

Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



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Adèle 2018

BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER ADELE DE BATZ DE TRENQUELLÉON



The long awaited day arrived! Sunday, June 10, at 10:00 in the morning. With immense spiritual joy all of us gathered as pilgrims: members of the Marianist Family from all parts of the world, many local clergy, faithful of Agen and Feugarolles, Adèle's family, local authorities; thousands of other faithful from all over the world followed the action through KTO TV.

The pavilion of the Exhibition Park was filled by the faithful. Everything went perfectly: the choir, the audio system, the master of

ceremonies, acolytes, deacons, concelebrants and the president, Cardinal Angelo Amato, accompanied by Bishop Hubert Herbreteau of Agen, Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard of Bordeaux, Archbishop Luigi Ventura, Apostolic Nuncio to France, and Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, Superior General of the Society of Mary. Present also were the General Council of the Marianist Sisters, with



Celebration of the Eucharist with Cardinal Amato. On his right Bishop Herbreteau of Agen, and on his left the Superior General, Father Cortés, SM.



General view of the assembly during the Beatification Mass.

Mother Franca Zonta, FMI, at their head, and the Postulator of the Cause, Fr. Antonio Gascón, SM.

It was a beautiful and very well-planned ceremony. Bishop Herbreteau pronounced the request for the beatification of Mother Marie de la Conception to Pope Francis, represented by Cardinal Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The postulator, Father Gascón, SM, presented a summary of the life, reputation for sanctity and virtues of Mother Adèle, and the Cardinal read publicly the Apostolic Letter of Pope

Francis decreeing that Mother Marie de la Conception be invoked as “blessed” by the faithful and that the Eucharistic celebration of her feast be on January 10, with its own proper collect.

The assembly cheered the Pope's letter. The procession of the relics and the incensing followed. The rite of beatification ended with Cardinal Amato's *abrazos* for the local Bishop and the Postulator and his handing over of a copy of the Apostolic Letter to both.

From that point on, the Eucharist proceeded with immense joy: proclamation of the Word of God, the homily of Cardinal Amato, presenting the noble young Adèle as a servant of the poorest and smallest.



Postulator Father Gascón, SM, presents Cardinal Amato with the life and virtues of Mother Marie de la Conception.

Pope Francis referred to the beatification of Mother Adèle at the end of his talk at the *Angelus* prayer that same Sunday morning, asking for applause from the faithful present in St. Peter's Square.



General Administration of the Marianist Sisters before the reliquary with the remains of Mother Adèle.



Cardinal Amato venerates the relics of Mother Adèle at the end of the Beatification Mass.

THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS



At the Angelus on Sunday, June 10, Pope Francis spoke the following:

"Sister Marie de la Conception, in the world Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, is being proclaimed “Blessed” today in France, in Agen. She lived in the 18th and 19th centuries, she founded the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, called Marianists. Let us praise the Lord for this [blessed] who dedicated her life to him and to the service of her brothers and sisters. Let us applaud the new Blessed, let's applaud her!"

APOSTOLIC LETTER OF THE POPE



LITTERAE APOSTOLICAE

Nos,
vota Fratris Nostri
Huberti Herbreteau,
Episcopi Agennensis,
necnon plurimorum aliorum Fratrum in Episcopatu
multorumque christifidelium explentes,
de Congregationis de Causis Sanctorum consulto,
auctoritate Nostra Apostolica
facultatem facimus ut
Venerabilis Serva Dei
MARIA A CONCEPTIONE,
(in saeculo: Adelaidis de Batz de Trenquelléon), virgo,
Fundatrix Congregationis Filiarum Mariae Immaculatae,
quae sedula fuit in iuvenum christiana educatione promovenda
atque in misericordiae operibus exercendis,
Beatae nomine in posterum appelletur,
atque die decima mensis Ianuarii,
qua in caelum orta est,
quotannis in locis et modis iure statutis celebrari possit.
In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

Datum Romae, apud Sanctum Petrum,
die primo mensis Iunii,
anno Domini bismillesimo duodevicesimo,
Pontificatus Nostri sexto.

Franciscus

*We, having heard the request of our brother Hubert Herbreteau, Bishop of Agen, and of many other brother bishops and of many faithful, after consulting the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, do grant by virtue of our apostolic authority that the Venerable Servant of God **MARIE DE LA CONCEPTION** (in the world Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon), Virgin and Foundress of the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, who acted with all her zeal to promote the Christian education of youth and to exercise the works of mercy, may henceforth be called “Blessed” and her feast be celebrated on January 10, the anniversary of her birth in heaven, both in the places and in the manner established by law. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Given in Rome, next to Saint Peter, on June 1 of the year of Our Lord 2018, the sixth year of our Pontificate. Francis.

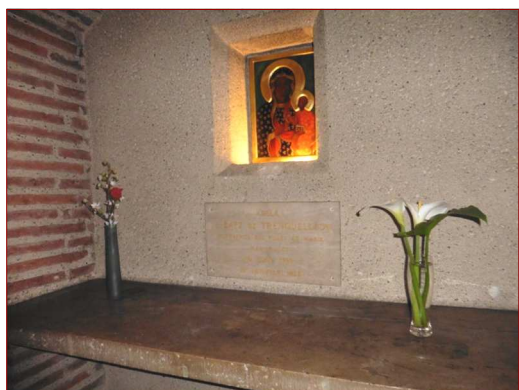
COLLECT PRAYER

This is the Collect Prayer to be recited at the proper Mass of Blessed Marie de la Conception, approved on May 23, 2018, by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

O God, who inspired in Blessed Marie of the Conception an ardent love for Christ, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grant us, through her intercession, that we may consecrate all our efforts to making your Son know, loved and served. Who lives and reigns ...

The liturgical proper itself (Mass with entrance antiphon, collect, offertory and postcommunion prayers, readings and communion antiphon, besides the Office of Readings) has not yet been established or approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship. When it has been approved, it will be communicated to the entire Society of Mary. The date of the celebration of the new Blessed - January 10 - is a mandatory feast for the Marianist Sisters (FMI) and for the Diocese of Agen, but the entire Marianist Family will participate joyfully in this celebration.

THE *TRANSLATIO* OF THE RELICS



Niche with the relics of Mother Adèle in the Chapel of Sainte Foy.



Reliquary with the remains of Mother Adèle.

Beatification of Mother Adèle, Sunday, June 10. A few days before, on Monday, May 21, the mortal remains (*reliquiae*) of the future Blessed were transferred from the Gothic chapel of Sainte Foy to the Cathedral of Agen. Present from Rome were the Superior General, Mother Franca Zonta, FMI, and the Postulator, Fr. Antonio Gascón, SM. Bishop Hubert Herbreteau of Agen, in the presence of the Vicar General of the diocese, Fr. Pierre Bonnet, the Pastor of the Cathedral, Fr. Nicolas Richer, the Pastor of Feugarolles, Marianist sisters and Mrs. Françoise de la Raitrie, owner of the Château de Trenquelléon, and other clergy and friends.



Sr. Dominique, FMI, directs the prayer of those present, before proceeding to the transfer of the relics.

It was a moment of great spiritual joy, in an atmosphere of prayer, and also of curiosity to see the skeletal remains of the Foundress. Following the beatification, the relics of Blessed Marie of the Conception may now be venerated in the Cathedral of Agen.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

The beatification program ended on Monday, June 11, with the Thanksgiving Mass in the Cathedral of Agen. It was presided over by Cardinal Sarah and the homily was given by Bishop Herbreteau. At the end of the Eucharist the relics of Blessed Marie de la Conception were deposited in a niche for the veneration by the faithful.



Final moment of the Thanksgiving Mass in the Cathedral of Agen. Cardinal Sarah incenses the relics of Blessed Marie de la Conception.



Mother Franca Zonta (Superior General of the FMI), together with Sr. Michela Messina, FMI (graced with miraculous healing) before the relics of Blessed Mother Adèle.

THREE DAYS CELEBRATING THE NEW BLESSED



Pilgrims on arrival at the Château de Trenquelléon to attend the theatrical performance about the life of Adèle.

FROM ALL THE WORLD TO AGEN

For three days, the small town of Agen became a world capital of Marianist life. From Friday, June 8, delegations from all over the world began to flow into town to participate in the big event. All the branches of the Marianist Family were represented, with a particularly strong presence of the Marianist sisters themselves. Many lay collaborators, active in Marianist works, were also present. Saturday morning was reserved for exploration of the city of Agen, and the afternoon was devoted to a presentation of animations or demonstrations highlighting the places of the sisters' presence all over the world. They showed how the seeds deposited in the heart of a young girl born in the completely unknown village of Feugarolles, once deposited in the ground in Agen, grew and bore fruit to the ends of the earth.

AT THE CHÂTEAU DE TRENQUELLÉON

On Saturday evening a theatrical performance, already premiered the day before, plunged us not only into the context of Adèle's childhood, but especially into the various episodes of her life, the calls received from God and her always ardent and generous response. The spectators were seated in the courtyard of the Château, contemplating this place so familiar and dear to our blessed. The author-director, actor Daniel Facérias, highlighted not only the story of Adèle's life, but also its relevance, touching each of us. Fireworks closed the performance immediately after Adèle uttered her last words: "Hosanna to the Son of David," thus evoking her entrance into the glory of heaven.



Theatrical representation of young Adèle's life in the Château de Trenquelléon.



Fireworks over the Château de Trenquelléon at the end of the theater performance.

WITH THE YOUNG

Not all the spectators returned to Agen. A group of about 150 young people remained on the spot and spent the night under tents. Some Marianist brothers and sisters were also among them.

After a night characterized by a strong storm, everyone was up on Sunday morning to listen to a brief catechesis by Fr. André Fétis, SM, introducing young people to some of the calls of Adèle's life: her great desire to let the Spirit guide her life and her missionary action, her deep love for Christ and her desire to imitate Mary.

That was the prelude to a 10-kilometer walk from the Château de Trenquelléon to the village of Port-Sainte-Marie, over the exact route taken by Adèle and her friends to go to Agen, the day of the foundation, ►

May 25, 1816. This group then joined all the participants in Agen for the meal and for the beatification ceremony.

THE HOLINESS OF A FAMILY AND ITS LAND

The young people participating in the walk came from the Collège Sainte-Foy in Agen, animated by the sisters, but there were also many from various parishes of the entire diocese. That was the fruit of the generous and patient work of Bishop Hubert Herbreteau of Agen who, before the beatification, had gone to present Adèle in all the parishes of his diocese or at youth gatherings and confirmation celebrations. The figure of Adèle had become more familiar to many and the rooting of her holiness in their own soil had become more obvious. Her character, her personality and her generosity speak to the hearts of young people today: by founding the "Little Society," she had made friendship a way of meeting God, as she continues to do today.



Pilgrimage of young people during the beatification.



Group of young Marianist religious during the beatification.

Adèle's family was also very present during the celebrations. The sanctity of Adèle has taken root in the family's Christian vitality. Its spirit has passed through the generations up to the present generations, who came for an emotional celebration in honor of their illustrious relative.



Current family and relatives of Mother Adèle.



Tapestry with the image of the new Blessed, Mother Marie de la Conception.