

Father Vicente's Decree of Venerable

On January 19, the Bulletin of the Sala Stampa of the Holy See announced that during the Audience granted to His Eminence Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, the Supreme Pontiff [Pope Francis] authorized the Dicastery to promulgate the Decree of Heroic Virtues of the Servant of God Fr. Vicente Lopez de Uralde Lazcano, SM.(Vitoria 1894 - Cadiz 1990). In this way, Pope Francis ratified the favorable vote of the Cardinals and Bishops to the Positio on the virtues and reputation for sanctity of Father Vincent. The vote took place at a meeting on the previous Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

The Cause began with the opening of the Diocesan Tribunal of the Diocese of Cadiz in 2008. The Tribunal concluded its work in 2010. The documentation was sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The Positio, completed in 2017, was also sent to the Congregation. The Theological Consultors of the Congregation examined the Positio and gave a broadly favorable vote in March, 2022. The Cardinals and Bishops, the true senate of the Pope, then examined all of the documentation and approved it on January 17, 2023.



Retreat of profession of perpetual vows, August 24, 1917. Seated from left to right: Bro. Juan Vergareche, SM (his cause of martyrdom is open), Bro. Vicente López de Uralde, SM, Bro. Emilio Biron, SM (preacher of retreat), Bro. Máximo Martínez, SM and Bro. Florentino Fernández, SM (he was Provincial of Spain and later of Zaragoza); standing, Bro. Emilio García, SM, Bro. Felipe Lasagabaster, SM, Bro. Marcelo Lete, SM, Bro. Marcelino Uribondo, SM, Bro. Valeriano Rebé, SM and Bro. Celestino Martínez, SM.

The Postulator must now contact the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints to draw up the Decree that gives the name of Venerable to our dear Father Vincent.

What does this event mean for Marianist religious and for the Marianist Family? In the words of the Superior General, Father André Fétis, S.M., we can affirm that "to have one more Venerable in the Congregation and in the Marianist Family is a great gift from God that will help us move forward. Marianist life continues to produce fruits of holiness. It is a sign of its relevance in the current time. It can also be an occasion to reflect on the role of the sacrament of forgiveness in Christian and religious life".

We end with Father Vincent's exhortation to his penitents: "Forward, always forward."