



To Brothers Visitors
To all the Brothers, Affiliates and Partners
To all Lasallians

Rome July 19, 2016.

Dear Brothers Visitors, Brothers, Affiliates, Partners and Lasallians,

We are about to celebrate a great day in our Institute: the canonization of Blessed Brother Solomon Leclercq and it is with great joy that I am writing you this news.

The glorification of our first martyr will be held at the closing of the "Year of Mercy." As stressed so many times by Pope Francis during the Jubilee Year, to understand what it means "mercy" is to understand the core of Jesus' teaching. Mercy is love and for love He is willing to do everything, even to give his own life. This is what our Brother Solomon, is teaching us by his heroic fidelity

The canonization of Brother Solomon will certainly be a blessing for our Institute. Together, let us thank the Lord. The example set by our Brother must push us to follow Christ day after day. Although we are not called to give a bloody witness we are called anyway to do this in the "*terrible day to day task*" of our apostolic life.

On the occasion of the feast of St. Bartholomew our Founder writes: "You have to suffer a constant martyrdom that is no less violent for the spirit than Saint Bartholomew's was for his body. You must, so to speak, tear off your own skin, which Saint Paul calls the *old man*, in order to be clothed with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, which is, according to the same Apostle, *the new man*." (MF 159,3,2).

Many among you know who is Brother Solomon. For those who do not know let me say a few words about him briefly:

1. Guillaume Nicolas Louis (that was his name) Leclercq, was born in Boulogne-sur-Mer (France) on 13 November 1745. Her family was a family of merchants and thus a well-off family. Once his studies were completed by the Brothers, his parents wanted him to enter the family business. He preferred the religious life and entered the novitiate of the Brothers in 1767. He was successively professor of mathematics, master of novices and econome of the great center in Maréville. He took part in the General Chapter of 1787 where he was appointed secretary. At the end of the Chapter, he became secretary to Brother Agathon, the Superior General. Then came the terrible days of the French Revolution. The Brothers were forced to disperse to escape persecution against the clergy and religious. He decided to stay to keep the General House on Rue Neuve in Paris hoping to remain incognito. But to no avail. Arrested in August 15, 1792 he was imprisoned in the Carmelite convent transformed into a prison by the revolutionaries. In September 2, he was beheaded for refusing to take the oath to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy (an independent parody of the Church cut from the pope and attached to the government). Beatified by Pope Pius XI the 17th October 1926 with a group of

other 190 victims of these terrible years, he was until 1948 the only beatified of our Congregation.

Due to a miracle that happened in Caracas (Venezuela) in 2007, approved in 2016, Brother Solomon will be the only canonized of the 1926 group, by Pope Francis, in October 16, 2016.

2. The canonization will take place in St. Peter's Square (Rome) at 10 am., and can be followed worldwide by TV. There will be other ceremonies in Rome in honour of the new saint:

Saturday 15, at 17 pm. at the Church of San Luigi dei Francesi, a preparatory ceremony will be held.

Monday 17, at 17 pm. At De La Salle Shrine of the Generalate will be held a Te Deum and a Mass of thanksgiving, celebrated by His Excellency, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Vatican.

There are other practical details in the attached page to this letter.

To all of you my fraternal greetings waiting to see you in Rome.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bro. Robert".

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC
Superior General