

# ADORATION

## 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of the shooting of Ladislav RADIGUE, Polycarpe TUFFIER, Marcellin ROUCHOUZE and Frézal TARDIEU

### Introduction

On this day, 26 May 2021, we join with all our SSCC brothers, sisters and lay people around the world in commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shooting of our brothers **Ladislav Radigue**, **Polycarpe Tuffier**, **Marcellin Rouchouze** and **Frézal Tardieu**, during the final days of the Paris Commune. Remembering such an event brings us face to face with the risk that faith in Jesus entails. None of them were deceived in this respect. They knew the risk from the beginning. They knew this in the first days of April, 1871, when they were being taken to prison along with 84 nuns and 11 other brothers of the congregation, not forgetting other religious (St Vincent de Paul, Dominicans, Jesuits), diocesan priests and lay people. And they were also conscious of this when they decided to follow Jesus, he who had revealed the depth of God's love in a vulnerable, defenceless, pierced heart. How could those who had consecrated their lives to the reparative love manifested in the hearts of Jesus and Mary, not be found in the breaches that were opening up in society? How could they not, in fidelity to God's untiring mercy, take the place of the many people who were being persecuted for the sake of justice?



### Opening Song

#### A Reading from the Gospel of John (12:24-26)

*Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honour whoever serves me.*

#### A grace that cannot be improvised:

"To believe in Jesus and to suffer for him even to the giving of one's life is a grace, a grace that cannot be improvised. It is a grace asked of the Lord and nourished in the day to day living and loving of the brothers and sisters, who together undergo the trials of fraternity,

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and discover how to accept failure. All of this unites us more with Jesus each day in his self-giving that we celebrate in the Eucharist and contemplate in Adoration. (Alberto Toutin ssc)

It is the grace that Frézal Tardieu recognised in his life six years before it became a test of truth at the moment of his execution:

“Prostrate before you, O my God and covered with the blood of your Son, I offer you and consecrate to you all that I have, all that I am, my thoughts, my words, my actions, my infirmities, my sickness, my possessions, my reputation, my life. You have given everything to me. I give you all to be used for your glory and for the salvation of my neighbour”

### Making present our martyr history

In every place of the Congregation, we invite you to place a photograph on the altar of martyrs of the local Church who have given their lives for Christ.



On his historic visit to Iraq last March, at the end of Mass in the "Franso Hariri" Stadium in Erbil, Northern Iraq, **Pope Francis** warmly greeted Mar Gewargis III, the Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, who resides in this city. In his desire to embrace Christians of different confessions the Holy Father said, “Thank you, dear brother, so many here have shed blood on the same ground! Our martyrs shine together

like stars in the same sky and from there they call us to walk together, without hesitation, towards the fullness of unity.”

- Let us bring the stories of our martyrs to adoration, praying to the Lord that their intercession may inspire us to give our lives in the white martyrdom of everyday living or in the red that signifies the ultimate gift.

### Silence

### A time to share

### Our Father

### Blessing

### Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for the gift you have given us not only to believe, but also to suffer for you, especially for those who suffer and live their lives excluded from the account of history. We thank you especially for the life and death of our brothers **Ladislav Radigue**, **Polycarpe Tuffier**, **Marcellin Rouchouze** and **Frézal Tardieu**. May they be seeds of the Christian life in our world. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Salve Regina

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