



Opening of the Diocesan Investigation for the Beatification and Canonisation of Brother Bento Manuel Nogueira

Following some two years of preparation and intense work, the Diocesan Investigation for the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of Brother Bento Manuel Nogueira opened on 5 April 2024, in the chapel of the St John of God Health Centre in Telhal (Lisbon). The first sitting of the Tribunal was held in the presence of Cardinal Rui Manuel Sousa Valério, the Patriarch of Lisbon. The Servant of God's life was imbued with the constant presence of Jesus, whom he always felt to be by his side. Brother Bento was a Brother who experienced the mystical presence of hospitality in the spirit of St. John of God. In one of his writings he said that Jesus is present in the sick and the poor, just as he is alive and really present, in the tabernacle. This conviction was evident in the way he acted: always affable, attentive and respectful towards everyone, even when people mocked him, or took him for a fool on account of his goodness and generosity. While being a man of a high

cultural and intellectual profile, he stood out on account of his humility. He saw no distinction between the people he dealt with, as his gaze was fixed on Jesus, whom he contemplated in the rich as in the poor, and in the sick and in the imprisoned, and he proclaimed Jesus with his mercy and loving care for everyone. His far-sighted and prophetic vision led him almost spontaneously to open up to new things, undertake new initiatives to provide care and evangelise, for the benefit of children, the elderly and the sick, letting himself be guided by the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Father Bento was an intelligent and therefore very enterprising man; he knew how to convince intellectuals with his words and his unassuming manner as well as the poor with his love and his acts of charity. He was a living sign of Our Lord's love. He gave himself to his neighbour with boundless dedication, offering his time and energies to all who met him. The Servant of God was at home in the streets, and in the peripheries.

Like John of God, he took in the most abandoned and marginalised poor people, reaching out to them personally in their homes and taking care of them. He always walked with his head down as if he were constantly absorbed in prayer. His spiritual fatherhood was expressed in his preaching, writings and spiritual direction, not only for the laity, but also for priests, seminarians, nuns and sisters, to direct everyone along the path of holiness. His spirituality, nourished by his love of Jesus, gave him the strength and wisdom he needed to face the inevitable



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Tomb of the Servant of God Brother Bento

trials of life. He loved the Church in its universality, spontaneously reaching out to the mission as the way of expressing the boundless love he cultivated in his heart. He confronted his sickness as yet a further offering of himself to God. The Servant of God's reputation for holiness was already perceived during his lifetime, especially by the many people who used to approach him for spiritual advice and for physical care. The Servant of God teaches us never to separate love of God from love for others, viewed as our brothers and sisters according to

the teachings of Jesus. His testimony is a lesson in the contemplation of reality and of the people in whom we can encounter Jesus. Let us commit to Our Lord this process in which the Church is verifying this Servant of God's life, virtues and fame of holiness. The Church, in her holiness and wisdom, will shine a light on the life of our Brother, whom we hope will become a model of life and holiness for us all.

On the General Curia webpage in the Postulation link you can learn more about the life of the Servant of God.

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints has granted the 'Nihil Obstat' to open the Diocesan Investigation of Brother Antonio Rangel Macías

On 30 April 2024, the Nihil Obstat was granted to open the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of Brother Antonio. The Servant of God was born on 3 August 1946 in Sanlúcar de Barrameda (Cádiz). When he was 16, he began to feel the desire to consecrate himself to Our Lord, but when he mentioned the idea to his father, he ruled it out of the question. Despite his father's opposition, Antonio persevered in his ideal way of life, and searched for a Religious Institute that suited his temperament. This led him to become acquainted with the Brothers of Saint John of God, and he was impressed by their mission at the service of the poor and the sick.



Brother Antonio taking a rest

After his military service, he decided to enter the Order, beginning his postulancy in April 1969 before moving on to the novitiate in September that same year in Málaga (Spain); he made his first vows on 29 September 1971, and his Solemn Profession in Caracas (Venezuela) on 8 March 1978. Throughout his life he performed his mission as a nurse in



The Servant of God delivering food to his guests

various areas of health care and countries: first in Spain and then in Latin America.

After being sent to Quito in Ecuador, he worked in the Homeless Centre, which was subsequently taken over by a new, larger and better organised facility of which Brother Antonio was appointed Superior. The new Centre was named after St. John of God, and it was here that the Servant of God lavished all his energies on assisting and caring for the poor who came to him, working tirelessly as long as his health permitted. He was admitted to hospital in Jerez de la Frontera in Spain, and surrendered his soul to God on 18 October 2005, aged 57.



Brother Adrián Del Cerro on the path towards the honour of the altars

On Friday, 28 May, at the Shrine of St John the Great in Jerez de la Frontera in Spain, Mgr José Rico Pavés, Bishop of Asidonia-Jerez de la Frontera presided at the opening of the Diocesan Investigation for the Beatification and Canonisation of the Servant of God Brother Adrián del Cerro, a Brother of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, belonging to the Spanish Province. Having obtained the Nihil Obstat from the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints on 21 September 2023, the bishop published the Edict on 14 February 2024, inviting the Church community to forward any information and news regarding the reputation of holiness of the Servant of God to the Diocesan Tribunal. Brother Adrián, was a simple and mild man who always did good and saw only good everywhere, a true son of Saint John of God, spending his whole life as a mendicant Brother, never shirking from apostolic service, even when the circumstances were unfavourable. The Servant of God was born in Retamoso de la Jara (Toledo) on 2 July 1923 and died in Jerez de la Frontera on 8 August 2015 in fame of holiness at the age of 92. His remains lie in the Shrine of St. John Grande, at the foot of the Virgin



Tomb of the Servant of God Brother Adrián



Opening of Brother Adrián's Diocesan Investigation

Candelaria, another great love of his life. That day, for the people of Jerez, a saint had died.

A journalist from Jerez, recalling the Servant of God, wrote: *'Keep up the good work, Brother Adrián. One day we will all boast that we have met a saint. One day we will be able to confirm that people had witnessed goodness in its purest form, having found it in that small body that had spent half a century knocking on doors, visiting farmsteads and wealthy families, to collect what he needed to take care of people who had been assisted in their poverty by the strenuous work of this man born on Toledo and adopted by Jerez.'*

On the webpage of the General Curia in the Postulation link you can learn more about the life of the Servant of God.