav Radigue and their three companions will be called Blessed. Their feast day has been set for 26 May (the day of their martyrdom).



An image of the newly beatified was then unveiled, with a hymn of acclamation and a great round of applause.

Religious of the Congregation of St Vincent de Paul and the Sacred Hearts then brought to the front of the altar relics of the Martyrs of Paris



In his **homily**, Cardinal Semeraro highlighted how "another great chapter of the Gospel written has been written by all those who suffer with Christ.

This is where our blessed martyrs become an example, a model". He also pointed out that "prayer gives us the strength to believe and to fight for the good, even when we are tempted by to become discouraged".



At the end of the Eucharist, **Alberto Toutin**, our Superior General, spoke these words of **thanksgiving**:

In the joy of Easter we celebrate the beatification of our brothers, Frézal, Ladislav, Marcellin, Polycarp, along with Father Henri. Like the apostles, they too experienced imprisonment and martyrdom in Easter time.

Enlightened by the readings of that time and meditating on the life of the first Christian communities, who also experienced internal tensions and the opposition of external adversaries, our martyrs participated in the Easter of the Lord and his Church.



Before the bullets hit their bodies, they prayerfully whispered in their prayers: "We are dead and our life is hidden with Christ in God" (Cf. Col 3:3)

We give thanks to you, God, for your steadfast love and for your discreet and powerful action in the lives of your witnesses. You are the unknown God who loves to work in the secret of hearts. In the long, lonely hours in the prison cells, you accomplished your work; it is there that you prepared them to be citizens of the definitive homeland - while being inseparably citizens of this nation. You did not spare them from suffering and violence. But you sustained them and made your power shine in their vulnerable flesh.

We give thanks also to you, Lord Jesus, for you have tempered the faith of your sons in the daily service of your brothers. In them, Lord Jesus, you give us a taste of the strange, courageous joy of the beatitudes and the beauty of your Church which you never cease to build.

We give thanks to you, the Church, that nourish your children with the sacraments, with listening to the Word, with the prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. You, Our Mother the Church, has been vigilant in your faithful and in your pastors who have formed and sustained the faith of our brothers. Their offering of life and even their forgiveness of those who were taking their lives was the fulfilment of the faith received in their families, in their home parishes, and from their brothers and sisters in the congregation. Then as now, how can the children of the Sacred Hearts remain indifferent to the trials of the Church?

From now on, the Church that walks in Paris and our Congregation can count on the intercession of our brothers who are contemplating the Lord Jesus. May we allow ourselves to be shaped by the attitudes, options and gestures of the hearts of Jesus and Mary: May we place ourselves confidently in the hands of God the Father, to quietly do good, to keep our eyes fixed on you, Jesus, to love and forgive even our enemies, to situate ourselves with evangelical lucidity in the present time, and to share the happiness of a life given because you, Lord, do not cease to love us, in spite of everything, through your Church.

 Link to the **photo gallery**: <https://bit.ly/3LmYAh1>

 Link to the **video** of the beatification: <https://bit.ly/3UNyTf2>



◆ **The SSCC family gathers for the celebration of the beatification**

Around 300 brothers, sisters and lay people (members of the secular branch or people linked to our works) took part in the beatification ceremony of the Picpus Martyrs in Paris. This large group came from many different locations around the world: Africa, Germany, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, United States, Philippines, Holland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, France, Peru, Poland and French Polynesia.



◆ Mass of thanksgiving for the beatification in the Chapel of Picpus



On Sunday, 23 April, at 10.30am a Mass of thanksgiving for the beatification of our martyrs of Picpus was celebrated in the chapel of the Mother House of the Congregation.

The Superior General presided. Included among the celebrants was Mgr. Benoît Bertrand, the Bishop of Mende, the diocese from which Blessed **Polycarpe Tuffier** and **Frézal Tardieu** originated.

In his homily, Alberto called us to rejoice: "Let us rejoice, then, with the Church through the witness of our martyred brothers and sisters, and may they intercede for all of us, for the churches of Paris, Mende, Saint Étienne, Sées, and for our religious family of the Sacred Hearts, so that we may taste the joy of knowing that we are already on the side of the victory of the Risen Lord".

📖 Complete Homily in this link: <https://bit.ly/3VdqrDz>



At the end of the celebration, the Postulator General presented the Major Superiors of the brothers and sisters with a small box containing relics of the Martyrs of Picpus.





After the Eucharist, there was time for meeting and greeting, some light refreshment and a visit to the Founders' tomb and photos.



◆ **Meanwhile, Pope Francis in Rome...**

After the *Regina Caeli* on Sunday 23 April, **Pope Francis** addressed the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square with these words:

"Dear brothers and sisters

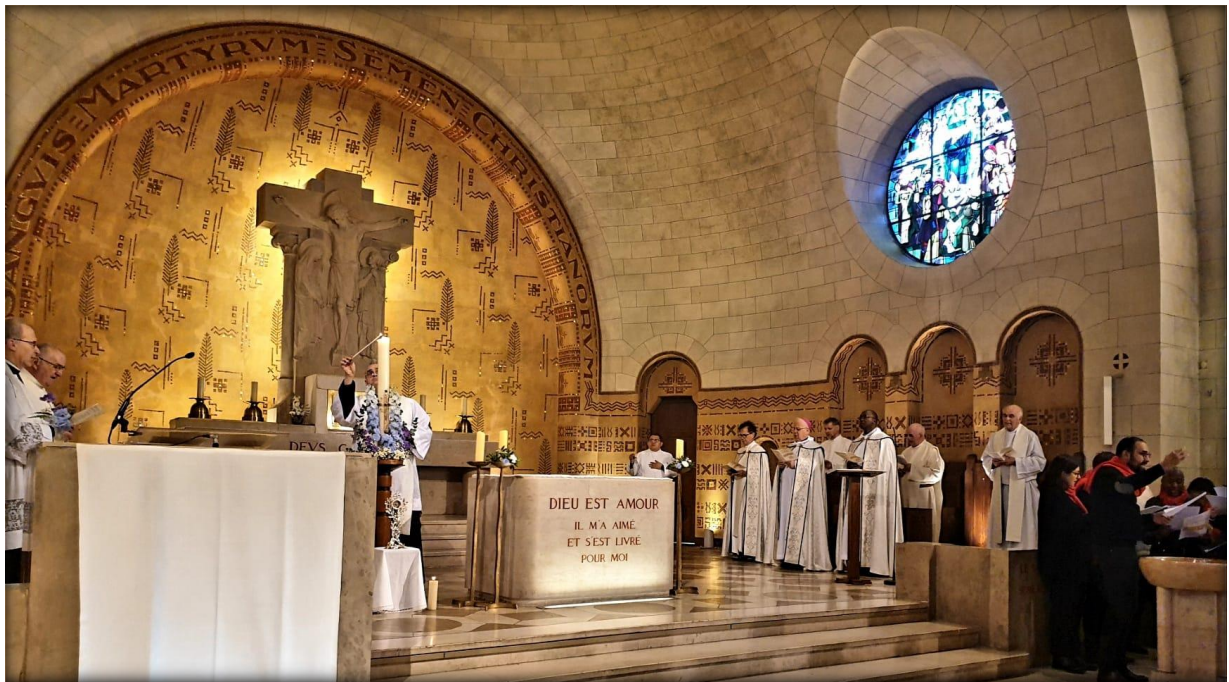
Yesterday in Paris, Henri Planchat, a priest of the Congregation of Saint Vincent de Paul, was beatified along with Ladislaus Radigue and three fellow priests of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. All were priests animated by apostolic zeal, and united in the witness of their faith until their martyrdom in Paris in 1871. They were executed during the Paris 'Commune'. Let us applaud the newly beatified."

In St. Peter's Square, the people responded with enthusiastic applause. That same day, in Paris, following on from the celebration of a Eucharist of thanksgiving celebrated in the chapel of the Mother House of the Congregation in rue de Picpus, the SSCC pilgrims gathered for lunch at the Eugène Napoléon Foundation. There, they responded with joy at the Pope's words. His message was communicated to all in different languages and each time this was met with applause. A real festive and special moment flowed from all of this. Thank you, Pope Francis!



◆ Solemn Vespers at Notre Dame des Otages (Our Lady of the Hostages)

On the site where our French brothers were executed in 1871, a church was built, which today is a very lively parish imbued with martyr spirituality. During vespers, a reliquary coming from the beatification celebrated in the Church of St. Sulpice was placed in one of the side chapels of this church, a chapel dedicated to Our Lady. After Vespers, many people made their way a short distance to the site of the wall in front of which our martyrs and many others had been shot.



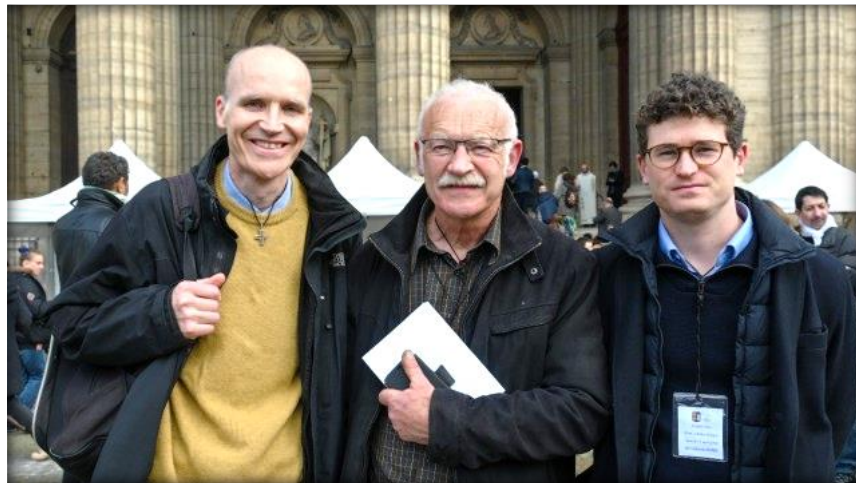
📷 Photo gallery: <https://bit.ly/43WkUFu>

📺 Video of the vespers: <https://bit.ly/40xkPoL>



◆ **Family members of the newly beatified in St. Sulpice**

Some relatives of the newly beatified martyrs of Picpus were present at the beatification that took place in the church of Saint-Sulpice. **Gilles Barbe sj**, **Dominique Barbe** and **Guillaume Barbe**, are descendants of Father Ladislav Radigue. They came from Brussels, Redon and Paris to honour the memory of their great-uncle.



Left to right: Gilles Barbe sj, Dominique Barbe and Guillaume Barbe

📷 Link to the **photo gallery** of the Diocese of Paris: <https://bit.ly/3Lt1SPO>

