

SUPERIORE GENERALE

MISSIONARI D'AFRICA
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Dear confreres and friends,

Obj.: WRITINGS FROM TIZI OUZOU.

Almost 30 years ago, on 27 December 1994, four of our confreres in Tizi Ouzou, Fathers Alain Dieulangard, Jean Chevillard, Charles Deckers and Christian Chessel, were killed in an attack in the courtyard of their house in Tizi Ouzou. A cycle of violence swept through the country and affected the entire Church in Algeria, resulting in the deaths of 19 religious men and women.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II wanted to celebrate a day for the "Martyrs of the 20th Century" at the Coliseum in Rome. The families and friends of these "Martyrs of Algeria" were invited to attend. And at the end of the day, Mgr. Henri Teissier, then Archbishop of Algiers, offered to investigate their cause for beatification.

Little by little, an investigation began into each and every one of them, and eventually led to a Decree of Beatification, signed by Pope Francis on 26 January 2018. The celebration of the beatification took place in Oran (Santa Cruz) on 8 December of the same year. On the initiative of the Diocese of Algiers, the beatification included all 19 martyrs of Algeria.

After the beatification, the Cistercian monks and some other congregations continued to collect the writings of their Blessed ones. Then, under the patronage of the Faculty of Theology of Fribourg, the **Scientific Committee "Les Écrits de Tibhirine"** was set up to collect and publish the writings of the Blessed Monks of Tibhirine. This initiative was supported for 4 years by the Swiss National Foundation. It has led to the publication of a number of thematic works compiling the writings of the 7 Blessed Monks.

Following this initiative and in its prolongation, an expansion was considered and it was decided **that the Committee extends from now on to the 19 Blessed Martyrs of Algeria.**

The GC then took the initiative with regard to the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) to search for the writings of our four Blessed Alain, Jean, Charles and Christian. It has appointed a committee to carry out this search, made up of the following members:

Fr. TARPAGA K.A. Anselme (General Assistant).
<gmg.ast.tarpaga@mafr.org> ;
Fr. RICHARD François (Community Rue Verlomme, Paris)
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Fr. LEFEBVRE Bernard (Mours Community)
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Fr. PUTZEYS Luc (Genk Community in Belgium)
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Fr. SAWADOGO Guy (ND d'Afrique Community in Algiers)
<guy.sawadogo@notre-dame-afrique.org>;
Bp. RAULT Claude (Community Rue Friant, Paris)
<bienheureux.tizi@gmail.com>;

Bishop Claude Rault has been appointed coordinator of this committee.

The aim is to list, digitize and make known the life and message of our 4 Blessed Martyrs to the universal Church and to the general public.

You may therefore be contacted by one or other member of this committee.

If you are in possession of writings by one or other of these Blessed Martyrs and would like them to be known, kindly let us know by giving details of these writings. You may already send a photocopy or a scan to any of the members of the committee. Also, if you choose to donate the original, contact us and we will give you the address where to send it.

At a later stage all collected material will be forwarded to the *Comité des 19 Bienheureux d'Algérie*, based in Fribourg.

Thank you for your collaboration.



Fr. Stanley Lubungo,
Superior General.