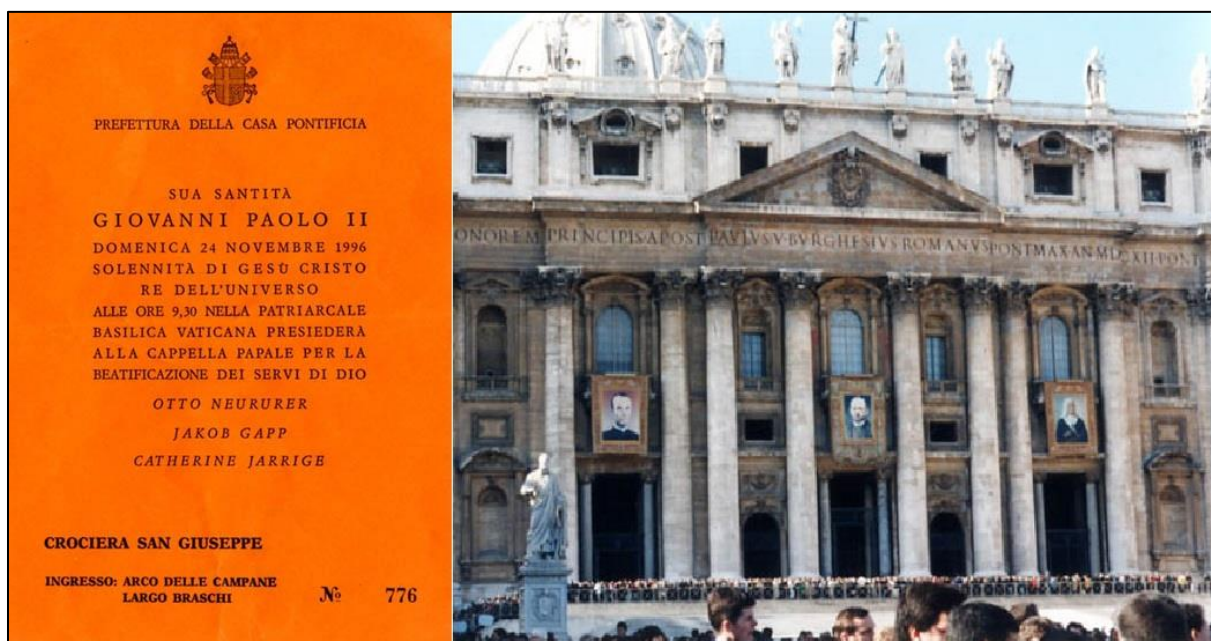


**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1996 – 2021 :**  
**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEATIFICATION OF JAKOB GAPP**



This November 24, we will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beatification of our Austrian confrere Jakob Gapp by Pope John Paul II. He became the fourth Marianist Blessed, after the three martyrs of Ciudad-Real.

This is a special grace that has been given to the Society of Mary and to the entire Marianist Family. Blessed Jakob is a great figure of the last century. His testimony of courage and defense of freedom still touches us today and remains of great relevance. Jakob died because he was not willing to compromise the truth. At that time in history, Adolf Hitler and his followers were promoting National Socialism. Without any hesitation, Jakob denounced National Socialism as a doctrine contrary to the Gospel and dangerous for humanity and for the Church. In a very complex period, marked by international conflicts and great social and cultural upheavals, he was an awakener of consciences, always putting the Gospel and his faith in first place. The numerous references made to his message, some of them coming from beyond the Marianist world, testify to this.

On the occasion of this anniversary, his home parish in Wattens (Tyrol) organized a major celebration. The General Administration is also preparing the publication of his writings in our three official languages, under the direction of Fr. Emilio Cárdenas, SM. This publication will take place in 2022. In our communities and as a family, let us give thanks for the gift of Blessed Jakob, especially on his birthday, November 24. We celebrate and give thanks for the martyrs of Vietnam on this same day.

Let us thank God for the great gift he has given us in the person of Blessed Jakob. Let us pray to him to enlighten us in the complex situations of our time. Let us entrust our intentions to him and invite others to do so, so that his canonization will allow his message to spread even further.

